

Mathews County Electoral Board Meeting - MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m. -Jury Room

1. Call to order By: JBohn Time: 10:05am

All members were present (Zych via phone).

2. Pledge to Flag

3. Status of November 2024 Minutes –

4. Reorganization

Bohn opened the reorganization meeting. He nominated himself for chairperson. Vote failed 1-2. Bohn mentioned that he did not want to continue as secretary after doing so for 8 years. ***See JBohn letter attached**

Zych motioned/nominated the following slate:

Zych for Chair; Bohn for Vice-Chair; Casciello for Secretary.

Motion passed 3-0

5. Discuss Consolidating Chesapeake and Westville Precincts.

- Preclearance is required. Refer to ELECT Advisory March 4, 2025 and 24.2-129 of the Virginia Code.
- Doing so would require approval from the BOS and a public hearing on the matter (would take about 2-3 months). Factors discussed in reducing Mathews' precincts to two:
- In 2024 November election, 82% of votes were cast early, much reducing Election Day in-person voting.
- At present, Chesapeake has roughly 1,300 registered voters, Westville has 2,700, and Piankatank 2,500.
- Consolidating precincts would save the need for one voting machine, approximately \$6,000 (over the 10-year life of the machine).. Two election officer positions might be dropped. The move would provide minimal savings.
- When permission to consolidate was previously requested from the BOS (2020), citizens expressed disapproval citing tradition and possible voter confusion. The BOS rejected the request for that reason.
- President Trump has expressed his intent to eliminate early voting.

Based upon the above, the Electoral Board decided to defer action and revisit the issue.

6. March 23-25 Bootcamp & VEBA Conference

VOTING EQUIPMENT: Plans to replace the current machines in 2026 (per State guidelines) are in place. EB members and GR Faulkner are happy with the current supplier ESO, and the current scanner company Unisys. The new generation of scanners has the capacity to move to rank choice voting if needed.

Bohn will contact David Levy of the Lynchburg EB at the annual meeting. He will pick up two scanners they no longer need to serve as backup for the November 2025 election because ours have begun to show signs of wear.

ANNUAL ELECT MEETING/TRAINING: All three EB members will be attending the annual meeting at the Homestead. Travel and booking arrangements were discussed.

7. COUNTY TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT: GR Faulkner reported that the county does not have an on-site technology employee on staff. The EB is unhappy with this, particularly with increased requirements for technology and security annual audits and possible equipment/technology issues on Election Days. Faulkner has already expressed this concern with the County Administrator and will follow developments.

8. EB Meeting schedule – 2nd Tuesday of the month

April 8th – Next EB Meeting

May 2nd – Early Voting Begins if we are having a Primary

May 13th – Next EB Meeting

June 10th – Election Preprocessing and EB Meeting

June 17th – Possible Primary

July 30th - ELECT Annual Meeting & VEBA Bootcamp, OMNI Hotel-Richmond

August 12th - EB Meeting

Sept. 9th – 12th one day in range EB Meeting with Machine Testing

Sept. 19th – Early Voting Begins

Oct. 14th – EB Meeting

Oct. (2 weeks before election) - EO Training

Nov. 4th – Election

Nov – Sometime between the 10th & 14th finalize the Election

CZych motioned to adjourn at 11:50am. JBohn seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

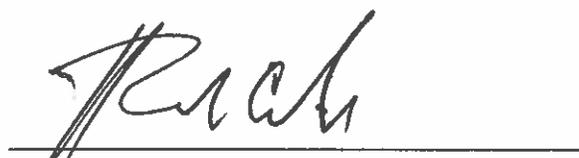
Minutes submitted by Jeff Bohn, MCEM secretary.



Catherine C. Zych
Chair



Jeffrey Bohn
Vice Chair



Randall Casciello
Secretary