VIRGINIA ELECTORAL BOARD ASSOCIATION · ESTABLISHED 1973 · 133 ELECTORAL BOARDS • 7 DISTRICTS

VEBA Virginia Electoral Board Association

VEBANewsletter

VOTING EXCELLENCE BUILDING ACCOUNTABILITY

VOL. 1 • NO. 1 · NOVEMBER 2026 · PUBLISHED AFTER EACH MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"As we reflect on another successful Election, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each Electoral Board member and election official across the Commonwealth. Thank you for your hard work, long hours, commitment, and tenacity in navigating the many challenges that come with administering an election.

From addressing the presence and concerns of observers and poll watchers to managing the unexpected, you remained steadfast in your responsibility to serve our communities with integrity, professionalism, and excellence. The work we do is not always easy, and much of it happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt throughout the Commonwealth.

I am grateful to stand alongside such dedicated public servants. Together, we will continue strengthening the work of election administration through Voting Excellence and Building Accountability. Thank you for all that you do!"

WANDA TAYLOR PRESIDENT, VEBA

CANVASS / NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION

Hold the Originals

Canvass and certification close today, November 13. Do not mail original abstracts, write-in certifications, or the certification checklist until ELECT emails acceptance. The State Board certifies the election December 7.

ELECT ADVISORY COMM-1061, OCT. 22, 2026.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS / OCTOBER 12

Dues Hold at $250 for 2027

Dues. Full board dues stay at $250 for 2027. The board set 2028 caps at $335 for full board dues and $115 for individual dues, and will revisit both during budget development. Associate member dues do not change.

No sliding scale. The board rejected dues based on population. A scale would add real cost for larger jurisdictions and risk losing members.

Better numbers. Treasurer Dominick Schirripa will review conference registration funds and locality dues reporting before projecting 2028. Revised projections include about $4,000 in interest income and annual meeting revenue.

This newsletter. The board approved this two-page VEBANewsletter for the electoral board distribution list. Current and past issues will live on vebanews.org.

DRAFT MINUTES, VEBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OCT. 12, 2026. SECRETARY DONNA DAGNER.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Thank You From ELECT

"Commissioner Koski and members at ELECT wanted to send a big Thank you to all EBs, GRs, and Officers of Elections for a well-run General Election. This year's calendar has truly been much different than most, but everyone did a great job navigating and not letting it get in the way of what we do best!"

DISTRICT NEWS

News From the Seven Districts

North Central 22	Valerie Morris
Northern 18	Mary Strenko
South Central 19	Patrick Washington
Southern 19	Ellen Boone
Southwest 17	Irma Mitchell
Tidewater 19	Mike Ziegenfuss
Western 19	Marcy Reedy

Not sure which district you are in?
vebanews.org/docs/veba-district-listings.pdf

Long Ballots, Phones, and Polling Place Presence

Paul Kitchen gave the Southwestern District report for Director Irma Mitchell. No other director filed an update. Directors raised three questions from the field after recent changes in election law: officer of election appointments, notice for electronic meetings, and training duties.

Privacy booths. Voters spent longer on this ballot, with added constitutional amendments and candidates many voters did not know.

Phones. Directors discussed letting voters quietly use a phone to research the ballot. Officers of election give no guidance about candidates.

Law enforcement near the polls. The board discussed limits on law enforcement and federal agents near polling places, with the goal of avoiding any intimidating appearance.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Photos, Forums, and New Training Materials

Annual Meeting and Training. New training materials are in revision, with a pilot test to follow. Annual meeting planning starts soon, with a reception and sponsorships at revised vendor fees under discussion.

Recognition and Member Engagement. Broader service recognition replaces the birthday initiative, over privacy and data collection concerns. Send photos of your board members at work to run on screen during annual meeting breaks. Josepha Thompson is designing the collection process.

Membership. No report.

TRAINING

New and Reappointed Members: Training Is Required

§ 24.2-106 D. Every electoral board member must attend the State Board's annual training program in the first year of appointment and in the first year of any subsequent reappointment. If you were appointed or reappointed this year, that means you.

Listings: vebanews.org/training

VEBA CALENDAR / SAVE THE DATE

Dec 7	**State Board certifies** the election.
Dec 14	**Board meeting**, 7 p.m., Zoom.
Jan 11	**Board meeting**, 7 p.m., Zoom.
Feb 6	**Eastern training**, Meadowdale Library, Chesterfield County.
Feb 13	**Western training**, Bedford Visitor Center, Bedford.
Apr 5–7	**2027 Annual Meeting.** Training Monday, meeting opens that afternoon.

Board meetings run at 7 p.m. on the second Monday, by Zoom. Agendas post three business days ahead.

Zoom link and .ics downloads: vebanews.org/board-meetings

ETHICS / STANDARD 2 OF 8

Protect and Defend the Integrity of the Election Process

"Election officials have a duty to ensure the integrity of elections and to safeguard against unfounded attacks on the integrity of the election process."

Defending the process well means saying what you can show. Publish your canvass schedule. Invite observers. Answer the question you were asked. A board that explains its process before anyone complains has far less to explain afterward.

Both documents: vebanews.org/ethics-conduct

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Floyd County

Where. A high plateau in the Blue Ridge, about 40 miles southwest of Roanoke on U.S. 221. Entirely rural.

Seat. The town of Floyd. **Formed.** January 15, 1831, out of Montgomery County, named for Governor John Floyd.

Voters. 12,319 registered as of September 1, 2026. That is 12,009 active and 310 inactive, across 5 precincts, in a county of about 15,800 people.

VEBA district. Southern. Director Ellen Boone.

VA. DEPT. OF ELECTIONS REGISTRANT COUNT BY LOCALITY, SEPT. 1, 2026. U.S. CENSUS. VEBA DISTRICT LISTINGS.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

Forum Turns to the 2027 Session

The Legislative Committee is preparing an updated position paper for the 2027 session. The committee asks you to build a working relationship with your own legislators before January.

Still in force from 2026.

§ 24.2-103 E. The State Board shall institute proceedings against any electoral board member who neglects or refuses a clear ministerial duty of the office, and may remove a member or general registrar by recorded two thirds vote after a public hearing.

§ 24.2-671. If a board fails to perform a duty under subsection A or B, the State Board may intervene and carry it out.

§ 24.2-654. Since September 1, 2026, officers of election shall use ballot scanner machines to count machine readable ballots. Hand counting only when the scanner is inoperative, which the section does not define. Settle it in open session.

Priorities and talking points: vebanews.org/general-legislation
Read the Code: law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title24.2

RESOURCES

Suggestion box
vebanews.org/suggestions

Member Manual
vebanews.org/member-manual

LIS, Legislative Information System
lis.virginia.gov / primer at vebanews.org/lis-primer

Department of Elections
elections.virginia.gov

GREB Handbook
elections.virginia.gov/grebhandbook

133 LOCALITIES 399 BOARD MEMBERS 7 DISTRICTS 2,453 PRECINCTS

VEBA takes no position on any candidate, party, or ballot question.

MASTHEAD

Produced by the VEBA Public Relations Committee. Editor, Randall Casciello.

SUBMIT

District and committee copy (forty words each), Roll Call names, County Spotlight nominations, and corrections go to the editor by the first Friday of the month, through vebanews.org/suggestions.

VEBANEWSLETTER

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