



Presented by:

Mike Guzo and Sherri Laffoon

VDEM



Virginia Department of
Emergency Management

Elections & Emergency Management – Integration & Collaboration

July 18, 2024

Election Day Scenario

It is Election Day, and a severe weather event impacts a crowded polling place in your jurisdiction. Power is lost and cellular connection is spotty. What steps do you take to ensure safety of the staff and voters and how do you handle ballot security continuity of the election process?



What is Emergency Management

- Emergency management protects communities by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters.
- In Virginia, authorities come from Title 44 of State Code
- Local Emergency Management responsibilities



Emergency Management in VA

Local Emergency Management

- The Whole Community Approach
- Preparedness, Response, Recovery, Prevention, & Mitigation
- These APPOINTED positions are often an ancillary duty in the rural areas of VA, but serve the whole jurisdiction.
- Local EM Directory <https://lemd.vdem.virginia.gov/>






Virginia Dept of Emergency Management

- An executive branch state agency
- Serve over 113 Emergency Management Programs
- Act as coordinating agency for statewide disasters
- Assist in all phases of emergency management
- Regional staff embedded in 7 field offices create & maintain relationships with stakeholders





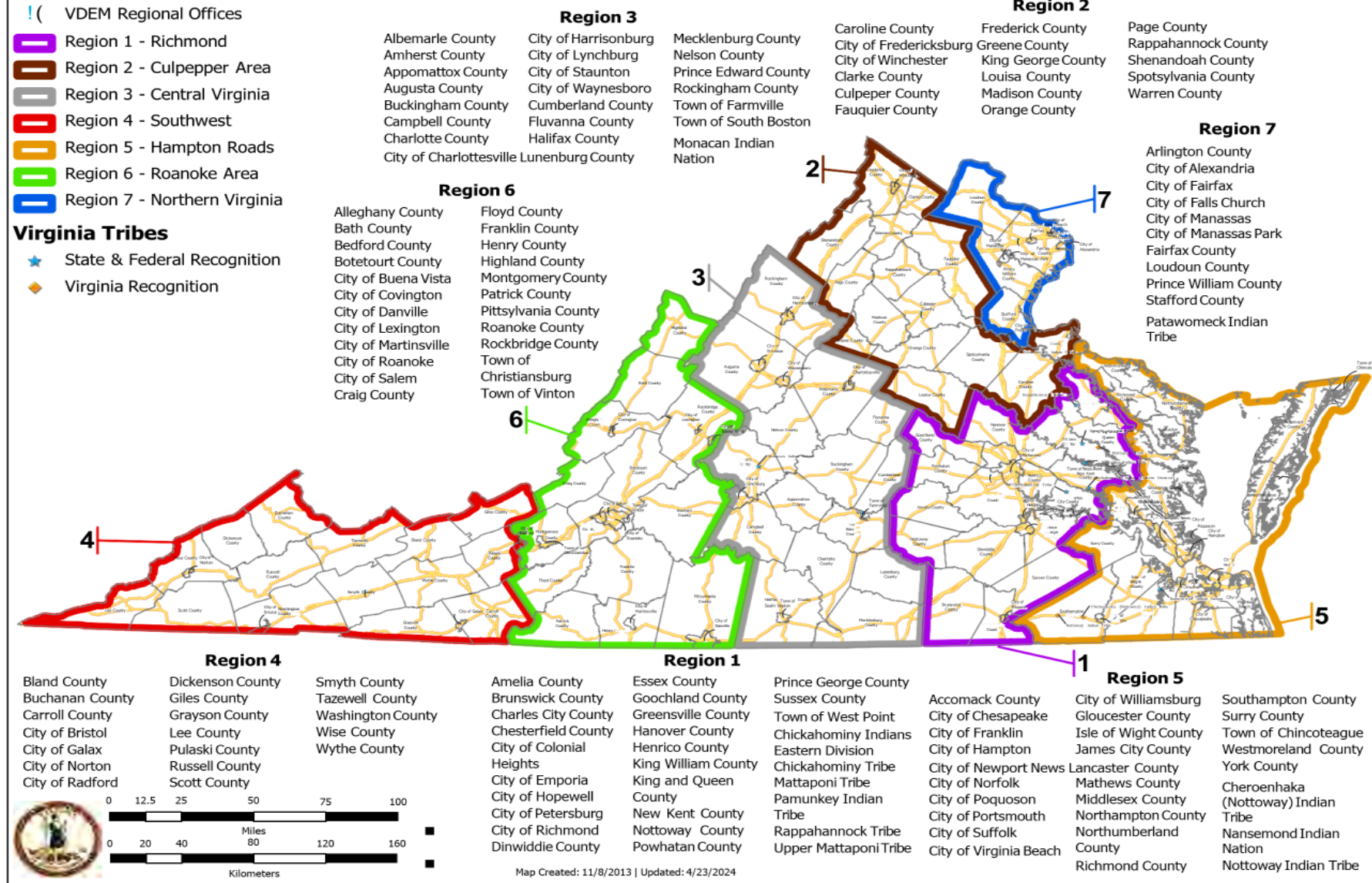
Virginia Department of Emergency Management

