

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

Monitor Name: Elaine Elam, George Elam, and Aiden Carson in person

Date & Time: October 15, 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;
Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Karen
Rae, Recruiting and Outreach Coordinator; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator;
Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist
Also Mr. Mueller, County Attorney

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

Well attended, with about 18 in person including 3 LWVAB and 1 Common Cause. 4
online.

Agenda Items

I. Agenda for this meeting approved without objection

II Minutes deferred until a later meeting

III. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan, Director

- Over 14,000 Absentee Ballots have been requested. Over 1,000 will be processed in this meeting.
- Early Voting will start Thursday. New EV cards have been printed and are available.
- There will be a State BOE press event on Thursday a 1 PM at the Black Mountain Library.

IV. Election Day Polling Place Modifications (NCSBE Oct 7 Emergency Resolution) Corinne Duncan

- A draft resolution has been prepared for the Board.
- Out of 80 Election Day locations, 15 or 16 cannot be used because of the hurricane disaster.
- 6 are Fire Departments, 3 are Disaster Relief hubs, and others are damaged or blocked.
- We have 450 confirmed Election Day poll workers and we will be able to staff all sites.

- Mr. Aceto asked about the plan for posting changes at disaster sites and documenting same, which was discussed at the last meeting. 37 sites (those that are staffed by Buncombe County and FEMA) have received election info and affidavits attesting to the posting have been signed, per Mr. Mueller. Mr. Aceto asked that the list of sites and affidavits be entered into the meeting record.
- Proposed Election Day Precinct Location changes (where 2 precincts are combined in one location, they will be separated as much as possible and will function as separate sites, each with their own set of judges, machines, etc. The greeter will direct voters to the correct area.) Below is the final list arrived at on 10/16 (see detailed list at the end of this doc).
 - **Precinct 2.1 to be transferred to existing 3.1** (Temple Avery Center to St. Mark's Lutheran Church). Tree fell on building.
 - **Precinct 19.1 to be transferred to 54.2** (Skyland Fire Dept. to Skyland First Baptist Church). Fire Department.
 - **Precinct 24.1 to be transferred to 15.1** (Crossroads Assembly to Lucy Herring Elementary). Flooded.
 - **Precinct 27.2 to be transferred to 5.1** (Beaverdam Fire Department to St. Eugene's Catholic Church). Fire Department.
 - **Precinct 34.1 to be transferred to 35.1** (Lakeview Center to Black Mountain Montessori). Flooded.
 - **Precinct 36.1 to be transferred to 33.2** (First Baptist Black Mountain to Black Mountain Primary). Disaster Relief hub.
 - **Precinct 37.1 to be moved within precinct** (Garren Creek Fire Department to the former Straightaway Café). A FEMA tent will be set up for the purpose at the new site. The tents are quite substantial with floors and heating. Flooded.
 - **Precinct 39.2 to be moved to 39.3** (Spring Mountain Community Center to Fairview Library). Disaster Relief hub.
 - **Precinct 41.1 to be moved within precinct** (French Broad Fire Department to Alexander Baptist Church). Fire Department.
 - **Precinct 49.1 to be moved to 48.1** (Pole Creek Baptist Church to Liberty Baptist Church). Disaster Relief hub.
 - **Precinct 57.1 to be transferred to 38.3** (Emmas Grove Baptist Church to Trinity of Fairview). Flooded.
 - **Precinct 60.2 to be moved to 60.4** (Reynolds Fire Dept. to AC Reynolds Middle School). Fire Department.
 - **Precinct 60.4 to be transferred to 39.3** (Abiding Savior Baptist Church to Fairview Community Center). Flooded.
 - **Precinct 61.1 to be moved to 66.1** (Riceville Community Center to Warren Wilson College). Flooded.
 - **Precinct 64.1 to be transferred to 66.1** (First Baptist Swannanoa to Artspace Charter School). Disaster Relief hub.

- **Precinct 66.1 to be moved within precinct** (Bee Tree Fire Dept. to Warren Wilson College). Fire Department.
- A planning map was brought to the room so Board members could better grasp the impact of the proposed changes.
- No election day precinct will have more than 2 combined precincts.
- Discussion to be resumed on Wednesday

V. Disaster Relief and Shelter Locations (NCSBE Oct 7 Emergency Resolution) Corinne Duncan

- The resolution designates disaster sites where MAT Teams will be allowed to go.
- Staff recommended 4 shelter sites.
- MAT Teams will be able to go to these sites and help people fill out Absentee Ballot Request forms. MAT Teams will be able to bring the request forms back to BOE for processing. Absentee Ballots will be mailed to voters at the shelter address (or other address specified on the request).
- MAT Teams will be able to collect Absentee Ballot envelopes at the shelter and deliver them to the BOE.
- Justin Tate explained how this would work. He pointed out that if voters were no longer at the shelter they could miss their ballot delivery.

V. Election Day Machine Testing (08 NCAC 04.0304)

Meeting was recessed to move to 50 Coxe Ave. for Machine Testing. LWV monitors did not attend the testing.

Part 2 – the meeting resumed the following day 10/16

Monitor Name: Elaine Elam and George Elam in person

Date & Time: October 16, 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; Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Karen Rae, Recruiting and Outreach Coordinator; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

? in person including 2 LWVAB. 5 online.

