

MINUTES: Greene County Electoral Board
December 12, 2022

The Greene County Electoral Board meeting of **December 12, 2022** was held at the office of the Director of Elections (formerly "General Registrar") at 32 Stanard Street in Stanardsville, Virginia at 2:00 pm.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Deborah Turck, at 2:20 p.m.

In Attendance:

Deborah Turck, Chair
Roberta Culbertson, Secretary
Brian O'Regan, member

Jennifer Lewis-Fowler, Director of Elections

The meeting agenda prepared by the Director of Elections was adopted.

Old Business

Reading of the minutes was dispensed with as previously read and the minutes were approved by voice vote of Board members.

New Business

1. November 2022 Election Review

The Board reviewed survey responses from precinct chiefs regarding the election in their precinct, including troubles, successes, and areas in need of improvement. Discussions of how to improve training, evaluate officers of election effectively and maintain quality control as new officers are recruited, and the eventual possibility of split shifts on election day, as allowed by the **Code of Virginia**.

Other topics included: possible institution of payment for training hours; greater assistance from the Board to precinct chiefs and assistant chiefs on election day regarding election policy and polling place management; better and more direct access to voting precincts at PVCC; and better use of Pages. These matters will be taken up with the new Board in the new year.

2. New Board Member

Roberta Culbertson, current secretary, will step down from her role at the end of 2022. The Board formally thanked her for her service to Greene County and the Electoral Board, and wished her well in her new home. Culbertson's vacancy will be completed by Brian O'Regan,

subject to Greene County Democratic Party recommendation and court appointment in accordance with the **Code of Virginia**. Thomas Boyd is the Greene County Republican Party nominee to comply with Virginia Code.

Director of Elections Report

A. School calendar dates have been set for **March 2024** without consultation with the Director of Elections, and conflicts with election dates must be resolved. The Chair will consult with the Greene County School Superintendent to discuss the conflicts.

B. The Director of Elections reported that Ranked Choice voting is being discussed by some localities as an alternative to the standard procedure. The Board agreed informally that at this time the option does not seem acceptable.

C. The numbers of FOIA requests continues to increase across the state as well as in Greene County. Responding is time-consuming and detracts from other work essential to the election process itself.

D. As the time comes in the first of the new year to ask for new officers of election from the parties, the Board discussed and informally adopted a goal of 100 officers in total over the next few years to allow for split shift workers. There need to be consistent, experienced chiefs and assistant chiefs at all precincts, and assistant chiefs will need to take on more duties with Same Day Registration and other changes in the law as they arise. An influx of new workers is necessary to replace an older cohort of workers who are phasing out after many years of unflagging service.

E. The director announced that the Registrar's Office would likely be required to run a special election in March/April for the Clerk of Court position. The Board discussed with the Director the difficulty of such an election at this time, when the **Code of Virginia** would seem to allow the election to be held during the general election of November, 2023. Although this will be the Judge's decision, the Board of Supervisors is allowed to offer an opinion, and the Board discussed a plea to the Board of Supervisors for such an opinion. The costs of the election were roughly calculated to be \$15,000, including staff required for the early voting period, for which no funds have been budgeted. The costs will include testing the machines and programming them for this election, ballot printing, coordination with all precincts, and a full complement of officers of election for what will likely be a very small voter turnout. As a dual primary may be required in June, the timing is also problematic. The Board voted that the Chair draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors and to Judge Barredo stating the administrative struggles that will attend a March or April election, to be sent to the appropriate parties.

Public Comments

No members of the public were in attendance.

Closed Meeting

The Chair announced the need to enter a closed meeting at 4:00 pm in accordance with **Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 Section A** paragraph 8 and 24.2-681 to discuss pending litigation. The Chair moved to close the meeting and the Board agreed by voice vote at 4:05 pm.

Open Meeting

Returning to the open meeting at 5:05 pm, the Chair asked for a certification by individual voice vote that only matters named as the purpose of the meeting were discussed during the closed meeting. All members certified the content of the meeting.


There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Culbertson, Secretary

Approved:

Debbie Turck, Chair



Roberta Culbertson, Secretary

Brian O'Regan, Vice-Chair



VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF GREENE

IN THE MATTER OF A SPECIAL ELECTION)
TO FILL THE VACANCY OF) CASE NO. CL
THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT)

WRIT OF SPECIAL ELECTION

The Petitioner, the Board of Supervisors of Greene County, Virginia, by counsel
Petition for Entry of an Order of Writ of Special Election requesting that this Honorable Court
issue a Writ of Special Election ordering that a special election be held in Greene County, Virginia
on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, to fill the unexpired term of the elected office of the Clerk of the
Circuit Court of Greene County.

Upon consideration of the Petition and the law, and with the requirements of law being
met, it is hereby ORDERED and a Writ of Special Election ISSUED, as follows:

Pursuant to Sections 24.2-228.1(A), 24.2-682, and 24.2-683 of the Code of Virginia (1950),
as amended, the Court hereby issues this Writ of Special Election and ORDERS and directs the
Electoral Board of Greene County, Virginia to conduct a special election to fill the unexpired term
ending December 31, 2023, of the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Greene County,
Virginia, on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in the same or similar manner and at the same or similar
places as will be executed for the general elections.

This Court further ORDERS that the Electoral Board and the Registrar of Greene County,
Virginia, observe the legal mandates and directives set forth in Title Section 24.2, including but
not limited to Sections 24.2-681 through 24.2-683, of the Code of Virginia when conducting the
special election on April 4, 2023.

Although Section 24.2-226 of the Code of Virginia requires the court to "issue the writ
ordering the election promptly and shall order the special election to be held on the date of the
next general election in November or in May if the vacant office is regularly scheduled by law to
be filled in May," the date for the special election cannot be held at the next general election in
November 2023 as requested by the Petitioner. Section 24.2-228.1(E) of the Code of Virginia
states, "no election to fill a vacancy shall be ordered or held if the general election at which it is

VIRGINIA, GREENE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE
I CERTIFY THAT THE DOCUMENT TO WHICH THIS AUTHENTICATION
IS AFFIXED IS A TRUE COPY OF A RECORD IN THE GREENE COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT, THAT I HAVE CUSTODY OF SAID RECORD, AND THAT
I AM THE CUSTODIAN OF THE RECORD.
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS COURT, THIS 29th
DAY OF December, 2022
TESTE: _____ CLERK
_____ DEPUTY CLERK