! (VDEM Regional Offices

-  Region 1 - Richmond
-  Region 2 - Culpepper Area
-  Region 3 - Central Virginia
-  Region 4 - Southwest
-  Region 5 - Hampton Roads
-  Region 6 - Roanoke Area
-  Region 7 - Northern Virginia

Virginia Tribes

-  State & Federal Recognition
-  Virginia Recognition



Region 6—Conrad Faett

(804) 774-4700

Albemarle	Charlottesville	Nelson
Alleghany	Covington	Page
Amherst	Greene	Rockbridge
Augusta	Harrisonburg	Rockingham
Bath	Highland	Staunton
Buena Vista	Lexington	Waynesboro

Region 5—Matthew Norcutt

(804) 864-8901

Alexandria	Frederick	Rappahannock
Arlington Clarke	Loudoun	Shenandoah
Culpeper Fairfax	Madison	Warren
City Fairfax	Manassas	Winchester
County Falls	Manassas Park	
Church Fauquier	Prince William	

Region 3—Monique Semple

(804) 774-4694

Caroline Charles	King William
City Co	Lancaster
Chesterfield	Louisa
Cumberland	New Kent
Essex	Northumberland
Fluvanna	Orange
Fredericksburg	Richmond City
Goochland	Richmond Co.
Hanover Henrico	Spotsylvania
King & Queen	Stafford
King George	Westmoreland

Region 4—Tanya Pruett

(804) 864-8931

Bland	Lee	Smyth
Bristol	Norton	Tazewell
Buchanan	Pulaski	Washington
Carroll	Radford	Wise
Dickenson	Russell	Wythe
Galax	Scott	
Giles		
Grayson		

Region 7—Viki Mainwaring

(804) 593-2274

Appomattox	Floyd	Roanoke City
Bedford	Franklin Co.	Roanoke Co.
Botetourt	Henry	Salem
Buckingham	Lynchburg	
Campbell	Martinsville	
Craig	Montgomery	
Danville	Patrick	

