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# Arlington Election Notes

News and Information for Officers of Election in Arlington County, Virginia

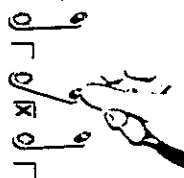
Summer 2002

Volume 5 Issue 2

## Mark Your Calendars for Nov. 5!

**E**lection Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2002. Please mark your calendars NOW because we really need you to work this year! If you need to request leave from work, please be sure to do so well in advance of Election Day. We do realize things may come up at the last minute, but it is much better for both of us if you are sure you'll be able to take the day off work before you commit to serving at the polls.

We're expecting longer lines at the polls this year, not necessarily because we're expecting a heavy turnout (we wish!), but because we have a lot on the ballot this year. In addition to the offices of U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives (8th District), County Board, and School Board, we will also see two Virginia Constitutional amendments, two statewide referenda,



### REFERENDUM

one regional referendum, and as many as seven (!) County bond referenda. Whew!

And whenever we have a ballot with this much text, voters take more time in the voting booth. No matter how much effort we spend on trying to educate voters beforehand by distributing the text of the ballot questions, we will still see many voters take extra time in the booth reading and re-reading them.

As always, we will provide you with a number of explanatory brochures to distribute to voters waiting in line in an effort to reduce the time spent in the voting booth. If your Chief assigns you to work in the Greeter position, expect to be busy!

In other election news:

#### Combined Roster/Pollbook

We will again be using a combined Precinct Roster and Pollbook, instead of two separate check-in books as we used in years past. Although this is still a pilot program, Virginia law will make it permanent beginning in 2003. There have been a few modifications to the page layout that we think will make it easier for you to locate and mark names, which we will cover in the Fall training classes.

#### How'd We Do?

Several workers, especially Chiefs, have asked us how well your precinct performed in last November's election. Previously, we compared the separate precinct roster books to the pollbooks to find discrepancies. With just one book, we can't get a similar sense of whether the correct voter's name was marked. So, we'll just have to assume you all are perfect, right?

We do have data on how well each precinct did on completion of the Statement of Results. If you are

interested in your precinct's evaluation, please contact Annie Connole at 703-228-7442.

#### Split Shifts

New this year will be the introduction of split shifts at the polls. All election officers were sent information on split shifts with their appointment notices. Remember, if you want to work a split shift, you MUST find your own partner and agree to the parameters on the request form. We cannot match up partners, or help you find someone.

Currently we have split shift teams in about eight precincts. At this point, the Electoral Board is limiting split shifts to just one team per precinct, so if you form a team and we already have one in your precinct, we may have to assign you to another precinct. Shift team members, as well as Chiefs and Assistants, will be give specific instructions on how to handle the split this fall during training.

#### Fall Election Training

Fall election training will start October 16 and run through November 1. Specific class types and times will be included with your precinct assignment letter this September. We hope to mail the assignments out starting the week of September 23, so please don't call before then to ask about them.

# News from the Hill: Update on Election Reform

"Election Reform!" We've been hearing that term a lot recently, especially since the 2000 Presidential election. Arlington's General Registrar Charlotte Cleary, who serves on the Federal Election Commission Advisory Committee, has participated in virtually every major group that has been studying election reform.

You may be aware that both the House and the Senate are currently in conference to try to resolve differences between their respective reform bills. Both bills call for the creation of a new commission to oversee elections; voting system standards, and grant programs to assist states and localities in implementing reforms, although there are some key differences in degree of support.

More likely to have a direct impact on your roll as an election officer are a number of other provisions in the bills, including:

**Provisional voting:** Similar to the conditional voting procedures currently in place in Virginia.

**Statewide registration lists:** Less than half the states currently have

statewide registration lists (Virginia does!).

**Disability access:** Would provide voting systems that permit disabled voters to cast secret ballots without assistance.

**Identification:** The Senate bill would require all voters who register by mail to present ID when they vote; Virginia currently requires all voters to show ID.

**List maintenance:** States and localities would be required to keep their registration lists up-to-date; Virginia currently does a pretty good job of this with the annual confirmation process.

