

**Minutes of the GREB WorkGroup
December 19, 2018**

The GREB WorkGroup met at 10 am on December 19, 2018 in the McGuireWoods Conference Room, Gateway Plaza, Richmond ,Va.

Present: John Hager, Kate Hanley, Bill Bell, Barbara Gunter, Lisa Jeffers, Walt Latham, Michele White, and Robin Lind; joined at 10:10 am by teleconference: Tracy Howard.

Attending from the public: Prince George County EB member Barbara Tabb, Sussex County DoE Bill Jenkins, and League of Women Voters member Carol Noggle.

The minutes of the November 19 meeting were approved as corrected.

Discussion began on Charge Four: Cyber security issues. Ms. White introduced the discussion saying her county IT staff had created a special spambox for pre-view by IT staff. Various anecdotes were exchanged detailing security failures on a local level including a cyber-security class taught by the state for registrars in which some participants failed. As a matter of consensus the WorkGroup agreed to move Charge Four into the premier position ahead of all other charges.

On the previous Charge One, now Charge Two: Compensation of General Registrars, the WorkGroup directed that the previous recommendation from the 2017 Report be summarized and re-issued.

Discussion then ensued on the recommendation arising from Charge One in 2017: the problems created by erroneous non-citizen declarations.

Mr. Hager quoted from that recommendation:

As a remedial step to alleviate the hardships caused by erroneous cancellations, **the WorkGroup also recommends** an amendment to §24.2-427-B.1. to change that language to read:

The general registrar shall ~~cancel~~ mark "inactive" the registrations of such persons who do not respond within ~~14~~ 30 days to the notice that they have been reported not to be United States citizens.

Is DMV still changing people to non-citizens? asked Ms. Hanley. It's a DMV problem. It defaulted to "No" if the question of "Are you a Citizen?" is not answered.

Ms. Hanley moved to keep the proposal active. Mr. Lind agreed to seek a patron.

Discussion returned to Charges in the prior year report. 2017 Charges Two and Three were rated complete.

Charge Four, reorganization of the State Board of Elections, generated spirited discussion and reference was made to the JLARC Study recommendations to reduce political appointees in the department.

Discussion returned to compensation of registrars with examples of lack of uniformity across the state.

Localities don't understand how it works, said Dr. Wheeler. We went to our board of supervisors, said Ms. Hanley, and gave them the data; Electoral Boards need to go to their governing bodies. Mr. Lind said he would contact Delegate Lee Ware for a Budget Amendment.

Discussion then turned to the study of funding elections and Ms. White provided a template summary of expenses incurred in Prince William County, combined with Absentee votes, registration transactions and percent turnout in the November General Election.

Mr. Lind moved the WorkGroup recommend the Department of Elections gather data similar to that on the template provided by Ms. White and report to the localities, the Secretary of Finance, and the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, to better understand the cost of elections across the Commonwealth.

After wide-ranging discussion and much disagreement about the proper venue for the gathering and sharing of the data the motion failed for lack of a second. Ms. White subsequently agreed to develop a presentation for the annual meeting of the Electoral Board Association.

The Charges dealing with GIS capabilities and Cyber Security were settled in the previous meeting.

The WorkGroup reiterated the previous meeting's move to support legislation to move the June Primary to the third Tuesday in June, to be included as Charge Six.

Discussion then ensued on Charges to be considered next year: Mr. Bell suggested exploring legislation to permit ballot drop boxes. Mr. Latham suggested sealing registration after Absentee Balloting begins. Dr. Wheeler, referring to problems in Chesterfield County, suggested considering a maximum of 5,000 voters in a precinct rather than simply a maximum when establishing the precinct.

The board agreed to meet next on January 15 at 10 am. The meeting adjourned at 12:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Lind,
Temporary Permanent Recording Secretary