Region 2—Viki Mainwaring

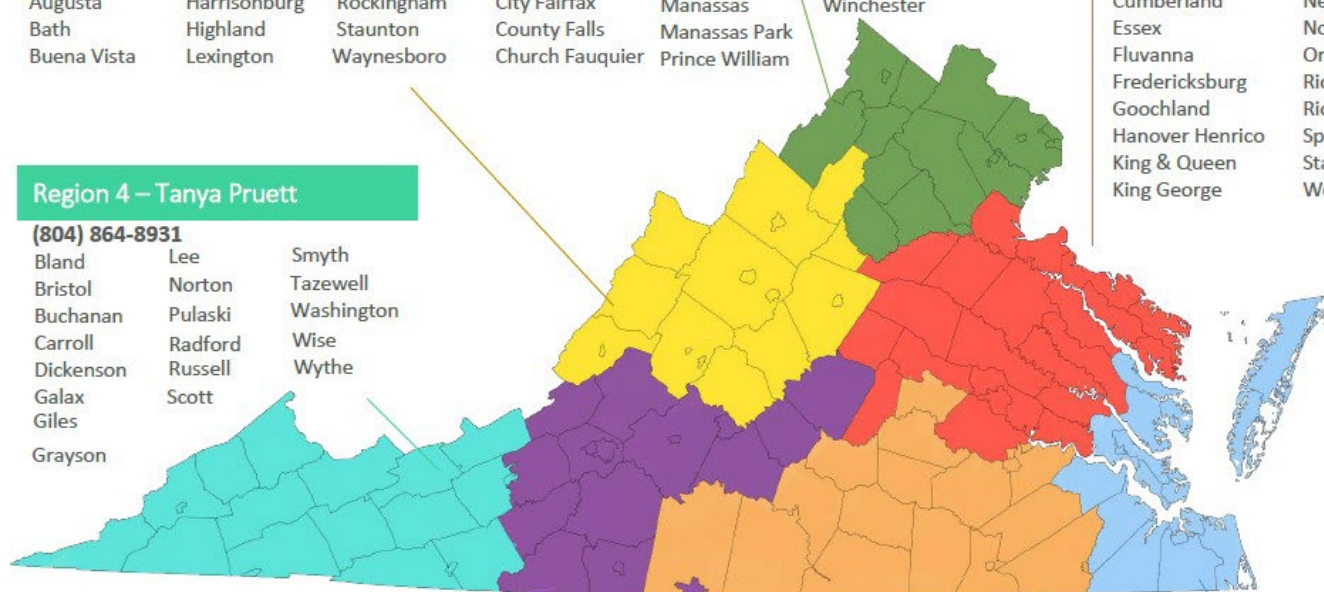
(804) 593-2274

Amelia	Franklin City	Petersburg
Brunswick	Greensville	Pittsylvania
Charlotte	Halifax	Powhatan
Colonial Heights	Hopewell	Prince Edward
Dinwiddie	Lunenburg	Prince George
Emporia	Mecklenburg	Southampton
	Nottoway	Sussex

