

Electoral Board Job Description

Summary:

The Electoral Board of each County and City in Virginia is made up of three members who serve three-year staggered terms. Two members are members of the political party of the most recently elected governor. The chair and secretary must represent different political parties unless the position is declined. Although the bipartisan board is appointed by the Circuit Court based upon local party recommendations, each member must carry out official duties in a nonpartisan manner. The authority for the administration of all aspects of elections for the locality remains with the Electoral Board, including oversight of the General Registrar/Director of Elections, and is responsible to the State Board of Elections for that administration. It employs and supervises the General Registrar, who handles voter records. Generally, the work of the Electoral Board should be shared equally by all three members, although the Secretary has additional responsibilities.

Responsibilities:

Election administration includes:

- Selection of polling places within the precincts established by the local government.
- Approval of voting equipment to be used, and development and implementation of a security plan to keep all equipment and materials secure.
- Creation, production and custody of ballots.
- Conduct of Logic and Accuracy (L&A) test to be sure equipment is programmed correctly for each election.
- Assistance in conducting absentee voting.
- Appointment, training, assignment and review of precinct officers of election.
- Coordination with other local government departments (e.g., police, sheriff, public works, IT, schools) to ensure smooth conduct of each election.
- Assistance in procuring, packing and delivering supplies to polling places.
- Setup of polling places prior to each election.
- Assistance in polling places and offices as needed on Election Day. Availability to respond to inquiries from media or voters.
- Conduct of post-election canvass to ascertain that all precinct results are accurate and complete.
- Determination of validity and counting of provisional ballots.
- The Electoral Board's signatures on the certification of results following the canvass is the ultimate declaration of the truth, accuracy and dependability of the vote totals being submitted to the Commonwealth and is thus the foundation of the democratic process.

The Electoral Board has additional responsibilities, including:

- Appointment, removal and annual performance evaluation of General Registrar.

- Certification of candidate petitions and financial reports.
- Conduct of meetings in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- Familiarity with federal and state laws that must be followed in conducting elections.
- Attendance at training programs provided by Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT).
- Together with the General Registrar, administration of the Office of Elections, including budgeting and dealing with local government officials.
- The Secretary of the Electoral Board has specific tasks and responsibilities according to the Code and must take and keep accurate minutes of all board meetings.

Electoral Board Activity Prohibitions:

- May not collect any fee as a notary during the time of such appointment.
- May not engage in political activities when performing official duties.
- May not solicit signatures for candidate petitions in a public building.

Qualifications:

The following qualification is required by law:

- Must be a qualified voter of the County or City, in good legal standing.

Disqualifications:

- Must not be directly related to another Electoral Board member or General Registrar or to a candidate or holder of elected office.
- May not serve as chair of a political party, at local, district or state level, and may not hold elected office or offer to be a candidate for elected office
- May not be employed by or hold incompatible office under federal, state or local government (ELECT will provide a list of incompatible offices)

Additional desirable characteristics:

- Customer-service orientation in dealing with voters.
- Computer literacy, as much business is conducted via email.
- Ability to travel around the County or City.
- Public speaking ability to conduct training or address groups.
- Writing ability to write training materials, legislative positions, or analyses.
- Basic budgeting skills.
- Knowledge of basic legal concepts and judicial proceedings; willingness to become deeply familiar with United States Code Title 52 and Virginia Code Title 24.2 governing Elections and administrative regulations thereunder.
- Assertive manner when needed to enforce compliance with code or regulations.

Conditions:

Service on the Electoral Board is in the nature of a part-time seasonal job. There is a general election every year in November and a primary election most years in June. In addition, there may be City or Town elections in May and special elections whenever called. From six to two

weeks prior to each election, the board needs to be available a few times per week for a few hours. The week prior to and the week of the election, the board needs to be available most of the time, including 5am-10pm or later on Election Day. At other times the board may meet monthly and may attend training or networking meetings or conferences. Members may be asked to address local groups or attend meetings of interest.