



The **February 26, 2025** meeting of the Rockingham Electoral Board was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Rebecca Ruckman in the Registrar's Office Annex, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg.

Attendance: Rebecca Ruckman, Vice Chair, and Susan C. Threewitts, Secretary. Also in attendance: Lisa B. Gooden, Director of Elections; Emily Helms, Chief Deputy Director of Elections; and Maddie Paladino, Deputy Director of Elections. Also attending: Michael Bowen, Director of Technology; and Dusty Moyer, Deputy Technology Director.

Closed Session to Discuss Annual Security Plan: A motion was made by Susan Threewitts, seconded by Rebecca Ruckman, and unanimously carried, to enter Closed Session at 9:38 a.m. according to Virginia Code Section 24.2-625.1(B) as follows:

(B) "The State Board of Elections or a local electoral board may hold a closed meeting pursuant to the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for the purpose of discussing protocols for maintaining the security of ballots or voting and counting equipment, or risk assessments of specific local electoral procedures, where discussion of such matters in open meeting would compromise the security of any election."

(David McQuilkin arrived at the meeting at 10:18 a.m.)

Motion to Return to Regular Session: A motion 10:29 a.m. was made by David McQuilkin, seconded by Rebecca Ruckman, and unanimously carried, to return to regular session at 10:29 a.m.

Roll Call Vote to certify that the only matters discussed during the closed session just concluded were those both lawfully exempted from the open

meeting requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened.

AYES - 3

NAYS - 0

McQuilkin: aye

Ruckman: aye

Threewitts: aye

Director of Elections Report:

101 – Broadway Polling Location: Based on the recent tour of Broadway High School by member of the Board and staff, followed by a visit to the current 101-Broadway polling location, it was the consensus of the Board to retain the Broadway Fire Station (117 N Central Street, Broadway) as polling location for this precinct.

Notice of Primary for June 17, 2025: It was mentioned that a notice of a Primary for June 17 has been issued; new this year is the potential for local town council candidates (Broadway—in this instance) to file for a primary election since the town’s charter does not prohibit one.

Space Needs Study: Members noted that a meeting with the Board of Supervisors Building Committee, County Administrator Armstrong, and Director of Facilities and Maintenance Eric Hostetter would be held on March 6.

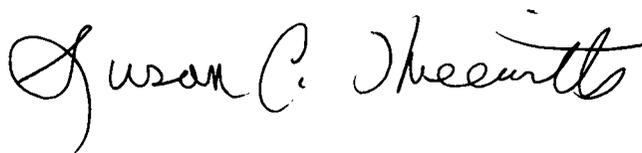
Members outlined some of the talking points for that meeting, including:

- Advocating for adequate ‘secure’ space (to meet ADA requirements) for the 45 days of early voting, especially prior to November elections and a total of 135 days during Presidential election years (keeping in mind that there are a total of 260 workdays in a year)
- Noting that early voting had to be relocated at least six times during the recent fall Presidential election
- Adequate/dedicated space that does not have to be shared with other governmental entities as this poses a challenge in moving voting equipment and supplies

- Ability for voters to enter/exit the office and early voting areas without crossing paths
- Communicating the importance and complexities involved with registering to vote and early voting, especially maintaining the privacy of those being served since Personal Identifying Information (Pii) is the forefront of transactions
- Impressing the fact that the number of registered voters has consistently increased over the years, specifically, from 33,341 in 2000 to 59,654 in 2024 (78.92% increase) and the need to proactively plan for future growth is imperative
- The early voting turnout has risen from 1,090 voters in 2008 to 14,397 in 2024
- During the 2024 Presidential election, a total of 1,185 Same Day Voter Registrations were received and to meet the state deadline for processing, four staff members worked over 156 hours (including the weekend) and still was not able to complete the processing by the state deadline
- The importance of the Registrar’s office to be located on the main level and near the front of the county office building
- Reminder than the request for curbside voting is increasing, so access to serve these voters should be convenient and close to the office

Adjournment: A motion was made by David McQuilkin, seconded by Susan Threewitts, and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan C. Threewitts, Secretary