

COUNTY OF HERNICO, VIRGINIA  
**ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING**  
March 6, 2023

The Henrico County Electoral Board convened a meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Those present at the meeting were:

**PRESENT**

Linwood Cobb, III, Vice-Chair, Electoral Board  
Cathy Woodson, Secretary, Electoral Board  
Mark Coakley, General Registrar, Voter Registration and Elections  
Anne Marie Middlesworth, Deputy Registrar, Voter Registration and Elections  
Leslie Funn, Administrative Assistant, Voter Registration and Elections  
Geoffrey J. McVeigh, Public  
Mary Grace Boyle, Public  
Chris Pandel, Public  
Thomas Belvin, Public  
Scott Daniels, Public  
Martha Cohen, Public  
Anne Hayes, Public  
Karen Sowers, Public

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Vice- Chair, at 11:00 a.m.

Yvonne Smith, Chair, Electoral Board-Absent

**Electoral Board reorganization**

On motion of Cathy Woodson and seconded by Linwood Cobb, III, the reorganization of the Henrico County Electoral Board Members was as follows:

**Yvonne Smith** nominated to Chair position on the Electoral Board.

**Linwood Cobb, III** was nominated to Vice-Chair position on the Electoral Board.

**Cathy P. Woodson** was nominated to Secretary Position on the Electoral Board.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye  
Cobb, III  
Woodson

Nay

**Public Comments**

**Geoffrey McVeigh-** I'm a Henrico County resident and an Election Official: Will the County or equivalent commit to removing ineligible registrations, if proven ineligible? My research has indicated that there are countless registrations on our voter rolls, who are either deceased or who have moved. I have secondhand experience of my father-in-law, who has been deceased for twenty-two years and is still on the voter rolls. Mr. Cobb, III, instructed the General Registrar to explain the process of removing voters. Mr. Coakley-the Voter Registration and Elections office follows the code of Virginia. Therefore, we need proof from the voter and/or vital statistics. This is a statewide policy; all the 133

Virginia localities follow the same code. If a citizen challenges a voter on election day to be ineligible, we will need a death certificate, information from vital statistics or through the state's felon system. Mr. McVeigh-will the County commit to removing ineligible registrations? Mr. Coakley-the County will commit to following the code. Mr. McVeigh-there are thousands that are ineligible residents on the vote rolls, is not a concern. Mr. Coakley-the County will continue to follow the code. Mr. McVeigh- will the County provide transparency, such as: offering voter rolls for free or adnominal costs to ensure fraudulent registration do not reappear. Mr. Coakley-that's illegal for the County, it must be done through the State Board of Elections and there's a cost.

**Chris Pandel**-when was the last time the Registrar's office received a list of deceased citizens from the Department of Elections? Aren't they supposed to provide the report on a weekly basis? Mr. Coakley- the report is provided bi-weekly. Ms. Pandel-do you receive the report on a regular basis? Mr. Coakley-Yes and the reports are received electronically through the Department of Election system called VERIS. Ms. Pandel-do you know how many it affects and are there a lot of people going off. Like Mr. McVeigh said his deceased relative was still on the voter rolls. Sounds like a system problem. Mr. Coakley- it is a Vital Statics problem if deceased people are still on the rolls. The Voter Registration office can only go by the report/information we're given. Ms. Pandel-what happens when to the received information. Mr. Coakley-the voters are removed from the voters' list and a letter is mailed out. Ms. Pandel-do you know how many letters are sent? Mr. Coakley-no, the removal does include deceased, felon and inactive voters.

**Scott Daniels**-this sounds like an automatic process. Mr. Coakley-Yes.

**Karen Sowers**-people that have moved, how are you receiving notification. If Vital Statistics notifies about the deceased people, how do you receive information about a moved voter. Mr. Coakley- the voter notifies our office. Ms. Sowers- the voter who moved must notify you. Mr. Coakley-Yes. Mrs. Middlesworth- there's a statewide centralized database, so if someone moves to Fairfax, they are removed automatically from the system. Ms. Sowers-if someone moves out of state and I have moved a lot in my life. I have never notified the Registrar's office. I can imagine a lot of people, who have done the same and do not let you know they have moved. Mr. Coakley- If they vote twice, they are a felon. We are under the ERIC system.

