

**Minutes of the GREB WorkGroup
January 16, 2018**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Richmond VA

The GREB WorkGroup met at 1 pm on January 16, 2018 in the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Richmond VA following the Virginia Electoral Board Association Legislative Day.

Present: Co-Chairs John Hager and Kate Hanley, Al Ablowich, William Bell, Barbara Gunter, Lisa Jeffers, Charlie Judd, Walt Latham, Robin Lind, and Michele White.

The minutes were adopted as corrected.

The secretary distributed a draft of the 2017 Report on Duties and Responsibilities of Electoral Boards and General Registrars.

Discussion ensued on the draft, charge by charge, with focus on getting remedial legislation introduced before the deadline for new legislation of January 19. The secretary was asked to seek a patron to amend §24.2-427-B.1. for implementing Charge 1.

Discussion ensued on Charge 2, revising the Annual GR Evaluation Form. The Charge was adopted for submission to the State Board of Elections.

Discussion ensued on Charge 3, evaluating procedures for Risk-Limiting Audits, with reference to two bills introduced: SB 591 introduced by Sen. Jill Vogel and HB 1210 introduced by Del. Tim Hugo.

Mr. Ablowich explained the changes proposed in the two bills.

The WorkGroup agreed it would endorse the proposal of Prince William County's Electoral Board to conduct a "Pilot Audit," that the following statement should be added to the final findings as a subscript: "The WorkGroup recognizes legislative relief is necessary and required, and acknowledges that draft legislation has been introduced in 2018 which may address this issue."

Discussion ensued on Charge 4, re-examining the structural make-up of the State Board of Elections, with extensive commentary on the best description of the current relationship between the Commissioner and the State Board. Mr. Ablowich suggested a positive rather than a negative approach would be more effective. The WorkGroup agreed.

Co-Chair Hager suggested that the WorkGroup endorse the two bills, introduced for State Board reform, SB 825 and HB 1405, and recommend support of that legislation.

Discussion ensued on Charge 5, researching List Maintenance and Management. The secretary was directed to seek a friendly amendment to HB28 which had already been introduced by Del. Mark Cole. He reported that Del. Cole's legislative assistant was receptive to that proposal.

On a motion by Co-Chair Hanley, seconded by Mr. Bell, the WorkGroup recommended a friendly amendment be submitted to the patron.

Discussion ensued on Appendices, including the List Maintenance Report, Performance Review, and proposed HB 1405 bill.

Acknowledging that there had been no response to the 2016 Report, the WorkGroup agreed to re-submit the previous year's report with the 2017 Report.

Discussion ensued on compensation for General Registrars with a detailed report from Ms. Gunter based on figures for 2016 submitted on every jurisdiction. She agreed to submit the file electronically to members.

Co-Chair Hager asked for discussion on Charges for 2018 to include:

- Charge 6: a compensation study: salary brackets to be conformed to Constitutional officers; compensation board study
- Charge 7: Other items that should be considered; including a study of GIS capabilities for local jurisdictions establishing precinct lines; Co-Chair Hanley acknowledged that the Washington Post has reported more than 6,000 voters assigned to wrong districts.

Co-Chair Hager directed the secretary send out the amended draft report for approval and to deliver the Report to Chairs of P&E Committees, Governor, Lt. Governor, and leaders of the General Assembly.

The WorkGroup agreed to meet next on March 14 at McGuireWoods.

There being no further business, the WorkGroup adjourned at 2:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Lind
Temporary Permanent Recording Secretary