

**A RESOLUTION REPORTING THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
GENERAL REGISTRAR ELECTORAL BOARD (GREB) WORKGROUP
COMMISSIONED BY THE VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO
CONSIDER THE DUTIES OF THE ELECTORAL BOARDS AND GENERAL
REGISTRARS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, elections are an essential part of government; and,

WHEREAS, Virginia's conduct and administration of elections in accordance with the 1971 Constitution of Virginia has served as a preeminent example of the highest standards of integrity and fairness towards all candidates and voters; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Board of Elections, under the Code of Virginia, has a fundamental role in interpreting the law, setting policy where the law is unclear and ensuring that elections are conducted fairly and impartially and efficiently in accordance with law; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Elections is the chief administrative officer of the agency and serves, in part, to implement the policies and directives of the Virginia State Board of Elections as well as participating in ensuring uniformity, legality and purity in the conduct of elections; and,

WHEREAS, the duties of general registrars and electoral boards have not been reviewed since the 1992 JLARC study; and,

WHEREAS, both the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia and the Virginia Electoral Board Association resolved it was time for another study; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Board of Elections unanimously adopted a resolution on May 14, 2014, establishing a General Registrar and Electoral Board (GREB) Workgroup to study and evaluate the duties of the general registrars and electoral boards members, the effects of increases in population and number of registered voters, the impact on the workload caused by changes in how votes are cast, and the increased educational requirements, qualifications and training of general registrars and electoral board members and compensation schedules associated with the office; and,

WHEREAS, the GREB Workgroup has determined that the duties required of Electoral Boards and General Registrars have significantly increased and become more complex in the past 20 years, due in part to the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act of 2002, and the continued passage of additional new legislation by the United States Congress and the Virginia General Assembly; and,

WHEREAS, the GREB Workgroup has continued to analyze survey data, resulting in even more recommendations for adjustments in the Code of Virginia to more accurately reflect responsibility and accountability in the conduct of elections; and,

WHEREAS, a new four-year term for all general registrars of the Commonwealth began July 1, 2015, it is a highly appropriate time to redefine certain duties and responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 2nd day of December 2015, the GREB Workgroup recommends to the State Board of Elections that:

1. The budget submitted by the Commissioner of Elections setting the salary and population brackets for General Registrar/Director of Elections to be the same as that of the Treasurer should receive all necessary support and action to enable adoption by the General Assembly. This action is consistent with the recommendation of the GREB Workgroup in 2014;
2. The budget submitted by the Commissioner of Elections requesting a significant increase in funding in order to account for expiring federal funds should receive all necessary support and action to enable adoption by the General Assembly; and
3. The State Board of Elections request that the General Assembly seek prompt re-codification of Virginia Code §24.2 to eliminate archaic language, eliminate contradictory requirements, and update references to reflect modern technology.

The Honorable John H. Hager,
Co-Chair

The Honorable Jean R. Jensen,
Co-Chair