

ELECTION BOARD
April 1, 2024

Present at the meeting were: Brenda Watson
William Lyons
R. Franklin Campbell
Bill Bunt
Sarah Geesaman
Shannon Hines

Present from the Public: Michelle Orris, Wes Smith

The Election Board met on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 11:02 a.m. The meeting was conducted virtually via WebEx video/telephone conference and in person in the Commissioners' Conference Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Public Comments: None

Meeting Business: Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Sarah Geesaman, Election Director, stated that to date, 1,705 mail-in and 143 absentee ballot applications had been received. She noted that 8 military ballots had gone out and 3 had been received back due to the different procedure used for veteran ballots.

Ms. Geesaman said a super pack was mailed out to voters and it included two mail-in ballot applications and it is causing confusion among voters

Sarah Geesaman stated that L&A testing was completed last week and it went well. She commented that Clear Ballot was on site, batteries were changed, and said five batteries in the cast machines will need to be purchased and changed.

Ms. Geesaman said that the ballot file was sent to the printer on March 29th and ballots would be printed.

Ms. Geesaman explained the Mock Election milestones she must complete prior to the election.

Sarah Geesaman commented that Wes Smith was in attendance to pick a date for the tabletop exercise. Wes Smith suggested September 3rd for the exercise. Mr. Smith said the exercise will take almost four hours and will involve the Commissioners, Solicitor, Sheriff staff, Voter Registration staff, and some Judges of Elections. Mr. Smith said tentatively the exercise registration would begin at 8:00 a.m. and would end at approximately 11:00 a.m. Ms. Geesaman and Mr. Smith said they will get back to the Board with a location for the tabletop exercise.

Ms. Geesaman said that the ClearBallot warranty and licensing will expire in July and recommended that all machines be updated. She noted that this cost was included in her budget.

Sarah Geesaman stated that poll training would be happening this week. She said the training schedule was:

- 4/2 – 9 AM – 11 AM / 2 PM – 4 PM / 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- 4/3 – 9 AM – 11 AM / 2 PM – 4 PM / 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- 4/4 – 9 AM – 11 AM

She commented that there was a good response to the training. Ms. Geesaman said that her Department of State liaison and another staff member would attend her poll training session the following day.

Ms. Geesaman showed the Board the thumb drive bags that would be used in the upcoming election.

Sarah Geesaman noted:

- 4/8/2024 – Last day to register to vote before the primary election
- 4/16/2024 – Last day to apply for a mail-in/absentee ballot and said her office would be open until 5 PM that day

She commented that the last day for a candidate to get a watcher certificate from her office is 4/15/2024. Ms. Geesaman said information on poll watching etiquette would be provided to candidates that are receiving watcher certificates and to the party chairs.

Solicitor Bunt stated undated and misdated ballots will be segregated based on recent guidance. He also said that teams will need to be organized for opening ballots on election day. Sarah Geesaman said that she will organize teams to precanvas election morning.

The Board discussed election day logistics.

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.