

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 22, 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; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist; Nathaniel Speier, Candidate Coordinator; Joyce Kanavel

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

7 in person including 3 LWVAB and 1 Common Cause. 1 online.

Agenda Items

I. Agenda for this meeting approved without objection

II Minutes for 9/10//24 and 10/8/24 approved by acclamation

III. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan, Director

- Over 16,500 Absentee Ballots have been requested. Over 3,000 Absentee Ballots have been returned.
- The pattern or Early Voting has been a bit different this year. Usually the first day is the biggest, with the numbers decreasing after that. This year it has been fairly even each day, with Monday 10/19 being the biggest turnout.
- There has been an issue with Early Voting location at East Asheville Library. The parking lot is small and is shared by the library with several businesses. The owner of one of the businesses has blocked off access to some parking spaces and evidently with one of the exits. BOE has changed the traffic flow to accommodate this and has tried to contact the owner with no reply. An audience member stated that the spaces were blocked by a big truck which was put in place by the physical therapists office, who said the traffic was a safety hazard for their patients. Discussion ensued. Mr. Aceto called for the County Attorney to get involved. Ms. Duncan will follow up.
- Poll worker training for Election Day is now going on, with half of the workers now trained and the others under way. They have plenty of workers and backups.

- Chairman Quinn opened a discussion about changing the guidelines for MAT teams to allow them to actually deliver Absentee Ballots to people in Helene shelters. Numbered Memo 2024-07 specifically states that MAT Teams are not authorized to do this. However, Session Law directs local Boards to develop guidelines for MAT Teams, and to assist voters with obtaining and casting ballots. Mr. Aceto noted that Numbered Memos are not the law. Chairman Quinn stated that the failure of the SBOE to allow delivery of Absentee Ballots to shelters could be seen as an oversight, since the USPS is unable to deliver ballots to residents of shelters. Ms. Duncan will consult with County Attorney Mueller and with Paul Cox to get their input.
- Mr. Aceto stated that in Black Mountain a person had dropped off two Absentee Ballots for people unrelated to them. Ms. Duncan stated that poll workers are trained not to accept such ballots and are trained to log the transaction, although she had not heard of the incident.
- Ms. Braine said she had heard of people being turned away for having no photo ID. Ms. Duncan said workers are trained to offer exception forms or provisional ballots and that had been reminded of that.

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

- There have been changes to the plan presented last week.
- Precinct 2.1, Tempie Avery Community Center, is now safe and will be used.
- Precinct 33.3, Black Mountain Elementary School is now safe and will be used.
- Precinct 33.2, Black Mountain Primary School, has been moved to Black Mountain Library.
- Precinct 34.1, Lakeview Center, and 35.1, Black Mountain Montessori School, have both been moved to St. James Episcopal Church, which is now safe.
- Precinct 36.1, First Baptist Church Black Mountain, has been moved to Ridgecrest Conference Center.
- The final, detailed list of all Election Day Polling Locations is included at the end of this document.
- The resolution was approved 5/0.

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

- Justin presented 49 pending ballots to 2 bipartisan teams made up of Board members. Most were cases where the ballot had been put in the wrong envelope. 2 ballots were not approved (1 with no signature and 1 with no ID). Voters will be contacted to try to cure those 2, and the remaining 47 Absentee Ballots were approved 5/0.
- He presented 16 Military Absentee Ballots. Duplication had already been done. The Board approved the 16 ballots 5/0.
- 5 bipartisan teams were assembled from Board Members and Duplicating Team members. Justin presented 135 Overseas Ballots for review. They were approved 5/0.

- Ms. Duncan suggested that in processing the remaining ballots, the Board check the envelopes and then pass the unopened ballots to a staff team to open ballots and check the CID numbers. Any mismatch would be flagged for Board review. This plan was approved 5/0.
- Justin presented 268 Exception Forms for the same 5 bipartisan teams. The envelopes were reviewed and passed to the staff teams to open.
 - One ballot was questioned for having been assisted by a MAT team but signature was lacking. The vote was 3/2. Since the vote must be unanimous to disapprove a ballot, it was approved.
 - One ballot was assisted by a MAT Team but there was no signature at all on the ID Exception Form. The vote was 4/1, with Chairman Quinn voting to approve. Since the vote must be unanimous to disapprove a ballot, it was approved.

The meeting was recessed at 8:02, to be resumed the following day.

