

City of Richmond



CHERLYN STARLET STEVENS
SECRETARY

JAMES M. NACHMAN
CHAIR

JOYCE KING SMITH
VICE-CHAIR

Electoral Board

Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2020

“SIC ITUR AD ASTRA”

SUCH IS THE WAY OF THE STARS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, James Nachman at 10:04 a.m. in the 5th floor Conference Room of the City Hall, 900 N. 9th Street, Richmond, VA.

PUBLIC COMMENT - There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Secretary, Starlet Sevens to accept the minutes. Motion second by Vice-Chair, Joyce Smith. Motion passed.

ORDER OF SCHOOL BOARD AND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT

Two lawsuits were filed; one in the Mayor’s race and one in the City Council and School Board race. In the Mayor’s race, it was felt that because of the Coronavirus, the requirements should be loosened. Judge Joi Jeter-Taylor, Chief Justice for the City of Richmond, heard the case and the Electoral Board was named as parties. Judge Taylor ruled that the requirement of 500 signatures be reduced to 150 signatures and the deadline in which the signatures should be submitted be changed from June 9, 2020 to June 23, 2020. How this change would affect the order in which names will appear on the ballot was not addressed. The Board request that their lawyer to file a motion to seek clarification from the court. Judge Taylor ruled that the candidate that submitted 500 signatures before her order than that person would be first on the ballot which was Kim Gray. Those persons that submitted 150 signatures after her order persons will appear on the ballot according to that threshold.

In the second lawsuit concerning the City Council and School Board race, the Board was not named as parties. In this case Judge Beverly Snukals ordered that instead of 125 signatures, the candidate need only 50 signatures by July 23, 2020. There was no ruling as to how to solve the question of order of names on the ballot in the City Council, School Board races. The Electoral Board has decided to follow Judge Taylor’s ruling according to the draft motion which states that whomever submitted 125 signatures before Judge Snukals’ ruling will appear first on the ballot.

Starlet Stevens motioned to adopt the motion to follow the logic of Judge Joi Jeter-Taylor’s order regarding the Mayor’s race and applying it the City Council and School Board races in accordance with Virginia Code 24.2-615(C), Joyce Smith seconded. The motion passes.

CANDIDATES CERTIFICATIONS AND APPEALS PROCESS

Even though candidates have submitted the required number of signatures, all of the signatures may not be qualifying signatures. In order to get on the ballot, the signatures have to be qualified. If the candidate questions whether they have enough qualified signatures, the process is to show by a letter from the Registrar, Kirk Showalter, that the candidate does not have enough signatures and the candidate has the right to send additional information to the Electoral Board that the person is a qualified voter.

POTENTIAL POLLING PLACE RELOCATIONS

Suspecting that the Covid-19 virus will still be around, the Fairmont House polling place has been moved temporarily to the East End Library and tents will be used for the other three (3) facilities. Miss Showalter suggested that the Hermitage precinct be moved to the Arthur Ashe Center. Conversation has been with VCU about moving the Dominion Place precinct. VCU seem receptive to having the campus as a polling place. The trouble is that change cannot be made in polling places within sixty (60) days of an election. Precinct 810 is considering moving to St. Paul's Baptist Church, South Richmond campus.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Newell and Sandy Jones, members of the League of Women Voters are sending out observation teams all over Richmond want to know what it is we are in need of. The need is more Election Officers. Ms. Newell suggested targeting Teachers and State Employees as Election Officers.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board's ability to go into a closed session has to be related especially pertaining to your employees. For your information an opinion of the Attorney general in 1977 was passed out.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Stevens moved that the Electoral Board go into a closed meeting pursuant to [Section 2.2-3711\(A\)\(1\)](#) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss personnel matters of employees of the Electoral Board, including but not limited to Officers of Elections appointed by the Electoral Board. Motion was seconded by Joyce Smith. Motion passed.

Certification of closed session was signed "yes" by all Board members, all were in favor. Session is opened.

NEXT MEETING DATE

July 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Starlet Stevens moved that the Board meeting be adjourned. Motion second by James Nachman and Joyce Smith. Motion passed.

James M. Nachman
Chairman to the Electoral Board

Joyce K. Smith
Vice Chairwoman to the Electoral Board

Cherlyn S. Stevens
Secretary to the Electoral Board