Region 1—Viki Mainwaring

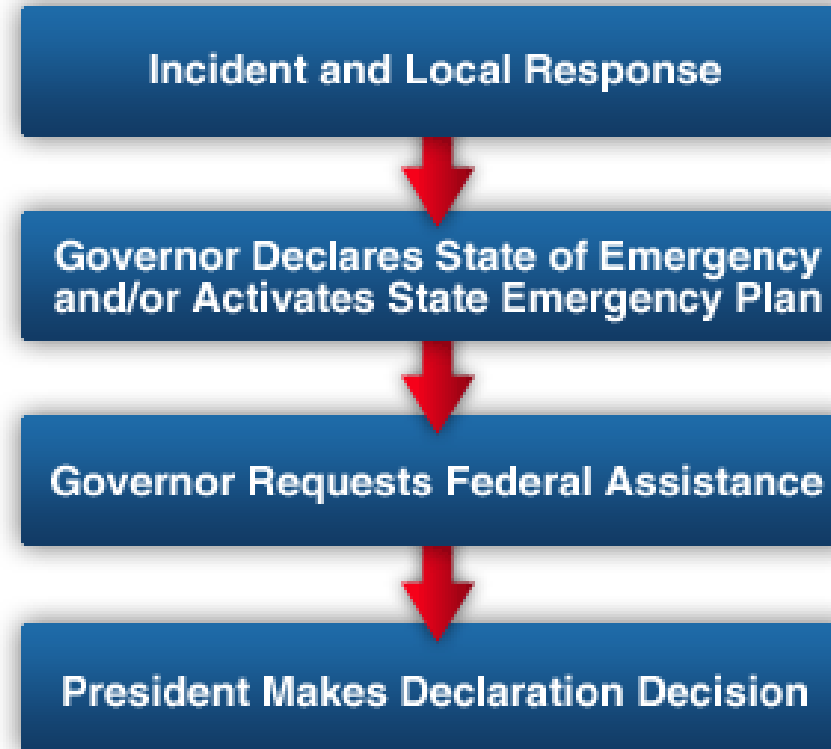
(804) 593-2274

Accomack	Mathews	Portsmouth
Chesapeake	Middlesex	Suffolk
Gloucester	Newport News	Surry
Hampton	Norfolk	Va. Beach
Isle of Wight	Northampton	Williamsburg
James City Co.	Poquoson	York



Lifecycle of a disaster

1. Facility response
2. Locality response
3. Regional response
4. State response
5. Federal response
6. Demobilization



Comprehensive collaboration, coordination, communication, and effective resource management



Comprehensive Planning

- All-hazards & Whole-of-Community
- Stakeholder involvement
 - Emergency Operations Plan
 - Continuity of Operations Plan
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Hazards, Threats, and Vulnerabilities



Elections Planning

- Elections-specific Emergency Plan
 - Collaboration & Relationship Building
 - Communications Plan
 - Continuity of Operations (ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS)
- Hazards, Threats, and Vulnerabilities
 - Natural & manmade
 - Power Outages
 - Protest/Unruly behavior
 - Active Threat/lockdown
 - Event necessitating emergency evacuation



Scenario Discussion

Identify and discuss the top four threats and hazards to polling locations within your jurisdiction. Also identify three resources or support are critical for ensuring election continuity during an emergency.

*Focus on resource management and prioritize what is most essential for election officials during emergencies.



Wrap-Up

- Involvement with your local emergency manager
- Participation in jurisdiction planning
- Development of elections specific plan
- Train & educate elections officials
- Exercise, communicate, and collaborate



Questions?



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THANK YOU!





Break

3:00PM-3:15 PM



Presented by: Claire Scott

Risk-Limiting Audits

Risk Limiting Audit

Claire Scott,
Policy Analyst

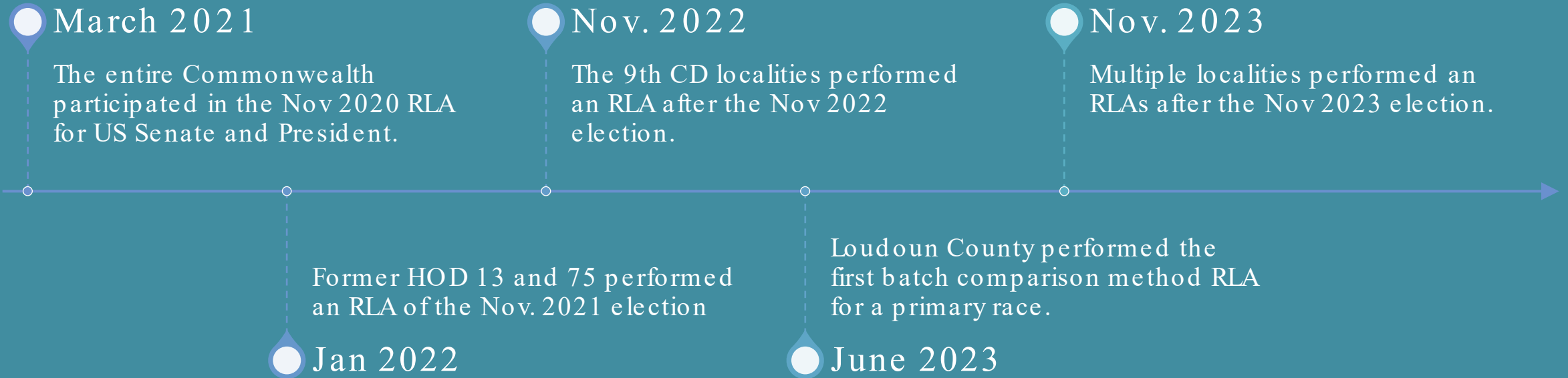


What is a Risk Limiting Audit?