Monitor Name: Elaine Elam and George Elam in person

Date & Time: October 23, 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; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist; Nathaniel Speier, Candidate Coordinator; Joyce Kanavel

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

5 in person including 2 LWVAB, 1 Common Cause, 2 rotating Dems. 5 online.

Continuing discussion:

- Director Duncan stated the previously reported legal opinion from Mr. Mueller (BC Attorney) and Paul Cox (Attorney for the SBOE). Their opinion was that MAT Teams could not deliver Absentee Ballots to shelter residents.
- The Board discussed at length the options for providing voting opportunities to the shelters (272 people currently living there).
 - Shuttles
 - Temporary polling places
 - Extending Early Voting site hours
 - Mr. Aceto wanted a resolution to address the issue

- Justin stated that one of the three shelters is closing soon and another will also close, leaving Gold’s Gym the last remaining shelter.
- Mr. Aceto wanted a resolution addressing rules, logs, and engagement protocols for MAT Teams at the shelters.
- With regard to extending EV hours, Director Duncan went over the difficulties for poll workers leaving for home after dark, including storm related debris, pot holes and other safety concerns. She is comfortable with extending the hours from 5 to 6PM but no later.
- A long discussion followed regarding hour changes. Ms. Braine favors keeping the polls open until 6:30 pm.
- Chairman Quinn said that maybe they should have another meeting to discuss, but time is limited to notify voters.
- Director Duncan said she would confer with Neggy Fox concerning the discussion and the hourly distribution of voter turnout.
- Mr. Aceto acknowledged the strain on staff but continued to press for more hours.

**V. Absentee Ballot Review continued from Tuesday (G.S. § 163-230.1(f))
Justin Tate**

- Justin presented 1038 Civilian Absentee Ballots for review, with Board members reviewing envelopes and staff opening and checking CIDs, as the previous day.
- Discussion of a MAT Team resolution resumed.
 - Mr. Aceto wanted the words “all LAWFUL voting methods” inserted in a couple of places on the proposed resolution.
 - Director Duncan stated that the General Assembly has provided \$5 million for voting costs in the affected counties.
 - She had checked with Neggy on the voting site turnout hours. There are now about 100 voters per hour. There is much unhappiness with hours after 6 pm. There is no time to train more Early Voting workers. Many elements would be involved in changing hours. Staff anticipated some people would quit if the hours were extended. The average age of poll workers is over 70.
 - Chairman Quinn suggested incentivizing poll workers for extra hours with a pay increase of 20% or 25%.
 - Mr. Aceto moved to extend Early Voting hours from 5 to 6 pm, and the Buncombe County Board would seek to receive emergency funds.
 - Ms. Duncan said that Neggy thinks the change could be implemented on Monday October 28.
 - Ms. Stein said she would vote no because she is not sure the effort is worth the strain on poll workers and staff, regardless of the money discussion.
 - The motion was disapproved 3/2, with Director Quinn, Mr. Stein, and Mr. Shults voting no.

- Ms. Duncan gave input that the staff who were online were mostly negative on the increase in hours.
- There was a motion to approve 2024-13 on the direction to the MAT team.
- Back to Absentee Ballot Review, Justin presented one ballot with an expired Notary date. He recommended holding the ballot until the notary date could be checked.
- Another ballot with expired notary, rejected.
- One ballot recommended for spoiling due to CID mismatch and no corresponding ballot to offset, rejected.
- One ballot that was assisted by a MAT team but had no witness signature, rejected (still time to cure)
- One ballot with only one signature, rejected.
- One ballot where the signature and the witnesses signature look the same, accepted.
- Total 1038 Civilian Ballots approved 5/0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

VII. Next Meetings: Tuesday, October 29 at 3:30 pm (Absentee Ballot Review)
Location: 59 Woodfin Place

Buncombe County November 5, 2024, Precinct List Updated by Board Resolution No. 2024-12 on October 22, 2024

