

# Elections Newsletter

Election Official Standards of Conduct: Integrity Neutrality Transparency Accuracy

A semi – annual publication of the Alexandria Electoral Board for precinct Election Officers

## Profile: Bruce and Linda Dwyer

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Bruce and Linda Dwyer began serving as election officers in November 1999 at the NOVA Arts Center precinct. Over the course of their 15 years with the office, they have worked together at the NOVA Arts Center, Second Presbyterian Church, St. Martin Senior Center, and Douglas MacArthur School precincts.

Linda quickly rose to the rank of Assistant Chief Officer in her third election and a Chief Officer in her fifth election. Linda has served as a Chief Officer 31 times, including 17 elections at Douglas MacArthur. She is currently doing an exceptional job serving as the Chief Officer for the Central Absentee Voting Precinct. During our most recent election, 3995 people cast absentee ballots; during the 2012 Presidential election, 16,171 people cast absentee ballots, including nearly 1000 overseas voters whose ballots had to be counted by hand.

Bruce served as an Election Officer and Assistant Chief Officer in 16 elections, and then served as an Election Day "Rover" helping troubleshoot equipment, supplies, and other issues at polling places. Bruce has also assisted with the backup and testing of voting equipment, mock elections at TC Williams, and many other important functions. Currently, Bruce assists with absentee voting and the Central Absentee Voting Precinct. Prior to his role with the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, Bruce served 21 years as the Planning and Budgeting Director at the Energy Information Administration, a part of the U.S. Department of Energy.

When they are not helping out with the voting process, Bruce and Linda enjoy advocating for the use of bicycles. Bruce and Linda have both worked with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association to create a healthy, more livable region by promoting bicycling for fun, fitness, and affordable transportation; advocating for better bicycling conditions and transportation choices for a healthier environment, and educating children, adults, and motorists about safe bicycling.

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## November 4, 2014 General Election

On November 4<sup>th</sup> 2014, 41,651 Alexandrians voted in the General Election for U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The ballot also included a proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution. Mt. Vernon Center (#107) had the most voters (2,099); Blessed Sacrament (#204) had the highest percent turnout (59.32%).

For U.S. Senate, Mark Warner won with 49.15% of the votes, or 1,073,667 of the 2,184,473 votes cast statewide. For House of Representatives, Donald S. Beyer Jr. won with 63.08% of the votes, or 128,102 of the 203,076 votes cast within the district. The 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District includes the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church, Arlington County, and a portion of Fairfax County. Mr. Warner and Mr. Beyer both live in Alexandria. Mr. Warner received 69.74% of his hometown vote; Mr. Beyer received 65.67%.

The implementation of the Photo ID law went smoothly in Alexandria with only 29 ID provisional ballots cast on Election Day. We would like to sincerely thank all of the Election Officers who worked a long day to ensure that the citizens of Alexandria were able to exercise their right to vote.



## Upcoming June 9th Primary Election

In Alexandria, the June 9 Democratic Primary includes a 5-way race for House of Delegates (45<sup>th</sup> District), as well as a 3-way race for Mayor. Only six Democratic candidates filed to run for the six seats on City Council, so no Primary for that office will be held. Similarly, only one Democratic candidate filed for House of Delegates (46<sup>th</sup> District) and State Senate, so no primary for those offices will be held.

The Republican Party has chosen to nominate its candidates for Mayor, Council, House of Delegates, and State Senate by a method other than a primary; consequently there will be no Republican Primary this June.

Absentee voting starts on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Sample ballots and other information including voter registration deadlines, absentee voting deadlines, and campaign finance reports are available at [www.alexandriavoter.org](http://www.alexandriavoter.org)

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"...Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: 'Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## Legislative Update

Many election-related House Bills (HB) and Senate Bills (SB) were introduced during this year's Virginia State legislative session; however, not many passed into law. Below is a brief summary of legislation that we believe most directly affects our office.

**HB 1653:** This bill expands the types of photo identification which may be used when voting to include a valid student photo ID card issued by any private school located in the Commonwealth of Virginia including private high schools. Currently, only ID's issued by public high schools and public and private schools of higher education in Virginia are acceptable. The law will not take effect until January 2, 2016.

**HB 2062:** Makes various technical changes to pre and post-election duties, particularly that starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Voter Information Cards will no longer be sent to voters after they register. They will now receive confirmation documents.

**SB 1351:** Allows authorized representatives of political parties to use handheld phones with cameras but prohibits the use of those devices to capture digital images in a polling place.

## Recent Highlights at the Office

### **Alexandrian of the Year Award:**

Rosa Byrd, an Election Officer with the City of Alexandria for over 20 years and Chief at the Cora Kelly Center precinct for the past 5 years, received the Alexandrian of the Year Award for 2014. The office is continuously proud of her accomplishments and grateful of her past and future service. See the article in the Alexandrian News at <http://www.alexandrianews.org/a-voice-of-reason-and-determination/>

### **New Board Member:**

John F. "Jack" Powers was unanimously appointed by the Alexandria Circuit Court to a three-year term on the Alexandria Electoral Board that began on March 1. Jack replaced Bruce Brown who served on the Board from 6/26/12 to 2/28/15. Bruce was not eligible for re-appointment due to the legal requirement that the majority of the board align with the political party of the current Governor.

### **New Polling Places:**

The City Council approved two changes to our polling precincts:

- On the West End, St. James (#210) is slated for re-development so the polling place for that precinct has moved to The Hermitage on 5000 Fairbanks Avenue.
- On the East End, the boundaries of Durant (#104) and Fire Department (#109) were shifted to create a new precinct at Charles Houston Rec Center (#110). Located at 901 Wythe Street, this new polling place will help absorb the rapidly-increasing population in the Braddock Metro Area.

New Voter Information Cards will be mailed to all affected voters prior to the June Primary. For more information on these changes, such as maps and additional details on the process, visit our website at [www.alexandriavoter.org](http://www.alexandriavoter.org)

Alexandria Electoral Board  
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## Election Calendar

June 9, 2015	Primary Election	House of Delegates and Mayor
November 3, 2015	General Election	Virginia Senate, House of Delegates, Mayor and Members of City Council and School Board
March 1, 2016	Primary Election*	President of the U.S.
June 14, 2016	Primary Election*	U.S. House of Representatives
November 8, 2016	General Election	President and Vice President of the U.S. and U.S. House of Representatives
June 13, 2017	Primary Election*	Virginia Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff
November 7, 2017	General Election	Virginia Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff

\*If called by the Political Parties