VFAF General Registrar Survey for Fairfax County Va

Prepared by Rob Presler

Question one. Is this your first interview with Virginians For America First?

Yes

Question two. What is your biggest concern about the upcoming election?

Just to do everything you can to make it free and fair and open. Is there anything specifically you could identify? The same day registration is a significant change that we are already working on to make sure that there’s a good process in place.

I can see that this relates to question three.

Question three. Any other major concerns?

Same day registration is a challenge specifically implementing same day registration. Anytime you do a new procedure like this it’s always a challenge. Same day registration is very different from past years. The voter registration books close during the 21 days immediately preceding the election. With the same day registration that’s still the procedure the books are closed 21 days prior to the election, but voters still have the opportunity to register at satellite voting locations and at our office at the Fairfax government center, and at polling places on election day.

Question four. Do you feel like you have the resources equipment , personnel and training needed to run an effective election in November?

Yes we have them and we’re in the hiring process right now.

Question five. Do you have an adequate number of precincts staff that meet the requirements of having equally declared Republicans and Democrats. If no, how do you plan to ensure there is party equality in poll staffing?

Is this concerning the positions of chief and assistant chief at precincts? Yes I think that’s the implication. We’re putting that in place. All of our chiefs will be Republican, and we’re reaching out to our past assistant chiefs who were Republican to fill those roles. If you find that you have an insufficient number of past assistance that are prepared to step up and fill the chief role how will you handle that? And we have a good cadre of past election officers that we can call upon. In many cases the former chiefs who were Democrats will fill the role of assistant chief so it’s a partnership. We provide a great deal of training in preparation for all roles at the precincts.

Question six. Did each precinct in your county have Pardison observers for that last election primary or general?

We do not have records for that. We know that information is out there probably held by each of the parties but that information is not reported to us.

Question seven. Does the county health department send a list of deceased people to your office every month so that they can be removed from the voter rolls? If no why not?

No that’s something that is done at the state level. This used to be reported by the state on a monthly basis, but recent legislation change that to weekly.

Question eight. What do you do when a relative notifies you that a family member is deceased and needs to be dropped from the voter rolls?

We refer them to the state process. Is there a particular office that this reporting would go to in Richmond? It would go to the department of elections. We can remove someone from the list of registered voters if we are provided with a death certificate.

Question nine. During the last election cycle did you have complaints from voters that someone had voted in their name? For example was a mail in ballot received and the voter claimed they did not cash to mail in vote? Were there any “you already voted“ scenarios?

I don’t know of any case like that. We do get some cases where within a family a junior or senior has already voted, But we were able to resolve those at the present level. We did not receive any complaints.

Question 10. Do your absentee voter drop boxes have video monitoring that is monitored 24–7? If so, who is reviewing the video to ensure there are no issues?

The only one that has video is here at the government center. That is the only dropbox available 24 seven. There will be drop boxes at each satellite location and at each polling place on election day. Those don’t have video monitoring, But there will be an election officer monitoring the dropbox. This will be during normal voting hours at each location and they will be continuously monitored by election officers.

Question 11. Are all drop boxes emptied with a witness of sworn officers of the election, with more than one sworn officer present? Our party chairman notified of wind drop boxes are empty to have the option of sending partisan observers?

We will always have two individuals present when drop boxes are empty. It isn’t practical for us to notify party chairman whenever drop boxes are emptied. We will have 17 different satellite locations, And we do not always empty the drop boxes at the end of the day. Sometimes there are different timing for the emptying. At each location we do have partisan observers who are available if present to observe emptying. we have three satellite locations that will be open for 45 days, and then the others are open for 10 days prior to the election.

Question 12. Did the party chairman of both parties get invited to calibrate the machines during the last election? Did they except and attend?

This last election was a Democrat primary. For the general election, we always invite both parties. It is their choice if they come or don’t come. And they’re not required to come in for the entire process which takes about two weeks. We always identify the hours that there will be testing and the locations of the testing.

Question 13. How are your voting machines stored and secured between elections are they always in a locked storage facility? Who has access to where the voting machines are stored? Are there long is maintained of who accessed the storage area? Where are those logs stored? Who has access to those logs?

For question 13 and 14 I can’t get into details because of security issues related to the storage. we do have strict security procedures and multiple staff who are responsible for the security of the voting equipment. we do keep specific records however I cannot give you that information, that would go against our security protocol. This is specified in Virginia code 24.2 6–25.1.

Question 14. How are your voting machines and ballots stored and secured once they are sent to the voting precinct?

(Reference the response to question 13.)

Question 15. Who delivers the voting machines to the voting precinct what is the procedure?

They come from a central location, And or distributed to the polling places and given over to the Chiefs.

Question 16. Who delivers the ballots to the voting precinct, what is the procedure?

Similar to question 15 this is done by county staff.

Question 17. Does your county utilize touchscreen voting or paper ballots?

Paper is our primary means of voting however we do have accessible machines. Primary elections are paper alone. this November every precinct, there are 264 in Fairfax County, will be required to give voters a paper ballot. In June of this year, we tested a print on demand ballot. it was highly successful and this is what we will be using in this coming November and future elections. this process utilizes blank ballot paper which we will carefully track that is then printed individually according to the precinct the voter is registered within.

Question 18. When the post election day canvas is conducted, and there are discrepancies, are their accounts of ballots themselves or just a reading of the computer generated report if no why not?

We cannot count the ballots because the ballots are secured at the end of the voting and at the end of election day. The ballots are secured and turned over to the circuit court. we have the electronic reports that print out the results for each machine. We also have computer generated reports that is from the media in the machine. we also have a cross check through the pool pads based on the number of voters who checked in.

Question 19. House bill 150 that goes into effect July 1, 2022, requires that public body meetings, such as the electoral board meetings, to be posted on an official government website within seven days of the final approval of minutes. This is in addition to existing requirements that meeting dates, times, and locations must also be posted in advance. How is your office meeting this requirement?

We post that information on our website fairfaxcounty.gov/elections.

Question 20. Senate bill 211 and house bill 55, both of which go into affect July 1, 2022, require that the state registrar of vital records transmit a weekly list of deceased individuals. General registrars will be required to promptly cancel the registrations a person is known to be deceased or otherwise disqualified from voting. How will your office addresses new requirement? Who will be in charge of making sure that registrations are promptly canceled?

With this change from monthly to weekly we have staff in place to do this. I am the person who’s responsible.