

Statement from Rockingham County's Director of Elections: First, I would remind the SBE that, according to State Code 2.2-3711(A)(1), matters regarding the assignment, promotion, demotion, performance, salary, disciplining, or resignation of a specific officer, appointee, or employee, are to be discussed in closed session. The fact that this did not occur is understandably unfortunate and seemingly a deliberate and political oversight by Commissioner Beals to cover the fact that ELECT did not recognize an error in results reporting for Rockingham County for the November 5, 2024 election.

I would first like to say to the State Board of Elections that I take my position as Director of Elections very seriously and refrain from engaging in partisan or political party affiliations. I take issue with the idea that I affiliate with a particular party as my actions reflect otherwise. I understand the gravity of the events that occurred during the 2024 November General Election and there should be no excuse. I do, however, want it to be known that our office was facing a few challenges during the recent election. First, the error in question was discovered by an out of state citizen who analyzes election data. This mistake was not originally discovered by Commissioner Beals or ELECT staff.

Of importance, Rockingham County saw a 60.1% increase over 2020 in provisional ballots. Without Same Day Registrations (SDRs), we would have seen an 87.71% decrease over 2020. Rockingham County averaged a 10.15% increase in registered voters over the past four years without an increase in staff, workstations, or space. It is important to note that Rockingham County's office only has four workstations. All four of these stations were filled with staff who were diligently working on SDRs. A total of 156 staff hours were logged during the five-day window ELECT

requested completion of SDRs. ELECT was notified multiple times via email with our progress on SDRs and the fact that it was highly unlikely that we would meet the requested (ELECT) deadline for processing these applications.

During the timeframe of July-August of 2024, I saw a total of 3 staff changes in my office. Attending and being engaged in trainings, I must admit, was not at the forefront of my priorities as I was in the middle of early voting, preparing and mailing absentee ballots, and acclimating new staff for Election Day. Looking back, I realize that these obstacles should not have taken precedence over training; however, I was doing the best that I could with what I was facing at the time. My staff and I have since completed the training sessions.

I take responsibility for the inaccurate reporting of post-election data as I failed to let my CAP team know to separate the post-election data from mailed absentee. Reporting true and correct data is the essence of my position and I acknowledge that this mistake should not have occurred. Thankfully, and **most importantly**, my reporting error did not affect the results or outcome for any contests or winners. The data that was entered accurately reflected the tapes that were produced by the CAP team and *were not falsified in any way*. This mistake was *human error made unintentionally*.

During my tenure as General Registrar, I have never faced a situation like this. As you know, the corrected data for post-election has since been entered, and the Rockingham County Electoral Board verified, signed, and forwarded the corrected Abstract of Votes to the Department of Elections, as well as posting these to the county's website.