

ELECTION CENTRAL



About this newsletter

General Registrar Keith Balmer at the City of Richmond’s Office of Election recently assembled a new communications and marketing team consisting of Communication Specialist Katherin Cardozo-Robledo, Public Relations Specialist Selna Shi, and Outreach Coordinator Martina Demory. This newsletter serves as a way to provide the public, election officers, and voters with any important elections information, updates, voter registration, and peek into what election officials at the Office of Elections does to ensure that the City of Richmond will conduct fair and transparent elections.

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L&A WITH CHRISTIAN JAVINS

By Selna Shi

Christian Javins, the recently promoted Head of Technology and Security, and his team of ten started Logic and Accuracy Testing, or L&A Testing, this past week before the first day of Early Voting for the March Primary.

Virginia law states that the general registrar of each locality must do an L&A Testing before each election to ensure that the voting system is working securely, consistently, and accurately.

“Our Logic and Accuracy Testing protocols are designed with one goal in mind: to uphold the integrity of your vote.”

Keith Balmer, General Registrar

Javins and his team tested Ballot Marking Devices, or BMD, which are Express Vote machines that voters use to cast their vote during Early Voting. The Express Vote machines were brought in 2015 to reduce waste of ballots and to make voting more accessible to voters with disabilities.

The technology team first loads sample ballots onto the screen and looks for accuracy of the candidates listed, contest, and touchscreen’s precision. Then, the team prints out the sample ballot to make sure that it matches the on-screen selections. The process is repeated to generate “a set of predefined test ballots” for each precinct’s Express Vote machine.

“If there are any inconsistencies, the team removes the faulty machine and replaces it with one that works properly,” Javins said.

After the sample ballot is printed from the Express Vote machine, it is inserted in the vote count machine that scans the ballot. Every precinct in the City of Richmond is using voting machine the DS300 to scan the ballots.



To test the DS300, the technology team inserts predefined test ballots into the scanner to check for any issues such as smudged ballots or tears. The team records any identified issues for further review. In the last step, the team tabulates the results from the predefined test ballots and compares it to expected outcomes to confirm accuracy.

Registrar Balmer said the Tabulation System is “the heart of our voting process.” Each voting machine has a removable media that tallies all the votes. The removable media, which is a secured USB drive, goes into the central tabulation system that accurately adds up the vote counts.

The technology team also tested the DS450, a vote count machine similar to the DS300, but can process ballots much faster.

The Electoral Board of City of Richmond officially certified the L&A Testing on Jan. 17.

“Without the Department of Technology and Security, the elections wouldn’t happen”

Christian Javins, Head of Technology and Security



★ **NEW YEAR, NEW ELECTIONS** ★

WHEN ARE THE ELECTION DATES FOR 2024?

March 5

March Primary

The **March Primary** will be a **Dual Presidential Primary**, meaning voters will be asked if they want a Republican ballot or a Democrat ballot.

June 18

Primary Election

The **Primary Election** will include voting on the preferred congressional representative. City of Richmond is in the **4th U.S. congressional district**.

November 5

General Election

The **General Election** is the **BIG** election. This year, voters will be voting on the President, Vice President, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Mayor, City Council, and School Board.



MARCH PRIMARY

EARLY VOTING

LOCATIONS



The Office of Elections
2134 West Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA 23227

January 19 - March 2
Monday - Friday
8:30AM to 5:00PM



SATELLITE LOCATIONS



City Hall
900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

February 20 - March 2
Monday - Friday
8:30AM to 5:00PM

Hickory Hill Community Center
3000 East Belt Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23234

February 20 - March 2
Monday - Friday
8:30AM to 5:00PM





VOTE BY MAIL OR ABSENTEE BALLOTS



Unable to vote in-person? All is good! Here are ways you can request an absentee ballot for the **March Primary**. [Deadline is Friday, February 23.](#)



Online at vote.virginia.gov



By Fax at (804)-646-7848



Email at Absentee@rva.gov

DID YOU KNOW?

Virginia allows voters to join a **Permanent Vote by Mail Roster**?

The roster allows voters to have their ballots sent directly to their preferred address ahead of every election. This [link](#) will take you to apply to join the roster.