

COUNTY OF HERNICO, VIRGINIA
ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING
April 24, 2023

The Henrico County Electoral Board convened a meeting on April 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.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
Chris Pandel, Public
Martha Cohen, Public
Geoffrey J. McVeigh, Public
Anne Hayes, Public
Douglas, Clark, Public
Alsuin Preir, Henrico Democratic

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice- Chair, at 2:00 p.m.

Yvonne Smith, Chair, Electoral Board- joined the meeting remotely.

Set hours for Varina Library Voting

Mr. Coakley recommended utilizing the Varina Library as a satellite location for in person absentee voting for the June 20th Primary Election from June 10-17, 2023.

The hours of operation will be normal county business hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. starting June 12, 2023.

This will also include two Saturdays June 10 and 17, 2023: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

On the motion of Mrs. Woodson and second by Mr. Cobb, III and by unanimous vote the Electoral Board moved to accept the recommendation of utilizing the Varina Library for in person absentee voting during normal county business hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and two Saturdays, June 10 and 17, 2023: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye
Smith
Cobb, III
Woodson

Nay

Public Comments

Chris Pandel-How is Yvonne Smith? She hasn't attended the meetings lately. Mrs. Smith- I'm doing well. Thank you. Ms. Pandel- Good- I would like to revisit my question from the last board meeting. How does VERIS clear the voter rolls? What assistance is needed with clearing the voter

rolls? Does the Registrar's office contact the State? Mr. Coakley- stated VERIS manages all the steps of clearing the voter rolls. The data is electronically received from the State.

Geoffrey McVeigh- Is there a flow chart to show citizens how the voting system is organized? Mr. Coakley-the State has information regarding the voting system on their website. Mr. McVeigh- I attended two State meetings regarding the ERIC system-the SBE staff investigated the problem(s) with this system. I have sent articles to Mr. Coakley regarding the malfunction of the ERIC system. The County needs to understand the problems with the ERIC system and should be concerned with the 19,000 phantom voters found in the voting system. The Konnech system needs to be considered and reviewed to use instead of ERIC. There's much concern about the safety of our identity. Mr. Coakley- Konnech is a private company and there were (3) localities in Virginia that have used the system before. However, after the *60 Minutes News* broadcasted the story about the data based being accessed by a foreign service person, no one in Virginia has this system anymore.

Douglas Clarke-Who is the State? Who contracted with ERIC and who do you contact regarding these issues? The public has no control over ERIC. Mr. Coakley- replied that the State website has information regarding the ERIC system- Virginia State Board of Elections. The State directs the Registrars' offices in Virginia. Mr. Clarke- can you all direct the concerns from your constituents to the State. Mrs. Woodson- stated the concerns can be placed in writing to the Department of Elections. Mr. Clarke-How do we voice our concerns and get clarity of our concerns. Mr. Cobb, III,- the Virginia Department of Elections is aware of the public concerns about the ERIC system. Our sole responsibility is to follow the Code of Election. Mr. Coakley directed the citizens to send their questions to the State Board of Elections on all state-wide issues.

Martha Cohen – requested the names of the Henrico Electoral Board members that attended the repeat testing of the KNOWINK software Electronic Pollbook Certification requested by the State Electoral Board, at the April 11th meeting once they became aware that there were no local Electoral Board members present, at the original testing. This standard is stated in the 2020 Electronic Pollbook Certification excerpts submitted with the letter from the Registrar, Mr. Coakley in the April 11, 2023 State BOE agenda. Henrico Electoral Board member Mrs. Woodson was the only member present and one representative from the State Board of Elections. Mr. Coakley-the repeat testing was for the entire Commonwealth of Virginia and was not just for Henrico County. Mrs. Cohen inquired as to why only one Electoral Board member was present when the testing was for the entire Commonwealth (as Phase 5: On-Site Testing in Mock Elections states "Electoral Board members"). Mr. Cobb stated that he wasn't asked to attend the testing. Ms. Cohen- the ERIC system does affect us locally; there's personal information being comprised and there's sharing of our information from DMV. Who would be liable, the State or County? Mr. Coakley- the inquiries regarding the ERIC system should be directed to the State.

Douglas Clarke-ES&S machines are used for voting, however who decides whether machines are used for voting. Does Henrico have the ability to use paper ballots only for voting? Mr. Coakley- there are (4) certified Vendors in Virginia and the Registrars must use one of those issued by the State. Also, the Henrico Board of Supervisors votes on providing funding for the voting equipment used in Henrico County. Mr. Clarke-Does Henrico County have the authority to go to paper only ballots, no machines? Who makes that decision? The Electoral Board and the General Registrar will review the Code of Virginia Election Laws and contact Mr. Clarke. This question has been tabled.

Geoffrey McVeigh-It is not hard to count ballots from county elections. Mr. Coakley-It's difficult to hand count ballots. Mr. Cobb, III,- there's hasn't been any issues with the voting machines or during the certification process of the elections.

Good of the Order

None.

Closed session to discuss LESS security.

On the motion of Mrs. Smith and second by Mrs. Woodson and by unanimous vote the Electoral Board moved into Closed session to discuss personnel matters at 2:30 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Smith	
Cobb, III	
Woodson	

On the motion of Mrs. Woodson and second by Mr. Cobb, III and by unanimous vote the Electoral Board moved into public session at 2:55 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Smith	
Cobb, III	
Woodson	

Adjournment

There being no further business, on the motion of Mr. Cobb, III, seconded by Mrs. Woodson, and by unanimous vote, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Smith	
Cobb, III	
Woodson	

Yvonne G. Smith, Chair

Linwood Cobb, III, Vice-Chair

Cathy Woodson, Secretary