



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

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ELECTORAL BOARD
Keith Scarborough, Chairman
Mark Dillon, Vice-Chairman
London Steverson, Secretary

GENERAL REGISTRAR
Eric Olsen, Director of Elections

Prince William County Electoral Board

Meeting Minutes

Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Ave, 2nd Floor
Manassas, VA 20110

July 27, 2023 11:00 AM

IN ATTENDANCE:

London Steverson, Secretary
Mark Dillon, Vice-Chair
Keith A. Scarborough, Chair
Eric Olsen, GR/DE
Jonathan Alvarez, Deputy Director of Operations
Natalia Taylor, Deputy Director of Voter Services

BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Scarborough at 1100 in the Old Manassas Courthouse, 2nd Floor, 9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA, 20110.

Chairman Scarborough called for a Moment of Silence and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VICE CHAIRMAN DILLON made a Motion that we approve the Minutes of the May 24 Board Meeting and the Minutes of the Post Election Canvassing. The Minutes had been previously circulated to all Board Members and the GR for correction and approval. The Motion was unanimously approved.

There were no Special Visitors worthy of note present, so we moved on to the GR's Report.

GENERAL REGISTRAR's REPORT

The GR, Eric Olsen, reported on Election Officer Recruitment. We have been successful. We are closer to equal Party representation than ever.

The Prince William County Organizational Survey had good news. The last Survey had been completed in September 2021. Twenty-six Categories were rated. In the latest Survey PWC improved in all Categories by 23.5 points. Our Office went from the worst to the Above Average Category. That is good news, but the work continues.

Concerning the Dual Primary Election in the 29th Senate District between Maria Martin v Nikki Baldwin, the election was decided by only 2 votes. So, there was a Recount in the 29th Senate District Race between Maria Martin v Nikki Baldwin. Based on a Petition for Recount filed by Maria Martin, Prince William Circuit Court Action No. 23006189-00, there was a Recount of the Republican Primary Election for the 29th Senate District of Virginia. The Court convened a Preliminary Hearing on July 13th, 2023, Chief Judge Kimberly Irving, presiding. A Preliminary Order was entered establishing the procedures and instructions for the Recount. The Recount was held in the Jury Room of the Circuit Court of Prince William County. The Stafford County Office of Elections sent a team to assist. Security was provided by PWC Sheriff Glenn Hill and his Deputies. The Recount lasted for 2 days, July 20th and 21st. working continuously with only a one-hour break for Lunch. On July 20th the Recount Staff worked from 0900AM to 0500PM. On July 21st the Staff worked from 0900AM until approximately 0930PM. A 3-Judge Panel was present continuously on site for the entire Recount. The Recount confirmed the original vote count, a margin of victory of two votes. Nikki Baldwin was declared the Winner over Maria Martin. On July 24th Maria Martin appealed the Recount Decision of the Circuit Court challenging the Final Certification of the Court and requesting Reconsideration based on specious grounds. The Court reviewed the allegations and found that the GR was without fault, and had not failed in any Legal Duty pursuant to Va. Code Sections 24.2-802.2 (F) and (G). On 1 August 2023 the PWC Circuit Court for the Thirty-first Judicial Circuit entered a Unanimous Decision, with all three Judges Concurring, ruling that Maria Martin's Motion for Reconsideration was DENIED and adjudged the matter ENDED. It was the Final Decision of the Court that Nikki Baldwin was the Winner over Maria Martin.

VOTER REGISTRATION REPORT

Natalia Taylor, Deputy Director of Voter Services, reported on the GR's efforts to monitor and to clean up the PWC Voter Rolls. The PWC Election Integrity Working Group and other Concerned Citizens of PWC have been offering their assistance in various forms for over a year in cleaning up the registration database. Their suggestions and assistance were welcomed. According to the latest ELECT Report there are 317,459 registered voters in PWC, approximately 7,000 out of state voters, and an estimated 1,600 active out of state voters. These categories of voters are not stagnant. The numbers are constantly changing as kids go off to college, people join the military, active-duty military members rotate between duty stations, people living overseas, and embassy officials. The numbers of people in the various categories will never shrink to zero. The Category of Out-of-State ACTIVE VOTERS appear to get the most attention. These are mostly college students and active-duty military. The process of removing them could take years. They would have to miss two federal election voting cycles and fail to respond to a mail-out from ELECT updating their residential addresses. ELECT does a mass mailing twice a year, in February and in July. Death Statics are gathered from Social Security Administration, NAPHSIS (National Association for Public Health Statistics Information Systems) and other places. We use the results to purge our Voter Rolls. The new numbers are available about 30 days later. What we can do to police the voter rolls is governed by State and Federal Laws. We have recently added an additional step to our policing the voter rolls process regarding the mail that is returned to our Office. We send a letter allowing voters to voluntarily cancel their registration. Maintaining clean voting rolls is one of our highest priorities. It is a never-ending process. I will report the latest up to date numbers at each EB Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion was made that we adopt the spreadsheet of EB/GR Duties. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Returned Mail Response Letter. We have recently added an additional step to our policing the voter rolls process regarding the mail that is returned to our Office. We send a letter allowing voters to voluntarily cancel their registration.

Appointment of Election Officers (deferred)

PUBLIC COMMENTS (2)

Charlie Carroll, a citizen of PWC, expressed concerns about whether PWC will conduct a BATCH comparison audit after the November Election.

Denny Daugherty, Chairman of the PWC Republican party commented that it would be helpful if the Meeting Agenda contained more than just the Date, Time and Place of the Meeting. There should be a sufficient number of copies of documents and reports relative to the agenda so that every person attending can get a personal copy and be better able to follow the discussion.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into a closed session at 1210 pursuant to Virginia State Code Section 2.2-3711 A 1, employee performance, and A 34, voting security matters.

At 1250 the Board reconvened in OPEN Session having certified that only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under Virginia Law, and only such business matters identified in the motion convening the closed session were discussed or considered.

1251 the Board adjourned.



Keith Scarborough
Chairman



Mark Dillon
Vice Chairman



London Steverson
Secretary

Date: 8-27-23