

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

**Monitor Name:** Elaine and George Elam and Cheryl Williams

**Date & Time:** July 9, 2024 3:30 PM

**Names of Board Members Attending:**

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Mary Ann Braine, Board Member

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Glen Shults, Secretary

Sally Stein: Board Member

**Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending:** Corrine Duncan, Director; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; Neggy Fox, Deputy Director; Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Amy Meyers, new hire for Voter Registration position

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

**Observers:**

1 Common Cause, 1 Republican, 2 Democrats, 3 LWVAB, and 1 unknown. 3 online.

**Agenda Items**

**I. Agenda** for this meeting approved by acclamation

**II. Minutes** for 5/23/24 and 5/24/24 approved

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

- New Statute Books for the Board.
- Amy Meyers started July 1. She has a background in non profits and business.
- The County has added another Assistant County Manager, Ken Love. That makes 3. Election Services is under his portfolio as well as several other departments.
- Yesterday was the District One directors meeting for the western counties. Out of that meeting:
  - 1. New Epoll books will soon be certified by the State. These would replace our current laptops and will be available at the upcoming conference for the Board to look at. It would have to be a future purchase if approved.
  - 2. There is a cyber security table top exercise happening in Raleigh that K. Brinson Bell will be at. Devin is also attending.
  - 3. SB 88 has some election content including signature verification. Henderson and Cherokee Counties did the pilot program for the primary and second primaries and are getting ready for the general.

There's nothing in the bill saying who will pay for it. Sally questioned the process and Corrine said the data signatures on file would be uploaded to the software and used to compare signatures. If they don't match she said things could be fuzzy as to how to go forward.

Signatures from the DMV are from a finger pad and are not used in the software. The Board would be asked to review any rejected signatures. This process is for absentee ballots. The software uses the most recent signature on file.

- 4. If we have questions for the State Board we could take them to the conference and present them to the State Board. Requested the Board submit their question by July 19.
- The conference is in August 4th to 6<sup>th</sup> at Koury Convention Ctr. in Greensboro.
- On Sept 10th Victoria and Corrine will make first budget presentation.
- The Soil & Water filing is complete and the Municipal filing has begun. Two filed for Soil and Water, and at least a dozen filed for the municipal. All information is on the BOE website.
- The School Board filing starts July 19. There's a new law that created voting districts for Buncombe County schools. It used to be all at large districts. Now there's one at large plus the district you live in. Because of the changes 152k new registration cards have been sent out.
- Outreach programs: two successful poll worker info sessions reached 50 people. There will be one more session.
- General election info sessions in Shilo and Maplecrest. Jake is doing four trusted election tours , the first on August 20th. The Madison county Director will join. Also going to UNCA, Warren Wilson and AB Tech for outreach. Also hosting a tour for National conference for state legislators in September.
- Was at Lake Julian for the fireworks festival and had a booth for the sticker contest. Had lots of kids. July 12 is the deadline for entries. They will be narrowed down to about five for the public vote.
- Beginning to hire in-house staff. Will hire about 40 people to work in the office, vetted through Spherion. (If you think you know someone that might be interested, contact Karen Rae.)
- Mr. Aceto spoke about an ethics policy. He has received emails requesting information regarding the disclosure statement. He looked at the law and it's not clear if it applies to local Boards. Local Boards are not appointed by the Governor. However the local Chairman is appointed by the Governor. He has not received a query for financial disclosure.
- Mr. Aceto has not responded to the inquiries. 138(a)3. Stated ethics statute.
- Corrine has already asked the County, and local Boards are not subject to the disclosure. It has also been covered at a State conference in the past. Will be glad to ask the State Board again. Mr. Aceto will forward the emails to Corrine.
- Corrine stated we did not put money in the budget for a training space but now finds the space we had is no longer available. Have a small space at AB

tech, but it is not desirable. She's looking at NorthStar School that just closed. Talking tomorrow. Training will be September 16th to November 2nd. Need a classroom for 30 with tables plus another room for a pct. Poll worker training is statutory so a space must be provided. The need is for 800 poll workers, parking, power for equipment. The Counties plan moving forward is to take 35 Woodfin and make it into a one stop shop with all departments in the building. However a lot of sharing with departments. Security is a big topic. Building would be completed by next year.

- Election Services would move (again) the first of next year.
- The current warehouse 50 Coxe, and 52 Coxe has been identified for affordable housing.
- Might move the warehouse to Canoe Lane, again a shared warehouse space. It's about 20 minutes apart from office. May be 3 years from now.
- Voting location changes: 4 sites for Election Day.
  - 14.2 West Asheville library and Rec Center is convention to APD offices. May use Martin Nesbit Discovery Academy.
  - 39.2 Fairview Vol. Fire is doing a full renovation. May use Spring Mountain Community Ctr.
  - 70.1 Woodfin Community Ctr. is renovating. May use Woodfin Elementary.
  - 59.1 Weaverville Reems Creek area. First Born Church asked not to be a polling location. May use Beech Community ctr.
  - Hope to firm these up by the August meeting. Must be done by the September meeting.
  - Need to update precinct maps and meet the 45 day notice deadline.
- Lastly, the County is going to redesign their website. Will go from .org to .gov. A more secure option. Election Services will have more control over their content.
- Last minute NCSBOE press release. The Constitution Party is now officially recognized in NC. That adds to the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, Libertarian Party, Green Party, No Labels, and unaffiliated choices for voters.
- The We The People party and the Justice For All party will be discussed by the State Board at a later date.

## **VI. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, August 13 at 3:30 PM

**Location:** 59 Woodfin Place