**Thomas Belvin**-I have two questions: is the Registrar's office involved in any voter education at the High Schools? Also how are the 16 yrs. old pre-registration data managed? Is that at the State or County level? How does the office prevent that from showing up on the poll book on election day. Mr. Coakley- the 16yrs. old pre-registration are in a holding tank. They are not on the poll books. The 17yrs. old if they are eligible to vote in the November, General Election they will be on the Primary Election poll books because they will be 18 yrs. old by the November General Election. Therefore 16 yrs. & 17 yrs. if they are eligible to vote, they are placed in a holding tank at the State level.

Mrs. Middlesworth- we also reach out to all Henrico County High Schools and send the applications, in the Spring, they are getting the students ready for the process. Less and less of exposure from the Registrar's office being in the schools but tomorrow is Student's Government Day for Henrico County High Schools. The Registrar's office is running a Mock Election. Also, a registration table will be set up for all the High School students. Mr. Belvin- this is for a all the high schools. Mr. Coakley- Yes and there's also the student election page program. Mrs. Middlesworth – yes, the Registrar's office runs a student page program, where we reach out to all the High school students and try to place them at the polling places. We don't always have coverage in every polling place, but we try to, and the students go through a training program, it's really a win for both. The students are helping the Registrar's office, on Election Day and their getting exposure

behind the scenes of what's happening on election day. Mr. Belvin- that is great. Is the effort only by the Registrar's office or do you all work with other folks. Mr. Coakley-it used to be through the Lion's Club, students will shadow all county department heads and we do provide a registration table in the morning. There's an acting county manager, acting board of supervisor, acting judges, etc. Then we have a mock election, where they come and visit our office. The students will get check in using our electronic poll book and we give them a ballot. Mrs. Middlesworth-the mock election ballot will have- what's your favorite beach? what's your favorite ice cream? Mr. Belvin- thank you. Mr. Coakley- the information is provided to the students by their Guidance Department, they have tons of Voter Registration forms. Our office provides the supplies twice a year.

**Martha Cohen** – I have a follow-up question from the gentleman earlier regarding his father-in-law being dead and still being on the voters' rolls. Would the Registrar's office report this to VERIS or the Department of Elect office that we received notification that this person is dead. Mr. Coakley- the deceased voter's family can write or complete form from the State's website they can download and fill out. Indicate your relationship to the voter, with the voter's name and address. After completing the form it's mailed to the Registrar's office and upon receipt and review the voter would be cancelled. This process is complete with a written documentation. Ms. Cohen- yes, I understand that. However, you said that VERIS or Elect contacts you when people are dead. They obviously did not. Shouldn't they know there is a flaw in their system. Mr. Coakley- Vital Statics appears to have a flaw. Did he pass away in Virginia? Mr. McVeigh-Henrico County. Mr. Coakley-again write us or complete the form on the State website to remove a deceased voter. I cannot notify VERIS because it's the State's application. Ms. Cohen-there's no way to notify them about a flaw in the system. I'm sure this man's Social Security was taken right away when he died. Mr. McVeigh-there is a death certificate, but there's a bigger problem. There are (in my own opinion) thousands of these cases. Ms. Cohen- it's just hard because, I can tell you from being out and about there's a lot of people who don't have a particle situation like this but there's a lot of questioning about the system and so it would be nice to know. Is there is some way to hold people accountable for there work product because it will create a much better support of how every Elections work out. Because there's an issue out there. Secondly- have the Republican and Democratic Chairs submitted a list for Officers of Elections for this year? And if they have, how many are Republicans and how many are Democrats. Mr. Coakley- they have not submitted a list. Martha Cohen- Neither one. Mr. Coakley- the Party Chairs have not submitted a list. Martha Cohen- do they have to do that by February? Mr. Coakley-yes. Martha Cohen- so what happens now with people who want to become officers of elections. Do they just come straight to you (Registrar's office)? Mr. Coakley-yes, that how it works. The office did get a list a couple of years ago, and we made it for a three-year appointment. Martha Cohen-thank you.

