

CFFE Registrar Survey Form – 8/3/21

County/City Culpeper County Observers Toni Shoads, Eileen Ehrath

Date of interview 8/12/21 Registrar James Clements

Before the Interview - Record the time and date of your call and email, and if the meeting is not set immediately, the time and date of their response

- a) Time and date of initial call and email: 8/11/21 10:16 Phone call
- b) Time and date of response: 8/11/21 10:16
- c) Did the registrar refuse to meet you: Yes ___ No
- d) If yes, please provide the reason given for not meeting: Toni spoke with registrar directly - he was polite, accommodating and transparent

The Interview - Thank the Registrar for agreeing to see you. State that the purpose of the observation program is to provide voters with accurate information about the election process. Emphasize how important you think his/her role is in ensuring that everyone in the county sees the elections here are free, fair and legitimate.

First, we have a few general questions.

1. What is your biggest concern about the upcoming election? (open ended. Record verbatim.)
Always the uncertainty on how voters are going to vote (what process they use) How do we adapt to facilitate the processes, logistics involved with polling places.

2. Any other major concerns? (open ended. Record verbatim.)
mostly how Covid changes the perception of the voters and how they want to vote, mail-in, early or on day of election.

3. Do you feel like you have the resources, equipment, personnel, and training needed to run an effective election in November?
 Yes He is excited about training election officials in person.
 No ___
 Don't know ___
 No answer/refused ___

4. If no, what is missing?
N/A

5. The county election board is supposed to consist of 2 Democrats and a Republican under a Democrat governor, but in some areas, boards have had trouble finding willing Republicans and have appointed an Independent instead, or another Democrat. What is the situation in this county?
 Two Democrats and a Republican
 Two Democrats and an Independent ___
 Three Democrats ___
 Other: ___

6. What about precinct staff? Are you able to have equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans? (please check one, then provide any relevant detail on right side of this box)
 Yes Polling Places have both
 No ___
 Don't know ___
 No answer/refused ___

7. Is the county Board of Elections engaged in your work year-round, or mostly near elections?
 Year round
 Mostly near elections Board does what they need to do all year but more right before elections. We are a registration office too and Board doesn't play a role in that part.
 Don't know
 No answer/refused

Thank you. Now a few questions on the voter roll.

8. When was the last time the voter file in your county was scrubbed or cleaned? (Enter date, and the number of days since last audit) Date: He said it is constant and ongoing all year.
 No. of days since last audit: DMV plays a big part in getting them info.

9. a. Does the Health Department/coroner/or Bureau of Vital Statistics send a list of deceased people to your office every month so they can be removed from the voter roll?
 Yes Get death certificates every month. As they get them they remove from file. Also use the NVRA from post office change of addresses.
 No
 Don't know
 No answer/refused

b. If no, how often do they send a list?

10. When was the last time the Clerk of Courts submitted a list of individuals who declined to serve on jury duty on the basis of being a non-citizen? 3 years ago but did it two years in a row

11. When was the last time you had access to the National Change of Address List or any other change of address list? (record date and other list(s), if relevant) State runs process every summer so he is sure they did it this summer. System flags NCRA

12. a. Are you confident that the voter file is accurate and up to date?
 Yes We are doing the work every day to make sure it is accurate.
 No
 Don't know
 No answer/refused

b. If no, what is/are your main concern(s) about the list?

N/A

13. How many households in your locality have more than 7 individuals registered at the same address?
 Number: _____ (if unknown, ask that he/she forward information ASAP)
 Circle back on this

14. During registration, how do you verify that voters are citizens? He was stumped then he finally said legally we don't do that.

Moving on, concerns were raised across the country about the accuracy and integrity of voting machines in the 2020 elections.

15. There are three types of voting machines used in Virginia. Can you tell me which machines you use?
 We use ES+S and DS200 Scanner

16. Who calibrates the voting machines, and can you please explain the process? They do logic and accuracy testing - Election Board is responsible for this.

