

Augusta County Electoral Board
Approved Minutes of Meeting
February 6, 2019
Registrar's Office, Augusta County Government Center

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am. Present were: Ruth Talmage, Chair; Marcy Reedy, Vice-Chair; Cliff Garstang, Secretary; Connie Evans, Registrar; Robin Moyer, Chief Deputy Registrar.
- II. Approval of Minutes. Marcy moved approval of the minutes of the October 29, November 6, and November 7-9 meetings. Ruth seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Minutes from the November 29 and December 18-19 meetings (held in conjunction with the December 18 Special Election) were tabled for approval at our next meeting.
- III. Registrar's Report.
 - A. Budget. Connie informed the Board that she had met with the County Administrator, Timmy Fitzgerald, who expressed concern about the cost of ordering ballots for 100% of the county's registered voters, when we are unlikely to ever have 100% turnout. In some cases, ELECT has recommended ordering 100%, but the Board will take the County Administrator's questions into account in the future and may, for example, agree to order 90% (or a smaller percentage for primaries and some other elections where lighter turnout is expected).
 - B. Primary. Connie raised the issue of a possible Primary election in June this year. Various Board members mentioned the names of candidates they were aware of for Delegate in the three Augusta County districts, and it was concluded that a Primary is highly likely, if not absolutely certain at this point.
 - C. Mileage Reimbursement. Connie circulated a new Mileage Reimbursement form to the Board including the new rate of 58 cents/mile. (See attached.) Connie will email the form to the Board for their use.
 - D. National Voting Rights Act. Connie explained to the Board the procedures for the 2019 NVRA List Maintenance Cancellation Process and provided the Board with a copy of an ELECT Technical Advisory (see attached) on this subject.
 1. As a result of the process, 696 voters were purged from the Augusta County rolls in January. Affected voters had been designated as "inactive" prior to August 9, 2016, did not respond to notices, and did not vote in any election or update their registration between August 9, 2016 and now.
 2. Cliff pointed out that the real issue that creates confusion is when a voter is designated as "inactive." Basically, that happens if a mailed notice to the voter is returned as undeliverable. Notices are mailed to voters if ELECT (through its comparison to USPS National Change of Address records or its voter registration sharing arrangements with some other states) has reason to believe that a voter has moved or changed his/her registration. Neither the public nor the political parties understand this well.

3. In the recent elections, we had asked Officers of Election doing voter check-ins to require voters marked “inactive” to fill out an Affirmation of Eligibility in order to be returned to the “active” roll. (And there is no guarantee that officers actually remembered to do that.) However, Connie informed the Board that merely by voting the same thing is accomplished and the Affirmation only creates confusion and a bottleneck in the check-in process. Therefore, it was agreed that going forward we will have the officers hand “inactive” voters the form and tell them to return it on the way out (i.e., not to step out of line to do it). We anticipate that not everyone will return the form, but that is not critical.
- E. VEBA Conference. A brief discussion was held concerning the upcoming VEBA Conference. Connie has prepared registration forms for the Board and will be submitting them shortly.
- IV. Continuing Business
 - A. Discussion of December 18, 2018 Special Election. A brief discussion of the smooth running of the Special Election was held. Marcy and Ruth informed Cliff that the Vote Here sign at Craigs ville was damaged by a truck, so that will need to be replaced or repaired.
- V. New Business.
 - A. Appointment of Officers of Election. After some discussion, the Board finalized a slate of Officers of Election and determined that they would be appointed for a term of three years, to expire on February 28, 2022. Marcy moved approval of the appointment, Ruth seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. (The complete list of officers appointed, with personal information redacted, is attached.) The Board authorized Cliff, as Secretary, to work with Connie to update the Notice of Appointment, the Oath, and the Response forms that will be sent to the officers, which he indicated he would do forthwith.
 - B. Prospective Appointees. Robin gave the Board several Election Officer interest forms with names of prospective officers. Each Board member will contact the people in their respective precincts, after which the names may be presented to the Board for an interim appointment.
- VI. Other Business.
 - A. Public Comments. No members of the public were present.
- VII. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 am.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cliff Baustang". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Clifford Garstang, Secretary