

1

2 The State Board of Elections (“the Board”) meeting was held by electronic
3 communication on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Robert Brink, Chairman, John
4 O’Bannon, Vice Chairman, and Jamilah LeCruise, Secretary, represented the State
5 Board of Elections (“the Board”). Christopher E. “Chris” Piper, Commissioner,
6 and Jessica Bowman, Deputy Commissioner, represented the Department of
7 Elections (“ELECT”). Carol Lewis represented the Office of the Attorney General
8 (“OAG”). Chairman Brink called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M.

9 Chairman Brink informed the Board that on March 12, 2020, Governor
10 Ralph S. Northam declared that a state of emergency exists in the Commonwealth
11 as the result of the potential spread of COVID-19, a communicable disease
12 presenting a threat to public health. On March 30, 2020, the Governor issued an
13 executive order requiring all individuals in Virginia to remain at their place of
14 residence, with certain enumerated exceptions. Accordingly, the State Board of
15 Elections is meeting by electronic communication means through this video
16 conference.

17 This meeting was conducted consistent with the requirements for electronic
18 meetings by public bodies set forth in Items 4-0.01 of House Bills 29 and 30, as
19 passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in April of this year.
20 The purpose of the meeting is to transact the statutorily required business of the

21 Board. There will be an opportunity for public comment following the final item of
22 the meeting.

23 The first order of business is the Commissioner's report presented by
24 Commissioner Piper. The Commissioner informed the Board that ELECT
25 conducted a successful election on May 19, 2020, of 56 localities and over a
26 hundred cities and towns. Commissioner Piper explained that the Governor
27 postponed the May Election for two weeks. The Commissioner informed the Board
28 that within that timeframe, ELECT officials were able to provide personal
29 protective equipment for officers of election: single use pens, single use folders,
30 gloves, mask, hand sanitizers and disinfectant; ELECT also partnered with the
31 Department of Health to provide training materials and information on maintaining
32 a clean polling place.

33 The Commissioner stated that the Medical Reserve Corps assisted officers of
34 election with maintaining a safe and sanitary environment. Commissioner Piper
35 informed the Board regarding guidance provided to voters and localities that any
36 voter could vote by absentee ballot using reason code "2A. My disability or
37 illness". The Commissioner informed the Board that 69,318 absentee ballots were
38 returned for the May 19th Election. Commissioner Piper stated that the Medical
39 Reserve Corps would be assisting ELECT for the June Primary. The

40 Commissioner stated that nearly 90,000 registered voters requested an absentee
41 ballot, and so far, 13,539 ballots have been returned.

42 Commissioner Piper informed the Board that ELECT remains committed to
43 its other tasks, especially election security. The Commissioner informed the Board
44 that ELECT received over 60 bills from the General Assembly. Commissioner
45 Piper explained to the Board that House Bill 1 (HB 1) removed the excuse
46 requirement for using an absentee ballot effective July 1, 2020 and that HB 235
47 introduced automatic voter registration. As a first step, the Department of Motor
48 Vehicles (“DMV”) will change the “opt-out” process. The Commissioner
49 explained that soon DMV would allow citizens to opt-out of registering to vote.

50 Commissioner Piper explained to the Board that HB 201, enacting same-day
51 registration, becomes effective in 2022. Under HB 1362, the General Registrars
52 (“GR”) certification bill, GR will be required to receive and maintain a training
53 certification. The Commissioner stated that HB 19 allows voters to provide various
54 forms of non-photo identification. Commissioner Piper then explained that HB
55 220, which allows localities to provide pre-paid postage for the return of absentee
56 ballots, contains a re-enactment clause, which requires approval by the General
57 Assembly in 2021.

58 Chairman Brink asked Commissioner Piper to provide an idea of what
59 ELECT is doing for implementation on the new requirements for HB 19.

60 Commissioner Piper stated that ELECT would be updating the website and
61 continuing to provide guidance to the localities. Chairman Brink asked the
62 Commissioner whether using a Virginia driver's license facilitated the voting
63 process and reduced the likelihood of lines on election day. Commissioner Piper
64 replied that some localities do find that the use of Virginia driver's licenses using
65 electronic pollbooks and barcode readers facilitates faster check-in.

66 The Chairman asked the Commissioner to provide an estimate on how much
67 it would cost for the localities to have prepaid postage for absentee ballots. The
68 Commissioner estimated it to be around \$2-5 million annually. Mr. Heo added that
69 the cost for the postage depends on the number of absentee applications received.

70 The next order of business is the KnowInk Electronic Pollbook Certification
71 presented by James Heo, Confidential Policy Advisor. Mr. Heo expressed
72 appreciation to Karen Hoyt-Stuart, Voting Technology Program Manager the SLI
73 test lab, KnowInk staff, and Kirk Showalter; City of Richmond General Registrar.

74 *This report is in the Working Papers for the May 26, 2020 meeting.* Vice Chair
75 O'Bannon moved *that the Board certify the use of KnowInk 2.5.0 in elections in*
76 *the Commonwealth of Virginia, pursuant to the State Certification of Electronic*
77 *Pollbooks: Requirements and Procedures.* Secretary LeCruise seconded the
78 motion, and the motion passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken:

79 Chairman Brink – aye

State Board of Elections
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
SBE FINAL Minutes

80 Vice Chair O'Bannon – Aye

81 Secretary LeCruise - Aye

82 Chairman Brink opened the line for public comment. Jean Thoensen of the
83 public addressed the Board. Commissioner Piper addressed the Board. The
84 Commissioner stated that the drop in registrations during April 2020 was more
85 than likely due to the closing of DMV and the cancellation of third party group
86 events.

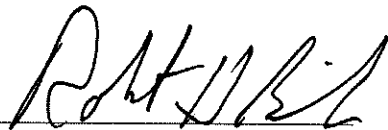
87 Chairman Brink addressed the Board for any closing remarks. Secretary
88 LeCruise *moved to adjourn the meeting*. Vice Chair O'Bannon seconded the
89 motion, and the motion passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken:

90 Chairman Brink – aye

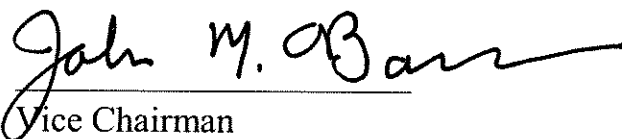
91 Vice Chair O'Bannon – aye

92 Secretary LeCruise – aye

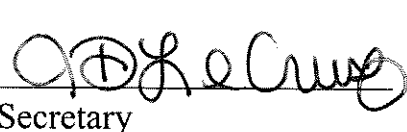
93 The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:31 P.M.

94 

95
96 Chairman

97 

98
99 Vice Chairman

100 

101
102 Secretary