

Norfolk Electoral Board

Minutes of the January 5, 2026 Board Meeting

Present:

Atoy B. Carrington (Chair), Michael Khandelwal, H. Michael Ziegenfuss (Secretary), Stephanie Iles (Director of Elections & General Registrar), Rosanna Bencoch (Deputy Director of Elections & Deputy Registrar), and members of the public – Scott W. Hancox, Tony S. Olcott, Catherine Severo (League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads), Judith Brown (League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads), Brianna Steele (Norfolk State University), Marianne McKay, Mark E. Snell-Cook, Arthur W. Devine, Jr. and Mary Barhydt.

The Norfolk Electoral Board was called to order by Ms. Carrington on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 11:06 am in the Norfolk Office of Elections.

Mr. Khandelwal motioned for the Norfolk Electoral Board's annual reorganization of members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ziegenfuss. H. Michael Ziegenfuss will become Chair of the Board, Michael Khandelwal will become Vice-Chair of the Board, and Atoy B. Carrington will become Secretary of the Board. The Board unanimously approved the motion, and the new positions were immediately adopted.

Mr. Khandelwal motioned to approve the minutes from the November 5th – 14th, 2025 canvass, which Mr. Ziegenfuss seconded. The motion passed by a majority after adding Carol LaFauci as a member of the public observing the November 5, 2025 canvass. Mr. Khandelwal abstained from voting as he was not a member of the Electoral Board during the November 2025 election. Mr. Khandelwal also motioned to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2025 Risk Limiting Audit conducted at the Norfolk Circuit Court Clerk's Office, 150 St. Paul's Blvd., 7th Floor, Norfolk, VA. The motion was seconded by Ms. Carrington and approved by majority decision, with Mr. Khandelwal abstaining.

New Polling Precinct Discussions:

Ms. Iles informed the Board that discussions with Norfolk State University have resumed regarding the possible establishment of a voting precinct on the university's campus. Ms. Brianna Steele from NSU was on hand to answer questions and assist the Office of Elections if needed. The Registrar and the Board will arrange a campus tour to discuss locations and logistics.

Virginia General Assembly – Legislative and Elections Information:

Mr. Ziegenfuss informed the Board that pre-filing for the new session has already begun. It was also discussed that the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia (VRAV) is requesting legislation for ten (10) days to complete canvassing of results for Primary Elections to the Virginia State Board of Elections, instead of the current (6) days we have available in code. This provides uniformity in reporting election data.

The Board also discussed a possible Special Election to be held on April 21st for a Constitutional Amendment regarding redistricting congressional districts.

Closed Session:

At 11:45 am, it was moved by Mr. Khandelwal and seconded by Ms. Carrington to go into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 (1) for the discussion of personnel matters. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Khandelwal and seconded by Ms. Carrington and passed by unanimous vote of the Norfolk Electoral Board, the Electoral Board reconvened in open session. Furthermore, at 11:53 am, Ms. Carrington moved to adopt the following certification:

“We certify that the Norfolk Electoral Board convened a closed meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026, pursuant to an affirmative vote in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that Section 2.2-3712 of the

Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law. The Norfolk Electoral Board further certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion concerning the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board in the closed meeting."

Mr. Khandelwal seconded the certification, and the Board voted by roll call to approve it. Mr. Khandelwal voted – Aye, Ms. Carrington voted – Aye, Mr. Ziegenfuss voted – Aye. Mr. Khandelwal motioned to approve the fifty-seven (57) individuals presented to the Board by Ms. Iles as new Officers of Election for a term ending February 28, 2027. Ms. Carrington seconded the motion. By unanimous decision, the Board approved the fifty-seven (57) individuals.

At 11:55 am, it was moved by Mr. Khandelwal and seconded by Ms. Carrington to go into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 (7) for discussion of legal matters. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 12:00 p.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Khandelwal and seconded by Ms. Carrington and passed by unanimous vote of the Norfolk Electoral Board, the Electoral Board reconvened in open session. Furthermore, Ms. Carrington moved to approve the following certification:

"We certify that the Norfolk Electoral Board convened a closed meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026, pursuant to an affirmative vote in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and that Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law. The Norfolk Electoral Board further certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion concerning the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the closed meeting." Mr. Khandelwal seconded the certification, and the Board voted by roll call to approve it. Ms.

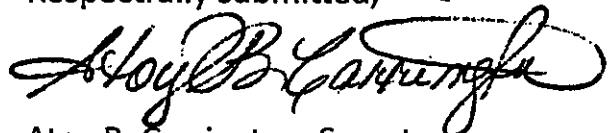
Carrington voted - Aye, Mr. Khandelwal voted -Aye, and Mr. Ziegenfuss voted - Aye.

Such Other Business That May Come Before the Board:

The Norfolk Electoral Board has tentatively scheduled Monday, February 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. for the next Board meeting to take place in the Norfolk Office of Elections.

Mr. Khandelwal motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Carrington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision of the Board at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Atoy B. Carrington, Secretary

January 5, 2026