

# **BOTETOURT COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD**

## **October 21, 2021**

The Botetourt County Electoral Board held a regularly scheduled meeting on October 21, 2021, in the Registrar's Office in Fincastle. All members of the Board were present. Traci Clark, the GR/DOE, was also present. Chairman John Rader called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Vice Chairman Steve Vaughn made a motion for the minutes of the September 21, 2021, meeting, which had been previously submitted, be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Traci then proceeded to give the Board an update on preparations for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> general election. As of October 20<sup>th</sup>, she said, 1,953 in-person absentee votes and 625 mail-in absentee votes had been cast. Six mail-in ballots contained errors which needed to be cured. Fifty-three full day PEOs and 34 split shift PEOs had been assigned so far to work on election day.

PEO training had been going well, Traci reported. Two additional training sessions were to be held before the election.

Traci then gave the Board a detailed explanation of the new "pre-processing" procedures mandated by ELECT. There would be two meetings prior to the election at which mail-in ballots would be processed but no totals run or reported. The meetings would be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> and October 30<sup>th</sup> and a representative of each of the two political parties would be present, along with the GR/DOE and her

staff. Each ballot would be voted in the usual manner, but the digital tapes would not be removed, or the results in any way established. The “count” would not take place until election day, and it would be made by the CAP PEOs as in the past. The purpose of these new procedures would be to reduce the workload of the CAP officers.

The carts containing all of the equipment for each precinct (except the EPBs) had been packed, Traci said. Well defined spaces, within 150 feet of the precinct entrances for curbside voting had been established, and more informational voter instruction signs were available for each space.

Traci then advised the Board that on November 5<sup>th</sup> she would be giving a presentation on voting to students from Central Academy Middle School, the same day that they would be watching a mock trial at the Courthouse. Finally, Traci reported, a member (Tyler Flinchum) had resigned from the Fincastle Town Council. A special election for his replacement would be held in conjunction with the 2022 general election.

The Board would next meet to tour the precincts on election day (November 2<sup>nd</sup>) and the canvass of the votes would be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 am. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Buck Heartwell, Secretary