

D R A F T GREB WorkPlan 2016
As revised 7/27/16

Charge 1: Evaluate Staffing (and thereby local support)of Directors of Election Offices

This effort will be to measure local support gauged by appropriate staffing for the Director of Elections, with a particular focus on those previous part-time offices that moved to full-time July 1, 2016.

Charge 2: Standards for and Recognition of Continuing Education

A summary of other constitutional offices that have salary supplements based on attaining professional certifications would be extremely helpful. The Workgroup should conduct studies and analysis of this data that could provide actionable legislative remedy for completion of such certification programs as CERA and VREO.

Charge 3: Examine State Funding Mechanisms for Localities

The GREB WorkGroup recommends the Department of Elections reintroduce its Budget requests for Director of Elections salary brackets to be conformed to those of Treasurer; that localities receive 100% reimbursement of electoral board and director of elections salaries as required by §24.2-108 and -111, and that funding be provided to replace the HAVA monies which are fully depleted in FY2018.

The WorkGroup's recommendation, and the SBE's subsequent endorsement, that compensation for Directors of Election/General Registrars be increased to the same level as Treasurer, did not gain administrative or legislative support. However, at least one jurisdiction has already implemented that recommendation and at least one other has it budgeted for next year.

Resistance to adequately fund elections at the local level will not disappear while the Budget Act continues to disregard Code requirements for state reimbursement to localities for the costs they incur.

Charge 4: Funding of ELECT

Budget Amendments were introduced to request funding to replace the dwindling HAVA monies that will be exhausted in FY2018. These amendments failed but the \$7 million need persists. Without this funding, the Department of Elections will be unable to function.

The Workgroup should seek reliable data that can be communicated to the administration and general assembly.

Charge 5: Roles & Responsibilities of Electoral Board Members

Although a new document (“Electoral Board Job Description”) was developed creating a definition, job description and summary of Electoral Board duties, distribution has been inadequate.

A renewed effort is required to distribute this document to all Electoral Boards, members of the General Assembly, state and local political chairs and party executive directors, clerks of court and Circuit Court Judges. The Workgroup should reach out to the leadership of VRAV and VEBA to encourage them to provide qualified speakers for statewide organizations such as VACo, VML, Virginia Clerk’s Association, and Judicial Conference when they conduct regional or state meetings.

We may want to seek legislation, rule or regulation requiring Electoral Board nominees to affirm they have read and agreed to the document before their nomination is accepted by the Circuit Court judge.

Charge 6: Recodification

Having previously recognized the need for recodification of §24.2 and recommending that to the State Board of Elections, which received and agreed with said recommendation, the Workgroup should continue to encourage the State Board of Elections and the Department of Elections to pursue the active clean-up of §24.2 through a full recodification.

The Workgroup must be willing to consider other issues that arise from the review, analysis and pursuit of the preceding charges.