

D R A F T

BOTETOURT COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD M I N U T E S

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

This is a recordation of official actions of the Botetourt County Electoral Board meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2018, in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Botetourt County Court House. Electoral Board Chairman John W. Rader, Vice-Chairman William L. Heartwell, III, Electoral Board Secretary Paul E. Fitzgerald, and Director of Elections and General Registrar (DoE/GR) Traci S. Clark were present. The DoE/GR provided a detailed agenda with supporting information packet.

Chairman Rader called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Vice-Chairman Heartwell, the Electoral Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Electoral Board meeting of January 30, 2018, as submitted by Secretary Fitzgerald.

On a motion made by Vice-Chairman Heartwell, the Electoral Board unanimously approved continuation of its existing organization: John W. Rader as Chairman; William L. Heartwell, III, as Vice-Chairman; and Paul E. Fitzgerald as Secretary.

The Electoral Board acknowledged the report of the DoE/GR of her receipt of a letter dated January 31, 2018, from the Disability Law Center of Virginia regarding concerns related to physical challenges facing mobility-challenged voters. The Electoral Board concurred with her analysis that Botetourt County's ten general precincts were now free of egregious affronts to physically handicapped persons, but that some aspects of the Central Absentee Voting Precinct, which is conducted in the office premises provided by Botetourt County for the Department of Elections and Voter Registration, hold a potential for possible challenges.

The DoE/GR reported that current candidate filings indicate a Democratic Party primary for two offices (U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate), and a Republican Party primary for one office (U.S. Senate), on Tuesday, June 12.

In planning procurement of ballots for the primary elections, the DoE/GR reported that turnout in the four most recent county-wide primaries had been: Republican (2012) 8%; Republican (2016) 7%; Republican (2017) 9%; and Democratic (2017) 5%.

The DoE/GR projected turnout for the 2018 primaries as: Democratic, 10%, 2,320 voters; and Republican, 15%, 3,630 voters. The Electoral Board authorized ballot procurement sufficient to accommodate that projection, plus an additional margin of 1,000 ballots (approximately 1.5%).

The DoE/GR reported:

- ❖ Primary Election absentee voting will begin Friday, April 27, and the last day for in-person absentee voting will be on Saturday, June 9 (and the offices of the Botetourt County Department of Elections and Voter Registration will be open for that purpose;
- ❖ The deadline for registering or updating registration for the Primary Election is 5 p.m. on Monday, May 21;
- ❖ The deadline for candidates for town offices to file for the General Election is Tuesday, June 12, at 7 p.m., and for the Special Election for Botetourt County Commonwealth's Attorney is Friday, August 17, at 5 p.m.;
- ❖ Town of Fincastle boundary changes will not be in place in time to be reflected in the June primaries, and the question of newly acquired Fincastle residents filing as candidates for municipal offices in the General Election remains to be determined by the timing of Circuit Court action regarding the boundary change and decisions by Virginia election officials and the Botetourt County Attorney.

Recommendations for review, changes, and/or renewal of the Electoral Security Plan are scheduled for action in June, with sufficient time for compliance with the July deadline for that action.

The Electoral Board plans to meet at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at the offices of the Department of Elections and Voter Registration to begin its visitation and inspection tour of Botetourt County's ten general voting precincts during the 2018 Primary Elections.

The Electoral Board scheduled its meeting for the purpose of canvassing the vote of the 2018 Primary Elections for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Botetourt County Court House.

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Fitzgerald
June 13, 2018.