

VFAF Registrar Survey Form

County/City Middlesex Observers Johanna Carrington, Mary Carol Taylor, Lisa Smith  
 Date of interview 8/4/2021 Registrars Name: Melissa Welch

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: Monday Aug 2, 2021 10am
- b) Time and date of response: Called back @ noon
- 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.)  
Worried about politically charged implications of a new referendum to remove civil war statue outside courthouse.
2. Any other major concerns? (open ended. Record verbatim.). Next big concern funding. Many of new mandates don't have funding by the Board of Supervisors.
3. Do you feel like you have the resources, equipment, personnel, and training needed to run an effective election in November?  
 Yes  \* \* Almost  
 No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Don't know \_\_\_\_\_  
 No answer/refused \_\_\_\_\_
4. If no, what is missing? They have a trailer for storage of "non-secured" equipment that is overflowing and we desperately need another. If we can not purchase, we will rent.
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  She has to beg and plead both sides. At first it was harder to get D's. Now its harder to get R's. After 2020 election many do not want to be labeled either D or R, for fear of what neighbors might think.  
 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whenever I need them they are there, they are awesome! Mostly near elections <input type="checkbox"/> "They do not hover. they guide me in the right direction. The chair is a former registrar and previously worked at State Board of elections (Barbara Cockrell) Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/>
Thank you. Now a few questions on the voter roll. <span style="float: right;">registrar does on their own no report</span>	
8.	When was the last audit of the voter file in your county? (Enter date, and the number of days since last audit) Date: _____ No. of days since last audit: _____ Deceased people weekly (on their own) via obits, funeral homes & news - Asst. Registrar is tasked with this job. felons & SS number cross check every other month from state
9.	a. Does the <sup>Health Department</sup> <del>Bureau of Statistic</del> send a list of deceased people to your office every month so they can be removed from the voter roll? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NVRA sent July 2021 from state. Done last month. she marks her roles for confirmation. No <input type="checkbox"/> After 8 years of non-voting before kicked off roles. she will manually codes them flagged. Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/> She has 3 people on role who never vote but can't remove them.
	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? <u>Never</u>
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) <u>last month. Sent once a year as determined by law. Dependent on party in charge: R will remove names before elections and D's remove after elections.</u>
12.	a. Are you confident that the voter file is accurate and up to date? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/>
	b. If no, what is/are your main concern(s) about the list? _____
13.	How many households in your locality have more than 7 individuals registered at the same address? Number: <u>1</u> (if unknown, ask that he/she forward information ASAP) <u>"One household comes to mind"</u>
14.	During registration, how do you verify that voters are citizens? <u>They affirm citizenship by checking a box. We put it in the system. The only way they would be flagged is if they put "non-citizen" status at DMV.</u>
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? <u>Unison- Optical Scanner</u>
16.	Who calibrates the voting machines, and can you please explain the process? <u>2 local Middlesex citizens were hired by electoral board. Bobby Wilson Jr owner of Oasis Computers. They process the decks 2x: once before early voting. again before election day. They run two decks. One from manufacturer. The other</u>
17.	Do you invite party representatives to witness the calibration? <u>the registrar and her assistant</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have to have "roll dice" random selection. No <input type="checkbox"/> them there by law - Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> "most of the time they both are there" No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/>

\* Active party chairs - they attend every electoral board meeting. The D & R chair have worked together on campaigns :-)

18. a. Are voting machines ever connected to the internet?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
 No  NEVER!  
 Don't know \_\_\_\_\_  
 No answer/refused \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.  It put a lot of voter responsibility on this office vs. the voter.  
 strengthened integrity \_\_\_\_\_ \* Ballot curing (for example) when there was no signature before 2020 it would be thrown out.  
 made no change \_\_\_\_\_ Now we have to notify within 3 days.  
 Don't know \_\_\_\_\_ College kids - she called the College student knowing schools were closed to verify where to send ballot.  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 No  "Not allowed to accept gifts from out of state"  
 Don't know \_\_\_\_\_ No Grants  
 No answer/refused \_\_\_\_\_ Did receive COVID from CARES Act.

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

It "weakened" integrity, BUT we held the line. i.e. Drop box off location during office hours vs. Drop box

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?

- We are changing our envelopes to say "Make sure you have signature"  
 • still waiting for Board of Elections for final changes  
 • still have curing

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?

Ballot drop location on site, operates only during business hours  
 \* See photos attached.

23. Was there any time during the last election cycle when your drop boxes did not have video monitoring?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
 No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Don't know \_\_\_\_\_  
 No answer/refused \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

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 \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

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.	<p>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)</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>We have a page program in conjunction with H.S. government teacher. Did not use in 2020 due to COVID. The kids could do everything BUT hand ballot to voter. They monitored door for curbside voting. They cleaned. The registrar does voter ed, talking to Rotary &amp; NAACP.</p>
26.	<p>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)</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>Normally the electoral board would. I would only do it with their approval.</p>
27.	<p>Would you authorize international non-partisan observers from recognized election monitoring organizations?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>We were asked in 2020 but said no due to COVID. Again, would not say yes unless electoral board agrees.</p>
28.	<p>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?</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>She sends correspondence to about early voting processing. "Maybe I need to add this?"</p>
29.	<p>a. Do you have a publication that you provide to your election officials regarding rights and responsibilities of observers?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/> (go to b.)</p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b. If no, would you be willing to distribute such a publication that we would prepare based on Virginia law?</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>	<p>yes, also poll watchers</p>

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.	<p>Post survey question - Please characterize your interaction with the Registrar as (circle all that apply)</p> <p>Helpful Polite Defensive Unhelpful Antagonistic</p>
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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.

Should be training ALL registrars!!