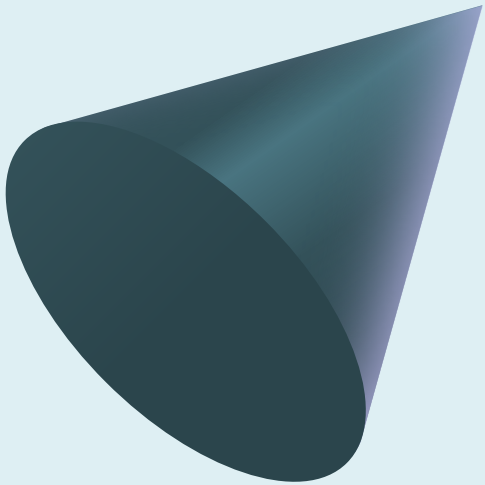
A risk-limiting audit is a post-election audit that gives a statistical level of confidence that the outcome of an election is correct.

Another way to express the definition is, after performing a risk-limiting audit, we can say that there is a high probability that the reported winners accurately reflect how voters marked their ballots.

Virginia has had RLA provisions since 2018



We have come a long way with RLA.



Topics for Today:

- The Commonwealth is in great shape for this November's RLA.
- Ballot tracking through early voting and on Election Day will pay dividends for all of us.
- Trust the quantity of ballots designated on the #3 Envelope.

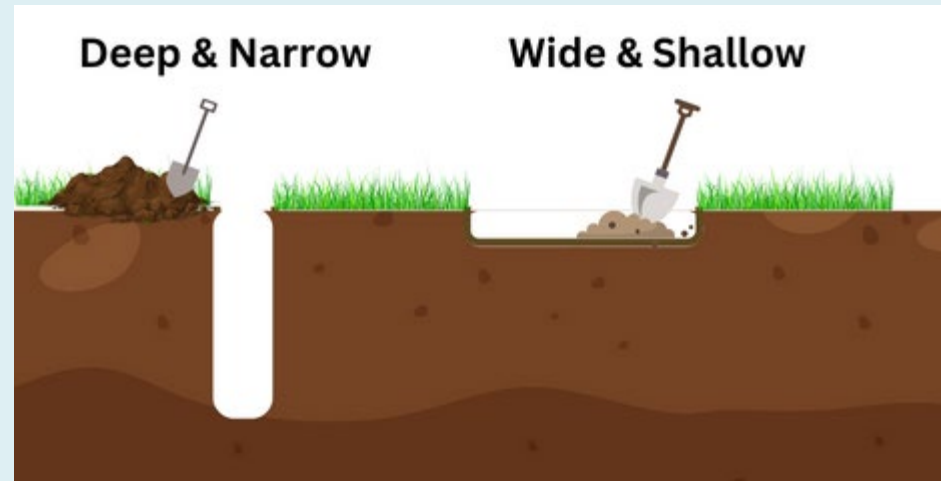
RLA Methods Available in Virginia

Batch Comparison

- Auditing every ballot within a batch of ballots, typically the size of a precinct
- Deep and Narrow

Ballot Polling

- Auditing a random, individual ballot within a batch of ballots
- Wide and Shallow

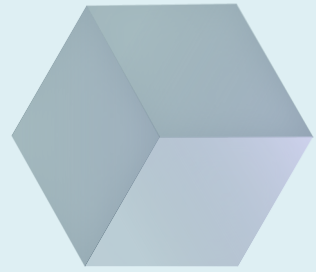


Ballot Manifests

- Ballot Manifests look the same for both Ballot Polling and Batch Comparison
- It is a 2 Column Excel spreadsheet.
 - Column A lists the names of all available batches
 - Column B lists how many ballots are in each of those ballots
- When uploading your ballot manifest into Arlo, please upload it as a Comma-Separated Value file (.csv).