**Audit capacity:** Voting systems must produce a paper trail for audit or recount purposes, as we currently do with out machine tapes.

**Error rate:** All voting systems would be subject to a federally-established machine error rate.

**Error notification:** Voting systems must present voters with the opportunity to review their ballot and make changes before the ballot is cast.

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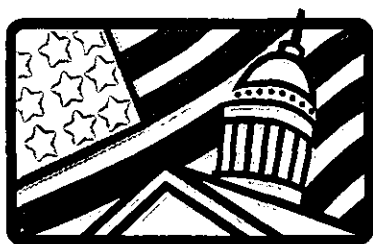
**Translations:** The Senate bill would require certain jurisdictions to provide alternative language election material. Arlington is already in the process of translating many of our election materials into Spanish.

**Military voters:** Would impose additional requirements to make requesting, receiving, and transmitting ballots easier for military personnel.

**Vote-counting standards:** The House bill would require states to adopt standards on what constitutes a vote.

**Notice:** The Senate bill would require certain information be posted on Election Day, most of which we already do here in Arlington.

Again, there are some differences between the two bills, and several compromises are expected before agreement is met. It is expected that the bill will go to the President for signing later this year. This would give the states the opportunity to make any necessary changes to their state laws in time for the 2004 Presidential election.



**Arlington County Electoral Board:**

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Fred G. Berghoefler (D), Secretary

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# Election News From Around the USA

## Vote Buying Alive and Well in Kentucky

The myth of dirty politics and vote-buying is still alive and well in some rural communities, as evidenced in Kentucky's May primary election. In Knott County, the Commonwealth's Attorney office received eight or nine reports that votes were exchanged for cash or drugs in the May 28 primary.

Kentucky closes its liquor stores on election days to deter its long-standing tradition of vote-buying with booze, but now the bribe of choice seems to be drugs, notably the highly-addictive painkiller OxyContin.

In Clay County, the sheriff's office twice had to close down the polls for early absentee voting when voters showed up in unusually large numbers. The allegation was that massive vote-buying campaigns were the cause. And on May 19, four people involved with the county clerk's race were involved in shooting incidents.

Officials in Clay County accept the practice as part of the culture. Although it is unlikely to be proven, the suspicion is that a high number of people were involved in different schemes this year. One state legislator, who lost her seat, admitted being approached by someone offering to place her name on a "ticket" of candidates who receive bought votes, but she declined to file a formal report for fear of retribution.

And in Edmonson County, a nurse was accused of offering a case of beer to each of two people in return for their promises to vote for specific candidates. She also com-

pleted voter assistance forms for both individuals so she could accompany them into the voting booth.

*Source: Lexington Herald-Leader*

## Voting Machines Crash (Literally!)

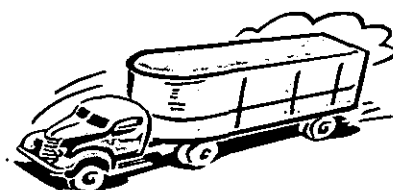
The Wednesday before their Tuesday primary election, a moving van carrying 37 new voting machines to Bernalillo County, New Mexico, crashed in the median along I-40.

After the crash, which tied up traffic for an hour, the two men in the van left the scene. Albuquerque police located them the next day, where they were arrested and charged with misdemeanor crimes relating to the incident.

It seems the two had consumed alcohol at a Hooters restaurant in a nearby county prior to the crash. One problem was that the county where the restaurant was located is dry — they are not permitted to serve alcohol. Another problem was that the man driving the truck didn't have a license.

At last report, Bernalillo County was haggling with the moving company about liability and damages. The County claims all 37 machines were damaged, while the movers say only three were dysfunctional.

*Source: Albuquerque Tribune*



## Toledo Poll Worker Honored for 74 Years of Service

As she approaches her 100th birthday, Hazel Marshall was honored for the remarkable achievement of 74 years of continuous services as a precinct booth worker in Toledo's 14th Ward, where she has missed working only one election since she started in 1928.



Kenneth Blackwell, Ohio's Secretary of State, said of Mrs. Marshall, "Even when it was difficult for her as a woman and an African-American to freely participate in the process, she didn't back up, and she didn't give up, because she understood something. She understood that people who are good at making excuses are usually not good at anything else."

