



News Release

For Immediate Release:
July 10, 2013

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SBE Holds *Boots and Ballots* Event ~Promoting Education and Outreach to Military Voters~

RICHMOND, VA – Today, the State Board of Elections, in partnership with the Heroes Vote Initiative, kicked off *Boots and Ballots 2013* at the Virginia State Capitol. Election officials and State Board members gathered to present new options for military and overseas voter registration and absentee ballot preparedness. Those in attendance include military installation Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) and numerous general registrars and electoral members from across the Commonwealth. Keynote speakers included Eric Eversole, Executive Director of the Military Voter Protection Program; Senator Toddy Puller; Delegate Richard Anderson; Delegate David Ramadan; Lisa Hicks-Thomas, Secretary of Administration; and Marla Decker, Secretary of Public Safety.

Guest speakers issued the following statements today regarding the event.

Eric Eversole, founder of the Military Voter Protection Project:

“Virginia is a clear leader in the fight to promote and protect military voting rights. From the use of innovative tools to the implementation of online voter registration systems, the Virginia State Board of Elections, Virginia General Assembly, and Virginia’s election professionals have taken extraordinary steps to protect the voting rights of those who protect us.”

Delegate David I. Ramadan:

“The forthcoming launch of online voter registration will enable eligible citizens to apply to register to vote and to update their registration information online, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, regardless of where military service may require them to be. I am proud to have sponsored this legislation to assist our men and women serving worldwide.”

Delegate Richard L. “Rich” Anderson:

“Without question, electronic voter registration greatly enhances participation by overseas deployed and absent military voters in the electoral processes of our country and Commonwealth. This initiative has deep bipartisan, bicameral support and makes clear to all that Virginia is committed to the inclusion of our military citizens in civil election processes.”

Senator Linda T. “Toddy” Puller:

“I am committed to outreach to the overseas military population and enabling increased participation in the absentee voting process. I will continue to pursue legislation to provide a method for secure electronic return of overseas military absentee ballots. The next opportunity to support such a measure will be next Monday, July 15th, at the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) meeting at 1 p.m. at the General Assembly Building.”

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