

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

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

Date & Time: November 15, 2024 11:00 AM

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; Victoria Pickens, Accounting Technician and Campaign Finance; Neggy Fox, Deputy Director; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist; Karen Rae, Elections Coordinator; Nathaniel Speier, Candidate Coordinator; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; 2 others

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

11 Total in person including 3 LWVAB 1 Common Cause, 1 Dem, 3 Rep, 1 attorney for vote protection, 5 online

I. Agenda for this meeting approved without objection

II. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan, Director

- All 1411 provisional ballots were processed last night
- The State Board has had an issue with posting results.
- The law states the Canvass must start by 11:00 AM
- We'll start first with same day registrations that were undeliverable where the 2nd verification came back.
- Next administrative challenges.
- Then Photo ID exception form review.
- The above 3 could change some totals.
- Then audit results for all sites.
- Undeliverable same day registrations (Devin Whitney):
 - Out of about 2500 same day registrations, 95 failed
 - The deadline for cure documentation was 11:00 AM today
 - Ms. Duncan noted that the new law states that if the verification card comes back twice, the registration must be rejected
 - Chairman Quinn remarked on the many process changes the staff has had to deal with in this election

- Chairman Quinn moved to remove the 95 registrations and remove the ballots from the count. Passed 5-0.
- Later in the meeting, the total was amended from 95 to 91, and the motion was likewise amended.

III. Administrative Challenges (G.S. § 163-89) Devin Whitney

- Letters went out to all the voters challenged
- Devin recommended withdrawing 2 of the challenges
 - 1 person was found to not be a felon
 - 1 absentee ballot actually should have been counted but was on the list due to poll worker error
- He presented a ballot of a voter who was not registered but had the same first and last name of a registered voter. A different middle name identified the problem.
- Chairman Quinn called out the names of the 15 challenged voters reviewed at the 11/8 meeting so if they were present they could respond.
- Chairman Quinn called out the 42 names from a second stack of challenges, voters using the wrong ballot style.
- Chairman Quinn called out the names from a third stack of challenged voters.
 - One of those voters, Eric Campbell, was in the room and responded.
 - He had been on the Felon list but he presented documents proving his voting rights should be restored, and had been restored within the time for registration.
 - Chairman Quinn moved to withdraw the challenge. Passed 5-0.
 - Everyone clapped for Mr. Campbell
- Photo ID Exception forms (Victoria Pickens)
 - Victoria stated they had tried contacting these 5 voters via letter, phone if available, and text. ID had to be presented by 5 pm yesterday.
 - They had checked the “Other” reason on the form
 - The first had stated “forgot Photo ID” as the reason
 - Mr. Aceto stated that an exception form saying “forgot ID” was not a valid excuse & not responsive to the question.
 - Board voted 5-0 to disapprove
 - The second voter stated that his license expired 5 years ago. He is under 65 years of age.
 - Mr. Aceto moved to uphold the challenge
 - Board voted 5-0 to disapprove
 - The third voter was not registered and had no signatures on the exception form.
 - Ms. Braine moved to uphold the challenge.
 - Board voted 5-0 to disapprove

- The fourth had an expired out-of-state license and was under 65.
 - Board voted 5-0 to disapprove
- The fifth forgot and left ID at home.
 - Board voted 5-0 to disapprove

At 12:20 the Board recessed for lunch and to allow staff to apply the manual edits required by board actions. The meeting resumed at 2:00 PM with 11 persons online.

IV. Presentation of Audit (G.S. § 163-182.5) Victoria Pickens

- Victoria distributed a printout to the Board and to audience members
 - 530 Provisional Ballots have been approved
 - 202 Photo ID forms
 - 40 wrong precinct but right ballot style
 - 76 registration not found initially
 - 83 removed from voter rolls but reinstated
 - 89 unrecognizable addresses resolved
 - 40 other
 - 145 Provisional Ballots partially approved
 - 2 Photo ID not provided
 - 106 wrong precinct
 - 8 no record of registration at first
 - 16 previously removed
 - 8 unrecognized address
 - 5 other
 - 740 Provisional Ballots disapproved
 - 68 Photo ID not provided
 - 3 wrong precinct
 - 596 not registered
 - 31 previously removed
 - 9 unrecognized address
 - 33 other
- Justin presented the Absentee Final Audit
 - There were no changes
 - Total Absentee Ballots 12,214
- Devin presented 6 same day registrations that are locked out of the cure process due to time.
- Justin presented the military and overseas audit. No changes in the numbers.
- Bria presented the final audit spreadsheet and summary.
 - Total votes cast 161,276 (74.36% of registered voters)

At 3:28 PM the Board recessed so the staff could print the reports. They reconvened at 4:30 PM.

**V. Presentation of Reports & Certification of Election
(G.S. § 163-182, G.S. § 163-182.5)**

Bria Bailey

- Bria presented the final reports and manual edit log. (about 1 1/2” thick)
- Mr. Aceto moved to certify Buncombe County election. Passed 5-0 at 4:59 pm.
- Board signed and Ms. Duncan notarized.

VI. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 1:00 PM

- **Warehouse at 50 Coxe Ave. (possible recount)**