17. Do you invite party representatives to witness the calibration?
 Yes One per party
 No
 Don't know
 No answer/refused

18. a. Are voting machines ever connected to the internet?
 Yes
 No Annual maintenance contract
 Don't know Print Elect → Company that does the updates.
 No answer/refused Done After November before next summer

b. If they are not connected to the internet, how and when are they updated?
 Can not remote into the machines.

Many changes in election procedures were introduced in response to the COVID pandemic, and some people have argued that these changes weakened the integrity of the election process.

19. As an election professional, do you think the changes made in the election process in Virginia in response to COVID have weakened election integrity, strengthened election integrity, or made no change in election integrity?
 weakened integrity
 strengthened integrity He feels COVID made no changes in
 made no change the way things are done for their jobs.
 Don't know
 No answer/refused

20. a. Did you receive any funding or in-kind contributions for training, staff, voter education or equipment, or any other purpose from outside the state of Virginia?
 Yes Cares Act Funding
 No Grant funding
 Don't know Will get back to us on where \$ came from
 No answer/refused

b. If yes, what was the funding or contribution used for?
 Used for Staff, purchased new Equipment and Hazard pay.

21. Effective Jul 1, 2021, Senate Bill 1097, eliminated requirements for voters to have a witness signature on absentee ballots for any election during a declared state of emergency. The Governor has now rescinded the state of emergency. How are you training your staff to ensure that there is a signature match for the upcoming elections?
 Staff of 2.5 - always training - they know they need to match signatures. They are curing ballots all the time. They contact voters if ballot is missing anything.

22. There is a lot of concern in Virginia and across the country about the security and integrity of the ballot drop boxes. What are the chain of custody procedures for ballot drop boxes?
 Only have one drop box and it is in the registrars office behind the counter. Locked behind locked counter.

23. Was there any time during the last election cycle when your drop boxes did not have video monitoring?
 Yes
 No Doesn't need video since it is behind counter
 Don't know in office.
 No answer/refused

24. Who is responsible for reviewing the video, and were party observers present during the review?
 Person (title) responsible: _____
 Yes
 No
 Don't know N/A
 No answer/refused

To strengthen public confidence in the integrity of elections, we hope to expand our observation efforts, and have a few questions about election pages, non-partisan observers, and party observers.

25. Would you provide training and support, or designate us to provide training and support, for an election day page program as described in 24.2-604.3? *Have used students in the past and might use in the future but he said it is up to the Electoral Board.*
Yes
No
Don't know
No answer/refused

26. Would you authorize non-partisan election observers with the same rights as party representatives; as described in 24.2-604.5 A? *He didn't seem like he wanted to use them and about #27 but he said it was up to electoral board.*
Yes
No
Don't know
No answer/refused

27. Would you authorize international non-partisan observers from recognized election monitoring organizations? *Said to circle back to this. Toni will email and remind him we need an answer.*
Yes
No
Don't know
No answer/refused

28. Have your local party chairs been notified that they are entitled to send observers to your office each day it is open and receiving in-person absentee ballots? *the Democrats sent people but he said this was a good question.*
Yes
No
Don't know
No answer/refused

29. a. Do you have a publication that you provide to your election officials regarding rights and responsibilities of observers?
Yes
No (go to b.)
Don't know
No answer/refused

b. If no, would you be willing to distribute such a publication that we would prepare based on Virginia law?
Yes
No
Don't know
No answer/refused *N/A*

Thank you. The survey is complete now. We deeply appreciate your time today, and look forward to keeping in touch as we go through the 2021 state elections. (if you have additional questions) If you don't mind, we have a few additional questions related specifically to (county or city).

30. Post survey question – Please characterize your interaction with the Registrar as (circle all that apply)
 Helpful Polite Defensive Unhelpful Antagonistic

To the survey team: Thank you for all you have done and will do to ensure a free and fair election in Virginia! Please submit your completed survey form as soon as possible.