

Galax City Electoral Board
November 3, 8:30 am

The Electoral Board met in the Registrar's Office on November 3 at 8:30 am to receive the Election with Voting Data from the night before, as well as, a lot of used official ballots and unused official ballots. Melba Knox, Sylvia Richardson, and Josepha Thompson met with David Phipps, Registrar to get last minute instructions, regarding copies to be made, information related to Provisional Ballots from the Department of Motor Vehicles, and SORs and Election Summary Forms.

The Electoral Board left at 8:45 am with a full load of boxes and envelopes, with Sylvia Richardson driving.

After checking all records the Board returned to Galax City at 1:05 pm to the Registrar's office.

Josepha Thompson, Chairman, called the Galax City meeting to order.

The minutes from August 31, September 13, and October 4 were read by the Secretary Melba Knox and approved by the Board.

The Board discussed ways to improve the efficiency of the election.

1. Evaluate whether the boxes of used ballots and unused ballots be marked with number in box, so as to be ready for an audit, if needed.
2. Data regarding serial numbers, pertinent Provisional information regarding names and addresses when needed on forms, and double-checking numerical data need to improve, especially transferring numbers to the City County Report.
3. Possibly a special part of a training session should cover Provisional Balloting and the What If Guides.
4. Some Ballot logs were too messy and difficult to understand. Board directed the Registrar to investigate revising the Ballot Log blank to enable better spacing between the columns to allow all required data to be neatly recorded.
5. In the future the Board should bring an extra set of SORs to Independence, in case the Provisional ballots could be evaluated. This time two of the Provisional Ballots needed information from Department of Motor Vehicles in Richmond, Va. later on Wednesday to be evaluated.
6. Some signatures were missing. During Precinct Chief and Assistant Chief training, more emphasis needs to be placed upon the fact that all poll workers must be available early Wednesday morning in case the Board need them to rectify any correctable errors.

The Registrar reported that in a few locations across the Commonwealth, poll workers reported stressful situations that had not been seen in other elections. These mainly involved some voters being disruptive in the polling places mainly due to mask requirements or as a result of misinformation found on social media. Generally, in Galax, the poll workers experienced thoughtful and respectful voters. However, the election

provided some tense moments from a few voters dealing with masks, or rude remarks, that were very upsetting.

Officers of Election had taken an oath, attended many training sessions concerning policies, regulations and machine technology, have experienced working in many elections, arrive at the polls at 5 am, and leave at 8:30 pm. These Officers aim to be transparent, honest and non-partisan. Meetings and training sessions are open to the public. “Walk a day in the Life of an Officer of Election” is the need for those persons who want to nitpick on election day.

Board will meet again on Friday, November 5 to complete Provisional Balloting forms and final Tally at 12:00 pm. The Central Absentee Precinct will meet to Tally Absentee Ballots postmarked by November 2 and arrive before 12:00 pm on Friday November 5, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melba Knox, Secretary