

**MATHEWS COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 3, 2024
GENERAL REGISTRAR'S OFFICE**

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Thorpe @ 10:04. Present: Thorpe, Bohn. Present via phone: Zych. Also present was GR Faulkner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Zych requested moving the approval of minutes to the next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: AT 10:06, Bohn motioned to enter a closed session, Thorpe seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

The Electoral Board of Mathews County convenes in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 A)(1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss approval of Election Officer applicants and assignment of Election Officers to precincts for the November election.

At 11:14, the closed session ended and the regular meeting reconvened.

The Mathews County Electoral Board certify that in the closed session just concluded, to the best of each member's knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the board in the closed meeting.

Thorpe motioned to accept the following items discussed during the closed Session. Bohn seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Approved Election Officer application
The assignment of Election Officers to precincts as proposed for the November 2024 election.

It was noted that the Board has in recent months received applications from and approved numerous new election officers. The Board tried to assign as many new officers as possible while still relying heavily on our experienced officers for this

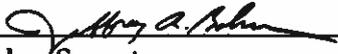
important upcoming election. Additionally, the Board strived to maintain an even balance of Democrats and Republicans working in each precinct on election day.

ELECTION DECORUM LETTER: Bohn questioned the status of the election decorum letter which was drafted following the 2023 "large" local election. Thorpe has not revised the letter. Bohn questioned the sense of sending the letter in its present form at this time, suggesting nit might be more appropriate before the next "large" local election. Zych felt some edited and appropriate form of the letter was important to deliver to party leaders to address some of the Board's concerns. Zych volunteered to revise and present for Board approval a much-shortened communication addressing basic election day decorum, and respect for voters entering the precinct to vote. Additionally, the communication will address the 40-foot "no campaigning" line as it applies to drive-up voting. It is the Board's opinion that---even though the drive-up voting area in all precincts is located beyond the 40-foot line---that drive-up voters deserve the same privacy as those who physically vote within the precinct, and that once an election officer arrives at the drive-in voter, no campaigning or conversation is appropriate until the completed ballot has been returned to the election officer and the car drives away.

EARLY VOTING: As of Oct. 2nd morning, 969 in-person votes had been cast. Additionally, 100 absentee mail ballots had been received for a total of about 1070 completed ballots. This number is over double that of previous elections at the same point. This number if about 14% of registered voters, and Mathews continues to lead the state in per capita early voting participation.

ADJOURNMENT: Thorpe motioned, Bohn seconded, and the motion to adjourn the meeting passed 3-0. The meeting closed at 11:32.

Submitted October 4, 2024



Jeff Bohn, Secretary



Catherine Zych, Vice Chairman



Josephine Thorpe, Chairman