

**Buncombe County Board of Elections**  
**Asheville/Buncombe County Board of Elections**

**Monitor Name:** Elaine and George Elam plus Cheryl Williams in person

**Date & Time:** May 23, 2024 5:30 PM

**Names of Board Members Attending:**

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Mary Ann Braine, Board Member

Steven Aceto, Board Member (arrived late)

Glen Shults, Secretary

Sally Stein: Board Member

**Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending:** Corrine Duncan, Director; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist; Neggy Fox, Deputy Director

**Location of Meeting:** 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

**Observers:**

8 in person observers as follows: 1 Republicans, 1 Democrat, 3 Unknown, and 3 LWVAB. One online.

**Agenda Items**

**I. Agenda** for this meeting approved 5/0

**II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10)** – for the May 21 meeting approved 5/0.

**III. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan, Director**

- NCSBE memo on the disclosure of results. Due to the low turnout of voters some reporting categories have only one voter in them. As a result County Boards of Elections are trying to comply with two laws that contradict each other
  - One law requires reporting results in all categories and the other is to protect voter privacy
- Board Members need to read the memo in advance of the May 24 Canvass meeting
  - A copy of the memo will accompany the elections report the County files with the Circuit Court
- Ms. Braine asked how the memo would affect public availability of Voter History data
  - Ms. Duncan said that the registration data file connects with the Voter History file
  - The results reporting system is different from the registration and Voter History files

- The State Board is not releasing precinct level results which used to be part of the 30-day sort but the summaries can be calculated instantly
- Mr. Shults said the memo was clear
  - Ms. Bailey provided the name for the ERM reporting system, Election Reporting Module

#### **IV. Supplemental Absentee Ballot Review (G.S. § 163-231(b)(2)) – Justin Tate**

Mr. Tate distributed a spread sheet showing they had a total of 8 ballots to review

- One UOCAVA (Uniform and Overseas Civilian Absentee Voting Act) that had been duplicated by staff
  - The motion to approve the ballot passed 5/0
- Next are the 7 ballots for which Photo ID exception forms had been previously reviewed by the Board including one in which the voter told Mr. Tate the Photo ID copy was in the envelope with the ballot
  - Ms. Braine raised a question about the very light check mark on a ballot
  - Mr. Tate consulted Ms. Bailey who said the ballot needed to be duplicated
    - In a first, the Board had to duplicate a ballot; Mr. Shults and Ms. Braine read the marks while Mr. Aceto and Ms. Stein recorded the marks
  - Mr. Quinn asked whether the teams saw and heard the marks correctly and the ballot was fairly and recorded. The Board members said yes
  - The motion to approve the 7 ballots with exception forms passed 5/0
- Last were 8 absentee ballots with Photo ID copies reviewed by the Board
  - The motion to approve the 8 ballots with exception forms passed 5/0
- As the Board reviewed the ballots, Mr. Quinn asked whether any members of the public had comments or questions
  - No one spoke up

#### **V. Provisional Ballots (G.S. § 163-82.4(f)) – Justin Tate**

Mr. Tate presented the Board with 9 provisional ballots with Photo IDs

- One ballot did not qualify as a provisional ballot because the voter registered on March 4 after the deadline had passed. The person is now a registered voter but was not at the time of the second primary
  - Staff did not recommend that ballot for approval
  - Ms. Duncan said that provisional ballots are required across the country when a voter presents to vote but some question exists about their qualifications
  - The motion to disapprove the one ballot passed 5/0
- Ms. Duncan said the process typically involves duplication teams because voters will have difference ballot styles which did not occur in the second primary because everyone had the same ballot
- She also said that staff thoroughly research these ballots to make a recommendation to the Board on whether or not to approve the ballots, as shown by the research that showed the voter had registered after the deadline

- Staff follow a checklist in their research
- Mr. Quinn said that he remembered hearing at the last meeting that there were 11 provisional ballots
  - Ms. Duncan said that the two additional ballots were the result of poll worker error and would require manual edits of the results
  - Those 2 ballots will be presented to the Board at tomorrow's Canvass meeting
    - In one case the poll worker gave the voter a Democratic Authorization to Vote but the person was a registered Republican who voted a Republican ballot in the primary. The poll worker tried to correct their mistake by giving the voter a Republican ballot that staff located
- Mr. Tate said most of the provisional ballots were due to the voter appearing at an incorrect precinct
  - On the envelope staff wrote the correct precinct and Mr. Tate asked the Board members to note the correct precinct on the ballot if everything is OK
  - He further said that Mr. Quinn had to sign each ballot
- Motion to accept the 8 Provisional ballots approved 5/0
- Ballots, envelopes, and flash drives were placed in color coded envelopes, reviewed, and signed by Board Members, then sealed for secure storage
- Mr. Tate administered the oaths to Mr. Quinn who swore that ballots had been correctly distributed to eligible voters
- Before the Oath, Mr. Quinn again thanked the observers for their attendance, asked whether anyone had any comments, and invited them to the Canvass
  - No one spoke up
- Mr. Shults brought up a news article that reported that with the retirement of many election workers, states, such as Pennsylvania, are hiring young people, including teenagers to work in elections
  - Both Mr. Quinn and Ms. Duncan said Buncombe County has a Student Assistant program which allows students to get paid for their work in elections
  - The March 14 primary had several Student Assistants and staff hope to grow the program
- Ms. Bailey notarized several forms, including the Supplemental Ballot Abstract
- Motion to accept the Supplemental Ballot Abstract approved 5/0

**VI. Next Meetings:** Friday, May 24 at 11:00 am

**Location:** 59 Woodfin Place