

CFFE Registrar Survey Form – 8/3/21

County/City Harrisonburg Observers Ned Adamson, Mac Nichols, Rich Little
Donna Reilly

Date of interview 9/1/2021 Registrar MARK FINKS

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: 8/26/21 10:51 Am
- b) Time and date of response: 8/26/21 @ 1:22 pm
- c) Did the registrar refuse to meet you: Yes No
- d) If yes, please provide the reason given for not meeting: _____

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.)
No real concerns, other than Covid factor, my 3rd Election. Feels his job is educating public & answering questions. Budgeting is limited for advertising to inform public. Working Elections only since under Covid Regulations. Getting out info for early voting & Dates & time
2. Any other major concerns? (open ended. Record verbatim.)
Asked about sufficient volunteers for polling/voting precincts. A lot of volunteers - more Republicans this time. Aims for equal Dem/Rep @ sites but due to volunteers schedules it doesn't always happen - but it is the goal.
3. Do you feel like you have the resources, equipment, personnel, and training needed to run an effective election in November?
 Yes
 No
 Don't know
 No answer/refused
4. If no, what is missing?
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 only dependent on volunteers schedules
 No But always the goal.
 Don't know Has to use independent voters as well, Republican: Democrat ration may not always be
 No answer/refused

equal depending on number of volunteers. May have to use independents.

City

7. Is the ~~county~~ Board of Elections engaged in your work year-round, or mostly near elections?
 Year round
 Mostly near elections meet 1-2 times monthly
 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: _____ NCO audit last week of June
 No. of days since last audit: _____ of 2021.

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 not required by Va, but the Dept of Elections
 No relays info to Registrars office as they
 Don't know are the conduit for info. Then Rolls
 No answer/refused are updated that day by Registrar's
 Office. About 1 time month.

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? unsure, as they are not required.

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) again not direct access, Dept of Elections gives info to Registrar.

12. a. Are you confident that the voter file is accurate and up to date?
 Yes Accurate but students fluctuate list.
 No many do not do change address.
 Don't know Transient student population very difficult to keep
 No answer/refused updated

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

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) - Does not know. Asked for
 F/U none given for 10 days
 Sure, apartments for students would qualify

14. During registration, how do you verify that voters are citizens? As the box they check per
 Va code. May use ID/utility bill & the VARIS system
 will flag SS numbers if used more than once.

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?
 Use Scanning machines, ES&S DS 200 (440) Model, American
 Disability Acts - Express vote ES&S for ADA voters

16. Who calibrates the voting machines, and can you please explain the process? By custodians of
 Office of Elections appointment. 4 in total. Vendor training
 PrintElect through USB. - Print Election, using Ballpoint pens & Head
 Scan.

17. Do you invite party representatives to witness the calibration?
 Yes actually just sent out notices to parties
 No and candidates, End of Aug '21
 Don't know including independent candidate.
 No answer/refused

18. a. Are voting machines ever connected to the internet?
 Yes _____
 No updates per USB.
 Don't know _____ poll books occasionally are connected
 No answer/refused _____ for satellite - But not in Harrisonburg
 (locations)

b. If they are not connected to the internet, how and when are they updated?
 USB Thumbdrive

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 _____
 made no change _____
 Don't know
 No answer/refused _____
 Now in position of registrar. only
 3rd Election. Always under
 COVID Regs.
 Has not worked as Registrar pre COVID

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 _____
 No No outside \$ money received in Harrisonburg.
 Don't know _____ Received \$ money through the Federal
 No answer/refused _____ \$ Money Care Acts from DEPT of Elections
 I'm not aware of other counties.

b. If yes, what was the funding or contribution used for?

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?
 In Va, no signature match required. Witness signatures must be present this year. Drop off locations, must be present & 2 staff members & have chain of custody seals.

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?
 Currently no exterior drop boxes, only drop off locations - Registrar's office & @ polls only on election day, may use other locations but 2 staff members present with chain of custody seals.

23. Was there any time during the last election cycle when your drop boxes did not have video monitoring?
 Yes _____
 No all in offices - none outside.
 Don't know _____
 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 _____
 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? ^{High School}
 Yes *Harmonburg & EMHS are participating in pilot program.*
 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?
 Yes
 No *No I wouldn't authorize independently but in tandem with Electoral Board & Registrar.*
 Don't know
 No answer/refused

27. Would you authorize international non-partisan observers from recognized election monitoring organizations?
 Yes
 No *Again in tandem with Electoral Board & Registrar Office.*
 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?
 Yes
 No *looking for direction from State of Election Boards about the process.*
 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 *to observers and party chairs.*
 No (go to b.) *"Do's and Don'ts for Campaigners and Authorized Representatives provided by state of VA. We provided a link to this publication"*
 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

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.