

**Response of the Rockingham County Electoral Board to Susan J. Beals,  
Commissioner, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Elections,  
Pertaining to the Rockingham County Election Results Error in the  
General Election of November 5, 2024:**

**Statement of Dr. David K. McQuilkin, Chair, Rockingham County  
Electoral Board:**

As Chair of the Rockingham County Electoral Board, the Board has asked me to present the following statement to this hearing by the Virginia State Board of Elections concerning the issues of “The Rockingham County Election Results Error in the General Election of November 5, 2024.”

First, the Board wishes to make the following notation before turning to the specifics of the issue at hand. Under the director of Lisa Gooden, Registrar and Director of Elections, the Rockingham Electoral Board has, during her tenure, greatly benefitted from her leadership, dedication, expertise, staff development and management, election oversight, and knowledge of election law and procedure. Given these attributes, Ms. Gooden has never given the Electoral Board cause to question her skills or her competence. That confidence remains unchallenged despite the unfortunate circumstance currently before the State Board of Elections. Moreover, we, the members of the Rockingham County Electoral Board view this situation as an anomaly, not a deliberate disregard of election management best practices.

Second, the Rockingham County Electoral Board recognizes that the error in question—a double counting of CAP votes—did occur and created an inaccurate report of the Rockingham County’s final election results. The Board also recognizes this is not a trivial matter because the

potential ramifications of this error can be quite substantial. Fortunately, no candidate had their election status altered. Therefore, the Rockingham County Electoral Board extends its sincere regret for this misstep. Understandable, our collective embarrassment is considerable, and the Electoral Board will work with Ms. Gooden and her staff to prevent such missteps in the future.

Third, the Board offers the following remedies to prevent any reoccurrence of this problem.

1. In all future pre-election training materials for election officers, the separation of pre-election CAP vote totals from Post-Election vote totals will be a written point of emphasis. Also, this item will be reiterated, in writing, to the CAP precinct chief's pre-and-post election guidance materials.
2. The same point of emphasis will also be incorporated in future training materials for the Registrar's office staff, again in writing, for preparation of preliminary vote reports to ELECT.
3. The Registrar will specifically review pre-and-post election CAP results prior to the Electoral Board's Canvass.

In conclusion, the Rockingham County Electoral Board expresses its appreciation to the Virginia State Electoral Board for the opportunity to address the Board regarding this matter. As one of our young staff members retrospectively observed regarding the situation being discussed today: "To err is a human foible. But do not allow it to define you. Instead, learn from the experience and become more knowledgeable." This is the intent of the Rockingham County Electoral Board going forward.