DUNLAP BENNETT & LUDWIG

[redacted]

April 24, 2026

**VIA EMAIL**
Mr. Christopher Marston
General Counsel
Republican Party of Virginia
115 E. Grace Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Re: Legal Defects in Lynchburg Republican City Committee's Canvass**

Dear Chris:

I write to follow up on our recent telephone conferences. As we discussed, my law firm represents a client with a vested interest in the Lynchburg Republican City Committee's ("LRCC") upcoming scheduled canvass. We believe the LRCC is conducting this canvass in an improper fashion that violates established law.

Among other defects, serious flaws exist in this canvass's absentee ballot application process. As we discussed, I understand the LRCC sent potential Republican absentee voters the postcard enclosed herewith as **Exhibit A**. This postcard directs recipients who require an absentee ballot to apply via the LRCC's website. Notably, the postcard also states that such voters will be required to "[p]rovide required eligibility information" to obtain an absentee ballot.

The LRCC's website states that voters who require absentee ballots must provide the LRCC with certain information and documents. Importantly, the website states:

> To verify eligibility for absentee participation in this Firehouse Primary, please upload documentation confirming that you qualify under one of the protected classes defined by Virginia Code § 24.2-509. Acceptable documentation may include, but is not limited to, a military ID or active duty orders, student ID or enrollment verification from a college or university, documentation showing temporary residence outside the United States (such as a lease, visa, or travel documentation), or a doctor's note or other documentation verifying disability or qualifying health condition.

For your convenience, I am enclosing as **Exhibit B** a screenshot of the web page showing this requirement.

For the reasons we discussed during our calls, this requirement is unreasonable, overly burdensome, violates absentee voters' rights, discourages potential absentee voters from even

applying for such ballots, and plainly ignores both Virginia and federal law. For example, Virginia law mandates that a political party's "method of nomination shall not be selected if such method will have the practical effect of excluding participation in the nominating process by qualified voters who are otherwise eligible to participate in the nominating process under that political party's rules but are unable to attend meetings because they" fall within certain protected classes defined in the statute. Va. Code § 24.2-509. By setting such requirements for absentee ballots, the LRCC's nominating process has such an exclusionary effect.

On a more specific note, Virginia law "recognize[s] an individual's right of privacy in the content of his health records." Va. Code § 32.1-127.1:03. The LRCC is violating this right by requiring voters who seek absentee ballots due to disability or medical condition to disclose "a doctor's note or other documentation" of their health.

For all of these reasons and others, we respectfully request that the Republican Party of Virginia ("RPV") require the LRCC to correct its legally flawed absentee ballot process. This includes, without limitation, directing the LRCC as follows:

- The LRCC shall immediately extend for a reasonable period of time the April 22, 2026 deadline by which potential absentee voters may apply for absentee ballots;

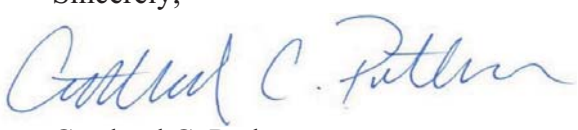
- The LRCC shall immediately re-issue revised postcards to potential Republican absentee ballot voters advising them that the deadline for applying for such ballots has been extended and further, that if they have not already done so, recipients may apply for an absentee ballot. Such postcards shall not include any assertion that applicants will need to "[p]rovide required eligibility information" or otherwise demonstrate or prove they fall under one of the enumerated protected classes;

- To the extent the LRCC has already received applications for absentee ballots that were not accompanied by such "eligibility information" or documentation, the LRCC shall be required accept said applications, issue absentee ballots to such applicants, and count those applicants' cast ballots.

I would greatly appreciate it if the RPV could update me on its efforts to rectify this problematic situation, including any remedial measures the LRCC will take with respect to its improper absentee ballot application process.

My client reserves all of their rights both in law and in equity, none of which shall be deemed waived by this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cortland C. Putbrese

Enclosures

# EXHIBIT A

# Absentee Voting Information

If you are unable to attend in person, you may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in this Republican Party canvass.

Under Virginia Code §24.2-509, absentee voting is available for individuals who are:

- Active duty military
- Temporarily outside the United States
- College students
- Individuals with a disability
- Individuals with, or have had contact with, certain communicable health conditions

## How to Request an Absentee Ballot

### 1) Visit: LynchburgVotes.com

**2) Complete the absentee ballot request form** by April 22nd, 2026.

3) Provide required eligibility information.

If approved, your ballot will be mailed to you with instructions for completion and return.

**Ballots must be returned by 12:00 PM on May 30, 2026**

**Have Questions?**

[redacted]

**LRCC, P.O. Box 12237, Lynchburg, VA 24506**

Paid for and authorized by the Lynchburg Republican City Committee.

# EXHIBIT B

16:33 5G
lynchburgvotes.com

LRCC

# Firehouse Primary Absentee Ballot

Submit Ballot Request

Check Ballot Request Status

**Request Reason** (Required)

Please indicate the protected class that you fall within for this absentee ballot request.

A person with a disability

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