Precinct Number	Original Polling Location	Temporary Polling Location	Reason for Relocation
1.1	Stephens Lee Community Center 30 George Washington Carver St, Asheville 28801	No Change	N/A
2.1	Tempie Avery Community Center 34 Pearson Dr, Asheville 28801	No Change	N/A
3.1	St. Mark's Lutheran Church 10 N. Liberty St, Asheville 28801	No Change	N/A
4.1	North Asheville Community Center 37 E Larchmont Rd, Asheville 28804	No Change	N/A
5.1	St. Eugene Catholic Church 72 Culvern St., Asheville 28804	No Change	N/A
6.1	Trinity Presbyterian Church 17 Shawnee Trl, Asheville 28805	No Change	N/A
7.1	Kenilworth Presbyterian Church 123 Kenilworth Rd, Asheville 28803	No Change	N/A
8.2	Friendship Community Center 142 Shiloh Rd, Asheville 28803	No Change	N/A
8.3	Faith Tabernacle Christian Center 800 Appeldoorn Cir, Asheville 28803	No Change	N/A
9.1	Murphy-Oakley Community Center 749 Fairview Rd, Asheville 28803	No Change	N/A
10.1	Dr. Wesley Grant Sr Southside Center 285 Livingston St, Asheville 28801	No Change	N/A
11.1	Grove Street Community Center 36 Grove St, Asheville 28801	No Change	N/A
12.1	Hall Fletcher School – Gymnasium 60 Ridgelawn Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
13.1	Calvary Baptist Church 531 Haywood Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
14.2	Martin Nesbitt Discovery Academy 175 Bingham Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
14.3	Land of Sky Regional Council 339 New Leicester Hwy, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
15.1	Lucy S. Herring Elementary School 98 Sulphur Springs Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
16.2	West Asheville Library 942 Haywood Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
17.1	Unitarian Universalist Congregation 1 Edwin Pl, Asheville 28801	No Change	N/A
18.2	TC Roberson HS – Miami Cir off Long Shoals Rd 250 Overlook Rd, Asheville 28803	No Change	N/A
19.1	Skyland Fire Department 9 Miller Rd South, Asheville 28803	Skyland First Baptist Church 2115 Hendersonville Rd, Arden 28704	Fire department
20.1	St. Luke's Episcopal Church 219 Chunn's Cove Rd, Asheville 28805	No Change	N/A

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21.1	Haw Creek Elementary School 10 Bethesda Rd, Asheville 28805	No Change	N/A
22.2	Ira B. Jones School Auditorium 544 Kimberly Ave, Asheville 28804	No Change	N/A
23.2	Tried Stone Missionary Baptist Church 100 Carroll Ave, Asheville 28801	No Change	N/A
23.3	Evergreen Charter School 50 Bell Rd, Asheville 28805	No Change	N/A
24.1	Crossroads Assembly 20 South Bear Creek Rd, Asheville 28806	Lucy S. Herring Elementary School 98 Sulphur Springs Rd, Asheville 28806	Flood damage
25.1	Charles C. Bell School 90 Maple Springs Rd, Asheville 28805	No Change	N/A
26.1	St. George Episcopal Church 1 School Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
27.2	Beaverdam Fire Department 450 Beaverdam Rd, Asheville 28804	St. Eugene Catholic Church 72 Culvern St, Asheville 28804	Flood damage
28.1	Covenant Reformed Presbyterian 281 Edgewood Rd, Asheville 28804	No Change	N/A
29.2	New Hope Presbyterian 3070 Sweeten Creek Rd, Asheville 28803	No Change	N/A
30.2	Avery's Creek Elementary School 15 Park South Blvd, Arden 28704	No Change	N/A
30.3	Avery's Creek Community Center 899 Glenn Bridge Rd SE, Arden 28704	No Change	N/A
31.1	Biltmore Forest Town Hall 355 Vanderbilt Rd, Asheville 28803	No Change	N/A
32.1	Owen Middle School 730 Old US 70 Hwy, Swannanoa 28778	No Change	N/A
33.2	Black Mountain Primary School 301 E State St, Black Mountain 28711	Black Mountain Library 105 N. Dougherty Street, Black Mountain 28711	N/A
33.3	Black Mountain Elementary School 150 Flat Creek Rd, Black Mountain 28711	No Change	N/A
34.1	Lakeview Center 401 Laurel Circle Dr, Black Mountain 28711	St. James Episcopal Church 424 W. State Street, Black Mountain 28711	Flood damage
35.1	Black Mountain Montessori School 101 Carver Ave, Black Mountain 28711	St. James Episcopal Church 424 W. State Street, Black Mountain 28711	Flood damage
36.1	First Baptist Church - Black Mountain 130 Montreat Rd, Black Mountain 28711	Ridgecrest Conference Center 1 Ridgecrest Drive, Black Mountain 28711	Disaster relief hub
37.1	Garren Creek Fire Department 10 Flat Creek Rd, Fairview 28730	Temporary Polling Station 1722 NC 9 Hwy, Black Mountain 28711	Fire department
38.2	Cane Creek Middle School 570 Lower Brush Creek Rd, Fletcher 28732	No Change	N/A
38.3	Trinity of Fairview Church 646 Concord Rd, Fletcher 28732	No Change	N/A
39.2	Spring Mountain Community Center 807 Old Fort Rd, Fletcher 28730	Fairview Library 1 Taylor Rd, Fairview 28730	Disaster relief hub