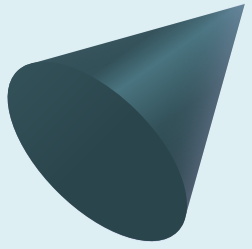
Batch Name	Number of Ballots
107 - LITTLE RIVER	1086
114 - DULLES SOUTH	674
123 - CARDINAL RIDGE	634
209 - POTOMAC FALLS	1222
210 - CASCADES	1120
214 - SUGARLAND NORTH	984
215 - SUGARLAND SOUTH	1070
216 - LOWES ISLAND	1068
217 - SOUTH BANK	1180
220 - MIRROR RIDGE	922
221 - SENECA	841
701 - SULLY	748
702 - PARK VIEW	746
703 - ROLLING RIDGE	881
705 - FOREST GROVE	880
710 - STERLING	515
711 - GUILFORD	362
713 - CARTER	233
715 - OAK GROVE	352
EV1-1	698
EV1-2	2351
EV1-3	2391
EV1-4	2273
EV1-5	2273
EV1-6	2133
EV1-7	2133
EV1-8	2095
EV1-9	1891
EV2-1	2577
EV2-2	2363
EV3-1	2386



Thinking Ahead with Your Ballots

- Plan ahead on how you will organize ballots
- Smaller batches of ballots are easier to work through than larger batches
- Keep in mind 1 VAC20-60-50 Overfull optical scan ballot container.
 - If you find that a machine seems too "full" that can be made into a batch of ballots
- Be sure to keep track of your batches in your ballot manifest





All Ballot Manifests Must
Be Uploaded to Arlo for
the RLA to Start.

Don't be that person and wait to the last
minute to prepare and upload your ballot
manifest!



How the Races will be Chosen

- 24.2-671.2(C)(1-3) state which RLAs are statutorily required
 - US House of Representatives
 - A random General Assembly race
 - A random shared Constitutional office, if there is not a statewide office on the ballot
- 24.2-671.2(C)(4) states that the SBE can select a race it finds appropriate to ensure that all localities participate at least once every 5 years
 - Typically, this is done with a statewide race
 - For example: US Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General



Providing Notice of the RLA

- The RLA is a public meeting of the local electoral board
- Provide notice to the public through your typical channels
- ELECT recommends providing notice to the local parties as well as to the candidates who are involved, especially if it is a local race



Setting Up the Room For Success



Have enough space for your teams to work



Have a separate area for the public and press to observe



Have an area where teams can check-in/out batches



Authorized Representatives



24.2-671.2 is silent regarding the role of authorized representatives.

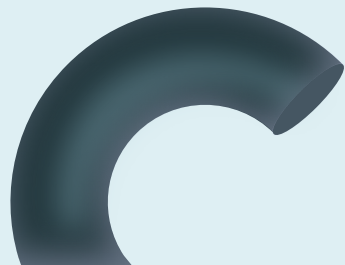


The RLA is a public meeting, and the public is allowed to observe the process.



ELECT recommends as a best practice to treat authorized representatives as you would during Canvass.

ARs can take a closer look at the process but must not interfere with the RLA process or distract the teams while they are working.



Resources Available about the RLA



RLA Manual- Gives a thorough step-by-step process of the RLA



RLA Training Courses- Gives an overview of each of the methods used in VA



Arlo Audit Planner- Estimates the number of ballots/batches for an RLA



Webinar on July 30th During the Legislative Update Meeting



Voting Works will be hosting an Arlo presentation in September



Questions?

Election Administration

BULLETIN



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

for
General
Registrars

ISSUE
05
Q3 2024

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**Virginia
Elections
Administration
Bulletin Q3**

Preparing for success
in the Presidential



VOTE

A circular button with a patriotic design. The top half is red with four white stars. The bottom half is white with the word "VOTE" in bold black letters. A blue band with four white stars runs along the bottom edge. The button is attached to a blue fabric strap. The background is a blurred American flag.