

BOTETOURT COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD

February 2, 2023

On February 2, 2023, a required meeting of the Botetourt County Electoral Board was held in the Registrar's Office in Fincastle. All members of the Electoral Board were present, as was Traci Clark, the GR/DOE. Also present was Karen Wickham, Chief Deputy Registrar. Chairman John Rader called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Vice Chairman Ed Clark then moved to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2023, meeting, which had been previously circulated. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board then took up what was the main agenda item – the appointment of Precinct Election Officers (PEOs). Traci supplied each Board member with a roster of 135 potential officers, seven more than had been approved in 2022. After a careful review of the roster, and discussion by the Board, Secretary Buck Heartwell moved that all of the candidates on the roster be appointed for a period of one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Traci advised the Board that her office, working in conjunction with Elect, had recently conducted its annual NVRA voter list purge, and 77 inactive voters had been struck from the list. This number was smaller than it had been in previous years. The results would be published in the Fincastle Herald and notices would be posted in the

usual public places. Each party chair would also be provided with a list of the cancelled voters.

There would be a June primary in 2023. The Republican Party, Traci explained, had elected to use a primary as its method of nominating a candidate for the newly drawn State Senate District 3, of which Botetourt County is a component part. The local Republican Committee had also elected to use the primary method to nominate candidates for the five county constitutional officers and the members of the Board of Supervisors. Traci then advised the Board of the candidates who had either completed or begun the paperwork necessary to run for office.

On the matter of the Courthouse construction project, Traci reported that construction would begin in early fall and would take approximately two years to complete. Roanoke Street would be closed during construction; the impact this would have on curbside voting had been discussed with the relevant officials. Several parking spaces in front of the Courthouse will be indicated as “Registrar’s Business Only” and a space in front of the street barricades will be designated as a curbside voting area during early voting. Other necessary curbside areas may be necessary to be identified if demolition activities create an unsafe situation for usage of the areas in front of the barriers. Traci will continue to communicate regularly with County project managers and construction managers to maintain compliance with providing curbside voting and handicapped accessibility to the office.

The Board agreed to next meet on February 21, 2023, at 2:00 pm, at which time it would review its Security Plan. Traci would provide the Board with a draft prior to the meeting; our Plan must be submitted to

ELECT by March 1st. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Buck Heartwell, Secretary