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39.3	Fairview Community Center 1357 Charlotte Hwy, Fairview 28730	No Change	N/A
40.2	North Buncombe Elementary 251 Flat Creek Church Rd, Weaverville 28787	No Change	N/A
41.1	French Broad Volunteer Fire Department 572 Fletcher Martin Rd, Alexander 28701	Alexander Baptist Church 1 Curtis Parker Rd, Alexander 28701	Fire department
42.1	Emma Elementary School 37 Brickyard Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
43.2	Johston School 230 Johnston Blvd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
44.1	Enka – Candler Library 1404 Sand Hill Rd, Candler 28715	No Change	N/A
45.1	Enka Middle School 390 Asbury Rd, Candler 28715	No Change	N/A
46.1	Arboretum Main Building – Class Room 1 100 Fredrick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
47.1	Pisgah Elementary 1495 Pisgah Hwy, Candler 28715	No Change	N/A
48.1	Hominy Valley Elementary 450 Enka Lake Rd, Candler 28715	No Change	N/A
49.1	Pole Creek Baptist Church 96 Snow Hill Church Rd, Candler 28715	Liberty Baptist Church 875 Monte Vista Rd, Candler 28715	Disaster relief hub
50.1	Barnardsville School 20 Hillcrest Dr, Barnardsville 28709	No Change	N/A
51.2	Brookstone Church 90 Griffee Rd, Weaverville 28787	No Change	N/A
52.1	Leicester Library 1561 Alexander Rd, Leicester 28748	No Change	N/A
53.1	Leicester Community Center 2979 New Leicester Hwy, Leicester 28748	No Change	N/A
54.2	Lutheran Church of the Nativity 2425 Hendersonville Rd, Arden 28704	No Change	N/A
55.1	Glen Arden School 50 Pinehurst Cir, Arden 28704	No Change	N/A
56.2	Skyland First Baptist Church 2115 Hendersonville Rd, Arden 28704	No Change	N/A
57.1	Emma’s Grove Baptist Church 417 Emmas Grove Rd, Fletcher 28732	Trinity of Fairview 646 Concord Rd, Fletcher 28732	Flood damage
58.1	North Buncombe Middle School 51 N Buncombe School Rd, Weaverville 28787	No Change	N/A
59.1	Beech Mountain Community Center 15 Sugar Cove Rd, Weaverville 28787	No Change	N/A
60.2	Reynolds Fire Department 1 Charles Lytle Ln, Asheville 28803	Reynolds Middle School 2 Rocket Dr, Asheville 28803	Fire department
60.4	Abiding Savior Lutheran Church 801 Charlotte Hwy, Fairview 28730	Fairview Community Center 1357 Charlotte Hwy, Fairview 28730	Flood damage

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61.1	Riceville Community Center 2251 Riceville Rd, Asheville 28805	Warren Wilson College 124 Lower College Rd, Swannanoa 28778	Flood damage
62.1	Grassy Branch Baptist 499 Riceville Rd, Asheville 28805	No Change	N/A
63.1	Sandy Mush Community Center 19 School Rd, Leicester 28748	No Change	N/A
64.1	First Baptist of Swannanoa 503 Park St, Swannanoa 28778	Artspace Charter School 2030 US 70 Hwy, Swannanoa 28778	Disaster relief hub
65.1	WD Williams Elementary 161 Bee Tree Rd, Swannanoa 28778	No Change	N/A
66.1	Bee Tree Fire Department 510 Bee Tree Rd, Swannanoa 28778	Warren Wilson College 124 Lower College Rd, Swannanoa 28778	Fire department
67.1	Weaverville Town Hall 14 S Main St, Weaverville 28787	No Change	N/A
68.1	West Buncombe School 175 Erwin Hills Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
681	Newfound Community Center 3 Morgan Branch Rd, Leicester 28748	No Change	N/A
69.1	Erwin High School – Auxiliary Gym 60 Lee’s Creek Rd, Asheville 28806	No Change	N/A
70.1	Woodfin Elementary School 108 Elk Mountain Rd, Asheville 28804	No Change	N/A
71.1	Weaverville Community Center 60 Lakeshore Dr, Weaverville 28787	No Change	N/A