**Scott Daniels**-if I heard correctly this an automatic computer system and the office is not sitting and watching VERIS. Am I conceptualizing that correctly. Mr. Coakley-that's correct. Mr. Daniels-we heard about public schools, I'm curious about the private schools. Mr. Coakley-yes: St. Christophers and Collegiate upon request. Mrs. Middlesworth- the Registrar's office does receive requests from the private schools and students who are home schooled to participate occasionally. Mr. Daniels-another clarification what about the indefinitely confined- nursing homes and/or retirement centers. Do they have to make requests, as well? Are there proactive activities? Mr. Coakley- we use ENGAGE, which is a county agency. We collaborate with them. They are more equipped to handle the aging community.

**Chris Pandel**- another question: in preparation for the upcoming Special Election are we using paper poll books or the electronic poll book. Mr. Coakley- back to electronic poll book. Ms. Pandel- that goes faster. Mr. Cobb III- I am glad you mentioned that. In the Special Election we used the paper poll books because it has been since 2011, we had used the paper poll books. We knew it would be a slow turn out for the election. We felt it was a wonderful opportunity to reintroduce the paper poll books to the election workers because if at the next election you go to your polling place to vote and the powers out, they need to be equipped to use the paper poll books to get the precinct open and ready for voting. It was forty-six precincts that practice on using paper poll books. Ms. Pandel- will it be the same number of precincts this time? Mr. Coakley-No. Mr. Cobb III- it will just be a few less. Mr. Coakley- 42 precincts. Ms. Pandel- I heard in the Board of Supervisors' meeting that you will be combining a few precincts. Mr. Coakley- that will be in June, 2023.

Mr. McVeigh- now that you have mentioned the ERIC system, I wasn't aware of that. There are several states, that have terminated their ERIC contracts because of unreliable results. Would you commit to eliminating this electronic system if it was determined to be unreliable? Mr. Coakley-that is a state's issue. The State Board of Elections has a meeting at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow in person and online (virtual). These are great comments to submit to the State Board of Elections. These are all State issues. The only County issue I heard today was the question about High Schools. Everything else goes through the State. I would suggest going to the meeting tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. or attend online. Ask about ERIC and VERIS. Mr. McVeigh-does that include the cast voter records. Mr. Coakley-Yes. Mr. McVeigh-that is not a county issue. Mr. Coakley-if we have them, not everybody has them. Mr. McVeigh-you should. Mr. Coakley- that is a lot of money. Who is buying the software? Mr. McVeigh- sounds like you have software. Mr. Coakley-through the County. Mr. Cobb II- where is the State Board meeting. Mr. Coakley- at their office on Bank Street, however, there's an online meeting as well. Check the State website. Mary Grace Boyle- under townhall. Mr. Daniels-review the process for the primary elections. The parties don't run the primary, the Registrar's office does. The parties decide to have a primary or a convention. Once they certify the candidates, the party certifies the candidates and then they give the Registrar's a list of candidates. Next primary June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other business**

None.

### **Good of the Order**

Mrs. Woodson- Electoral Board continues to thank the Registrar's staff for conducting an uneventful Election on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you all for your hard work.

**Closed session to discuss personnel matters.**

On the motion of Mr. Cobb, III and second by Mrs. Woodson and by unanimous vote the Electoral Board moved into Closed session to discuss personnel matters at 11:18 a.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye  
Smith  
Cobb, III  
Woodson

Nay

On the motion of Mrs. Woodson and second by Mr. Cobb, III and by unanimous vote the Electoral Board moved into public session at 11:32 a.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye  
Smith  
Cobb, III  
Woodson

Nay

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, on motion of Mrs. Woodson, seconded by Mr. Cobb, III, and by unanimous vote, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye  
Smith  
Cobb, III  
Woodson

Nay

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Linwood Cobb, III, Vice-Chair

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Cathy Woodson, Secretary