

VFAF Registrar Survey Form

County/City Lancaster Observers Johanna Carrington, Catly Mecke, Lisa Smith
 Date of interview 7/21/2021

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: May 2021 - we delayed
 b) Time and date of response: Immediate - they were super-cooperative
 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.)
The Dept. of Elections is no longer acting in a supportive way. Instead they send 2-3 "advisories" a day changing procedures. Sometimes advisories conflict with one another. They are not updated on how to handle the new laws that were effective July 1.
2. Any other major concerns? (open ended. Record verbatim.)
The new laws, no guidance. There are too many laws that are open to interpretation. In 2019-20 they added 61 new laws, and 20-21 added 69 new laws.
3. Do you feel like you have the resources, equipment, personnel, and training needed to run an effective election in November?
 Yes We are ready here. However there is no "on boarding training guide - we need a manual to know what to do. Everything has gotten too complex. You need "hands on" to know what to do.
 No Changes are happening too quick. The electoral board seems frustrated. We have difficulty with the last minute costs thrown at us.
 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 * the Republican is stepping down after Nov. election cycle.
 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 "We make it work" We struggle with finding Republicans.
 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>There are requirements year round, but most work is done around elections</i> Don't know _____ No answer/refused _____
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Thank you. Now a few questions on the voter roll.

8.	When was the last audit of the voter file in your county? (Enter date, and the number of days since last audit) Date: _____ <i>"Technically" we just did one. "Ill defined word, audit"</i> No. of days since last audit: <i>She just got NVRA & NCDA lists</i>
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9.	a. Does the Health Department send a list of deceased people to your office every month so they can be removed from the voter roll? Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>They get notification from the Bureau of Vital Statistics</i> Don't know _____ <i>"ERIC" notification.</i> No answer/refused _____ <i>It's about a 3 month turn around</i>
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b. If no, how often do they send a list? *The registrar checks local obituaries & funeral homes*

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? <i>NEVER! - Can't ask citizenry - if its checked I can't?</i>
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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) <i>Constant</i>
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12.	a. Are you confident that the voter file is accurate and up to date? Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not for lack of trying. We cannot be 100% confident.</i> Don't know _____ No answer/refused _____
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b. If no, what is/are your main concern(s) about the list?
No move aways. P.O. Boxes used as address. Not able to ask for email or phone number - Can't contact.

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) <i>No way of knowing. - Maybe a hand full in Precinct 1.</i>
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14.	During registration, how do you verify that voters are citizens? <i>"Good huck" "People come here (and have for years) to get voter ID to prove who they are at the DMV"</i> <i>"I have no right to question"</i>
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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? <i>Unison, vendor ESO out of PA</i>
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16.	Who calibrates the voting machines, and can you please explain the process? <i>L&A "logistics and Accuracy testing" (from PA) A rep from the company, the Registrar & Deputy Registrar. A local Company (NN Computer) is going to be trained to last</i>
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17.	Do you invite party representatives to witness the calibration? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Test machine, test ballots w/ scenarios and Seal the ballots afterwards</i> No _____ Don't know _____ No answer/refused _____
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18.	<p>a. Are voting machines ever connected to the internet?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>b. If they are not connected to the internet, how and when are they updated? <i>Purchased in 2017, they have not been updated. Scheduled to do before election.</i></p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	
19.	<p>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?</p> <p>weakened integrity. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>strengthened integrity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>made no change <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Changes have made work load harder and confused voters. The actual integrity stayed the same. We have our own checks and balances. But I can see how it can be seen both ways.</i></p>
20.	<p>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?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Received a grant from CTCL. Purchased Poll pads. Money received from CARES Act.</i></p>
<p>b. If yes, what was the funding or contribution used for? <i>Poll pads</i></p>	
21.	<p>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?</p> <p><i>Standard operating procedure - Allow ballots to "CURE" Open ballots sent to CAB (Central Absentee Office)</i></p>
22.	<p>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?</p> <p><i>two officers of elections are supposed to check it daily. There registrar and asst have monitors in their office and watch daily.</i></p>
23.	<p>Was there any time during the last election cycle when your drop boxes did not have video monitoring?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p>
24.	<p>Who is responsible for reviewing the video, and were party observers present during the review?</p> <p>Person (title) responsible: <u><i>Never had a formal review</i></u></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p>

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?i (see text in endnote)
 Yes "just one more thing to deal with"
 No concerned with time and resources
 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?ii (see text in endnote)
 Yes Not always trained properly and can cause
 No more stress to precinct officers
 Don't know
 No answer/refused

27. Would you authorize international non-partisan observers from recognized election monitoring organizations?
 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?
 Yes The election board secretary is supposed to
 No interact with them
 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

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.