

Norfolk Electoral Board

Minutes of the Election Canvass, November 6, 7, 8, & 12, 2019

Present:

H. Michael Ziegenfuss (Chairman), Barbara Klear (Vice Chairwoman), Michael Khandelwal (Secretary), Stephanie Iles (Director of Elections & General Registrar)

Observers: Bob Brown (Chairman of the Norfolk Republican Party), Linwood Fisher (Chairman of the Norfolk Republican Party), Cindy DiFranco (Delegate Chris Stolle's Legislative Aide), and Jonathan Ewing (Member of Jennifer Kiggans' campaign staff)

Others Present, Friday, November 8, 2019: Hon. George E. Schaefer (Norfolk Circuit Court Clerk), Cheryl Dougherty (Executive Assistant of the Norfolk Circuit Court Clerk), Schannon Chandler (Chief Officer of Election, Tarrallton precinct), Margaret McBride (Assistant Chief Officer of Election, Tarrallton precinct), Mildred Maylor (Officer of Election, Tarrallton precinct)

Others Present, Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Kate Rennolds (Attorney for Del. Stolle's campaign)

The Norfolk Electoral Board was called to order on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 10:01 a.m. by Mr. Ziegenfuss in the Circuit Court Clerk's conference room to canvass the November 5, 2019 General Election and to consider Provisional Ballots cast.

Research of Provisional Ballots:

Eighty-six (86) Provisional Ballots were issued on November 5, 2019, which included ten (10) ID-only Provisional Ballots. Mr. Khandelwal's motion to direct the staff of the Office of Elections to research the qualification for each voter was seconded by Mr. Ziegenfuss. The Board unanimously approved the motion, and the Provisional Ballots were placed in the custody of Mrs. Wilkins, Election Assistant IV, of the Norfolk Office of Elections.

Approval of Minutes from the November 4, 2019 Electoral Board Meeting:

Mrs. Klear moved to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2019 meeting. Mr. Khandelwal seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting.

Election Canvass, Day One:

The Board began the canvass of the election.

The Board briefly discussed ballot allocation between precincts and the quantity of ballots to be ordered for upcoming elections.

After a lunch break, the Board continued its review of the election results.

Mrs. Klear moved to recess the meeting until Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 10 a.m., at which time the Board would continue the canvass of the election. The motion was seconded by Mr. Khandelwal and carried unanimously. The Board recessed at 4:40 p.m.

Election Canvass, Day Two:

The Board re-convened at 10:05 a.m. on November 7, 2019 in the Circuit Court Clerk's conference room to continue to canvass the November 5, 2019 General Election.

After a lunch break, the Board continued its review of the election results.

Mrs. Klear moved to recess the meeting until Friday, November 8, 2019 at 1 p.m., at which time the Board would continue the canvass of the election. The motion was seconded by Mr. Khandelwal and carried unanimously. The Board recessed at 5:27 p.m.

Election Canvass, Day Three:

The Board re-convened at 1 p.m. on November 8, 2019 in the Circuit Court Clerk's conference room to continue to canvass the November 5, 2019 General Election.

Upon approval from the Virginia Department of Elections, Hon. Schaefer granted the Board temporary custody of the ballots from the Tarrallton Precinct. The Board instructed the Officers of Election from the Tarrallton Precinct present to open Box 3/5 to remove the ballots that were voted outside the polling place, however were not counted on Election Day. The Officers, observed by the Chairmen of the Norfolk Democratic and Republican Parties, Hon. Schaefer, and Mrs. Dougherty, removed the ballots and counted the votes. There were four (4) ballots in the 6th Senate/90th House split and five (5) ballots in the 7th Senate/90th House split. The votes were recorded on a tally sheet and then added to SOR #1 and #2. Afterward, the ballots were re-sealed by the Officers of Election present and returned to the custody of the Circuit Court Clerk. The Board then proceeded to canvass the results from the Tarrallton precinct.

The canvass of the forty-nine (49) precincts (including the Absentee Precinct) was completed.

The Board, along with Ms. Iles, performed a Write-In Certification for the 79th House District.

Mrs. Klear moved to recess the meeting until Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 9 a.m., at which time the Board would consider the Provisional Ballots and prepare and sign the Abstracts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Khandelwal and carried unanimously. The Board recessed at 3:50 p.m.

Election Canvass, Day Four:

The Board re-convened at 9:06 a.m. on November 12, 2019 in the Circuit Court Clerk's conference room to complete the canvass of the eighty-six (86) Provisional Ballots cast on Election Day, which included ten (10) ID-only Provisional Ballots. The Registrar presented the results of the research on each voter's qualification.

Of the Provisional ID-only Ballots, seven (7) persons did not present a valid ID by the required deadline. Mrs. Klear made a motion to not count the seven (7) photo ID-only Provisional Ballots where an ID was not submitted by the required deadline, which Mr. Khandelwal seconded. The vote of the Board was unanimous.

Of the remaining Provisional ballots, eight (8) were found to be from voters not registered to vote, fourteen (14) were found to be from voters who attempted to vote in the wrong precinct, and twenty-three (23) were from voters who were registered in a different jurisdiction than Norfolk. Mrs. Klear made a motion to not count those eight (8) Provisional Ballots from the voters not registered to vote, which Mr. Khandelwal seconded. The vote of the Board was unanimous. In addition, Mrs. Klear moved to not count the fourteen (14) Provisional Ballots of voters who attempted to vote in the wrong precinct; the motion was seconded by Mr. Khandelwal and passed by a unanimous vote of the Board. Mrs. Klear further moved to not count the twenty-three (23) Provisional Ballots of the voters that were registered in another jurisdiction; the motion was seconded by Mr. Khandelwal and passed by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Of the remaining thirty-four (34) Provisional Ballots, voters of the three (3) remaining Provisional ID-only Ballots presented an ID before the required deadline; two (2) ballots were from voters properly registered and in the correct Precinct, but by pollbook error, Officers of Election were not able to qualify them at the Precinct; and twenty-nine (29) were from Absentee voters who either did not receive an Absentee ballot or did not have one to surrender at the Precinct, and research showed that the Norfolk Office of Elections did not receive their marked ballot in the mail. Mrs. Klear moved to accept the three (3) Provisional ID-only Ballots from the voters who showed an ID by the required deadline. Mr. Khandelwal seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Mrs. Klear then moved to accept the Provisional Ballots from the two (2) voters who cast a Provisional Ballot due to pollbook error. The motion was seconded by Mr. Khandelwal and was passed by a unanimous vote of the Board. Further, Mrs. Klear made a motion to accept the twenty-nine (29) ballots from voters who did not receive their Absentee Ballot. Mr. Khandelwal seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Board counted the thirty-four (34) approved Provisional Ballots and completed the Provisional Ballot Certification Form.

After a short break, the Board continued its certification of the election results in the General Registrar's office.

The Abstracts were printed and signed by each Board member before the Board Secretary signed and sealed five (5) copies. A Write-In Certification for the 79th House of Delegates race was also signed by each Board member before the Board Secretary signed and sealed five (5) copies. The Results Certification Checklist was also prepared and signed by Ms. Iles and Mr. Khandelwal, then sent, along with an attested copy of the Abstracts, to the Virginia State Board of Elections electronically.

Such other business as may come before the Electoral Board:

The next meeting of the Norfolk Electoral Board was set for Thursday, November 14 at 10 a.m. at the General Registrar's office.

Mr. Khandelwal moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Klear. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. by unanimous vote of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Khandelwal", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Khandelwal, Secretary