- There was further discussion of Election Day precinct changes.
 - Ms. Duncan presented a couple of options to consider if needed, including Artspace Charter School.
 - Ms. Stein said she thinks Chunns Cove Church will be usable according to her sources.
 - Mr. Aceto wanted to use Precinct 39.2 even though it is a significant distribution site. He would like to pause the distribution for the 2 days needed for Election Day voting. After discussion it was decided to leave the distribution site alone (Spring Mountain Community Center).
 - Ms. Stein moved to keep the St. Luke's Episcopal Church site (precinct 20.1). The motion was approved 5/0.
 - A motion was made to approve the updated Election Day sites. Approved 5/0.

VI. Absentee Ballot Review (G.S. § 163-230.1(f)) Justin Tate

- Justin presented 9 military ballots. They were duplicated and approved 5/0.
- He presented 30 Absentee Ballots that required Board review. 2 were recommended for disapproval because of no witness signature. The Board approved the other 28 ballots 5/0.
- 1 ballot was reviewed from a disabled person who had tan assistant help but put no name on the exception form. A motion to accept the ballot was approved 4/1, with Ms. Stein voting no. (The Board must vote unanimously to disapprove a ballot).
- The Board formed 5 bipartisan teams to review the majority of Absentee Ballots.
- Justin presented 209 photo id exception ballots. Approved 5/0.
- Justin presented 138 overseas ballots. They were duplicated and approved 5/0.
- Final tally:
 - 206 ballots with ID exception forms
 - 835 Civilian ballots
 - Total 1216
 - 4 ballots were put on hold to be reviewed at the next meeting.

LWV monitors did not stay to witness the boxing of the ballots as it was past midnight.

VII. Next Meetings: Tuesday, October 22 at 3:30 pm (Absentee Ballot Review)
Location: 59 Woodfin Place

Resolution No. 2024-10: Exhibit A

Temporary Transfer/Move	Precinct Number	Previous Polling Location	Voters in precinct	Transfer Precinct Number	Temporary Transfer/Move Polling Location	In-precinct/Out-of-precinct	Reason for Relocation
Transfer	2.1	Temple Avery Community Center, 34 Pearson Drive, Asheville 28801	3,395	3.1	St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 10 N. Liberty Street, Asheville 28801	Out-of-precinct (3.1)	Other: Downed tree on building
Transfer	19.1	Skyland Fire Department, 9 Miller Road South, Asheville 28803	1,966	54.2	Skyland First Baptist Church, 2115 Hendersonville Road, Arden 28704	Out-of-precinct (18.2)	Fire department
Transfer	24.1	Crossroads Assembly, 20 South Bear Creek Road, Asheville 28806	2,709	15.1	Lucy S. Herring Elementary School, 98 Sulphur Springs Road, Asheville 28806	Out-of-precinct (15.1)	Flood damage
Transfer	27.2	Beaverdam Fire Department, 450 Beaverdam Road, Asheville 28804	865	5.1	St. Eugene Catholic Church, 72 Culvern Street, Asheville 28804	Out-of-precinct (5.1)	Flood damage
Transfer	34.1	Lakeview Center, 401 Laurel Circle Drive, Black Mountain 28711	1,243	35.1	Black Mountain Montessori School, 10 Carver Avenue, Black Mountain 28711	Out-of-precinct (35.1)	Flood damage
Transfer	36.1	First Baptist Church-Black Mountain, 130 Montreat Road, Black Mountain 28711	2,119	33.2	Black Mountain Primary School, 301 State Street, Black Mountain 28711	Out-of-precinct (33.3)	Disaster relief hub
Move	37.1	Garren Creek Fire Department, 10 Flat Creek Road, Fairview 28730	1,603		FEMA Tent, 1722 NC 9 Highway, Black Mountain, NC 28711	In-precinct (37.1)	Fire department
Move	39.2	Spring Mountain Community Center, 807 Old Fort Road, Fletcher 28730	1,726		Fairview Library, 1 Taylor Road, Fairview 28730	Out-of-precinct (39.3)	Disaster relief hub
Move	41.1	French Broad Fire Department, 572 Fletcher Martin Road, Alexander 28701	3,476		Alexander Baptist Church, 1 Curtis Parker Road, Alexander 28701	In-precinct (41.1)	Fire department
Move	49.1	Pole Creek Baptist Church, 96 Snow Hill Church Road, Candler 28715	4,495		Liberty Baptist Church, 875 Monte Vista Road, Candler 28715	Out-of-precinct (48.1)	Disaster relief hub
Transfer	57.1	Emma's Grove Baptist Church, 417 Emmas Grove Road, Fletcher 28732	3,043	38.3	Trinity of Fairview, 646 Concord Road, Fletcher 28732	Out-of-precinct (38.3)	Flood damage
Move	60.2	Reynolds Fire Department, 1 Charles Lytle Lane, Asheville 28803	1,518		Reynolds Middle School, 2 Rocket Drive, Asheville 28803	Out-of-precinct (60.4)	Fire department
Transfer	60.4	Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 801 Charlotte Highway, Fairview 28730	1,767	39.3	Fairview Community Center, 1357 Charlotte Highway, Fairview 28730	Out-of-precinct (38.3)	Flood damage
Move	61.1	Riceville Community Center, 2251 Riceville Road, Asheville 28805	2,544		Warren Wilson College, 124 Lower College Road, Swannanoa 28778	Out-of-precinct (66.1)	Flood damage
Transfer	64.1	First Baptist of Swannanoa, 503 Park Street, Swannanoa 28778	2,207		Artspace Charter School, 2030 US 70 Highway, Swannanoa 28778	Out-of-precinct (66.1)	Disaster relief hub
Move	66.1	Bee Tree Fire Department, 510 Bee Tree Road, Swannanoa 28778	1,911		Warren Wilson College, 124 Lower College Road, Swannanoa 28778	In-precinct (66.1)	Fire department