



# *Board of Elections*

## TESTIMONY OF RAYMOND J. WILLIAMS CHAIRMAN, VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF ELECTION

January 23, 2026

Bill Number 36-0187

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Good morning, The Honorable Avery Lewis, Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection: members of the Committee and all other senators present.

My name is Raymond J. Williams, Chairman of the Virgin Islands Board of Election. I appear before you this morning at your request to present testimony on Bill No. 36–0187, an act amending Title 18 of the Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 23, Section 622, which would require the Board of Elections to count by hand all votes deposited in a ballot box. Proposed by Senator Franklin D. Johnson.

The Board of Elections met on January 16, 2026, to deliberate on two measures that appear on today's agenda, including the bill presently before this Committee. A motion was made by Board Member Michael Joseph and seconded by Board Member Kareem Francis to not support the bill proposed by Senator Johnson. The motion carried with a vote of seven (7) in favor, four (4) opposed, one (1) abstention, and two (2) members absent. As a result, the official position of the Virgin Islands Board of Elections is that we do not support this measure.

I stand ready to answer questions. Thank you.