Mrs. Marshall began her election career working in a small wooden booth heated with coal and wheeled to its proper site on Election Day. Only the workers and two or three voters at a time could fit in the small structure.

She has done her part to recruit other workers, too. Her daughter, son, and granddaughter all work at the polls. And, Mrs. Marshall helped teach younger voters how to use the new electronic voting machines in Toledo's May 7 primary.

*Source: Toledo Blade*

## Precinct and Polling Place Changes for 2002

Several Arlington precincts will vote in different locations this fall. Some are room changes in the current location, while others are complete relocations. If you normally work in one of the precincts listed below, please note your new location:

**Ashton Heights 002:** Voting has been moved to the Social Hall at Clarendon United Methodist Church.

**Aurora Hills 003:** Voting has moved down the hall to the cafeteria at SOC Enterprises (this is the space previously used by the Crystal City precinct). Voters are encour-

### ¿Habla Español?

You may have noticed that we are now asking you if you are fluent in a language other than English when you submit Election Officer application and response forms. We are especially looking for Election Officers who speak Spanish, either fluently or conversationally, to assist voters in precincts with large Hispanic populations.

Although we have had nearly 40 workers respond so far indicating at least some proficiency in Spanish, we would like to increase this number. If you know of anyone who speaks Spanish and is interested in working as an Election Officer, please have them contact Linda Lindberg, 703-228-3462 or [llindberg@co.arlington.va.us](mailto:llindberg@co.arlington.va.us), or visit our web page at [www.co.arlington.va.us/voters](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/voters).

We are also in the process of translating many of our election signs and other materials into Spanish. Arlington is becoming bilingual!

aged to use the Grant Street entrance to the building.

**Ballston 004:** Voting is still in the gym, but voters will be directed to use the parking lot and entrance on the George Mason Drive side of Arlington Traditional School.

**Columbia 009:** While the Walter Reed Recreation Center is undergoing renovations, voting will take place in the trailer located on the Center's grounds.

**Claremont 028:** Because of renovations at Claremont School, voting will be moved across the street to Wakefield High School.

**Glebe 030:** The polling place has been moved permanently to the Drew Community Center.

**Oakridge 032:** Ongoing renovations at Gunston Middle School will mean a room relocation, although we

don't know precisely where at this date.

We also have two new precincts:

**Buckingham 045:** Voting is at Barrett Elementary School. The precinct boundaries are N. Carlin Springs Road, N. Glebe Road, Arlington Boulevard, and N. George Mason Drive.

**Oakland 046:** Voting is at St. George's Parish Hall. Precinct boundaries are Fairfax Drive, N. Oakland Street, N. 5th Street, N. Glebe Road, and N. Stuart Street. This precinct was created from parts of the Clarendon and Virginia Square precincts.

In addition, some voters were also moved from the Wilson precinct into Park Lane, and will now vote at Key Elementary School.

Voters in the two new precincts were mailed new voter cards, as were those in Glebe precinct and the voters relocated to Park Lane. New voter cards for those in Claremont will be mailed in September.

## Visit Us at the County Fair!

Thanks to all Election Officers who responded to a recent email request for volunteers to work at our booth at the Arlington County Fair. We were looking for volunteers to help us register voters and demonstrate our voting machine to fair-goers. They will also be distributing election information, including what's on the ballot in November.

We now have plenty of people signed up to work, but there may still be some cancellations. If you are interested in being on our "reserve" list, please call Madolyn Keller at 703-228-3457 or email her at [mkeller1@co.arlington.va.us](mailto:mkeller1@co.arlington.va.us).

Please note, however, that we can't promise we'll be able to use you.

Whether or not you'll be helping us at the Fair, please come by to say "hello!" The Fair will take place at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center August 15-18. For details about times, transportation, and activities, visit the Fair web site at [www.arlingtoncountyfair.org](http://www.arlingtoncountyfair.org).

We will be located at booth K6, in the aisle with all the other County Departments. We are between the Departments of Libraries and Public Works.