

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

**Monitor Name:** George Elam and Elaine Elam in person

**Date & Time:** December 18, 2024 2:00 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; Victoria Pickens, Accounting Technician and Campaign Finance; Karen Rae, Elections Coordinator; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist

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

**Observers:**

4 Total in person including 2 LWVAB, 1 Common Cause, 1 unknown; 3 online

**I. Agenda for this meeting approved without objection**

**II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10) passed by acclamation for 11-14, 15, 19, and 12-4**

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

- Last Tuesday the State Board said the recounts for three State offices would not continue. One was Allison Riggs race for State Supreme Court. Corrine said they could now catch up on voter registration, preparing for the bi-annual mailing, and update the archives.
- Today Victoria will present the preliminary budget. Will also discuss the move to 35 Woodfin.
- Ms. Duncan said that SB 382 passed by overriding the Governor’s veto. One item in the bill states that all absentee ballots must be counted on election day night. She said that would be impossible. It took three meetings to count them for the general.
- Jake said there was a lawsuit filed pertaining to SB 382.
- Sally asked about the recent NCSBOE meeting. Jake said there were 4 items discussed.
  - 1: Was the process properly served. Vote was yes 3-2 party lines. Not to send to full hearing.
  - 2: Was a challenge to 60K voters who did not give the last four of their SS# or DL. Vote was 3-2 not to send full hearing.

- 3: Challenge to NC voters who do not reside in NC. Vote was 3-2 not to send to full hearing. Again party lines.
- 4: Was a challenge to military overseas voters that did not provide a phone ID. The vote on that one was 5-0 not to send to full hearing.

#### **IV 35 Woodfin Street Update – Victoria Pickens**

- Next, two members of the county representing the County Manager were present in person to answer questions pertaining to the move to 35 Woodfin and the soon to be built warehouse at Canoe Ln. at Riverside Dr.
- Scott ?(could not understand Corrine ) and Robert Brown for the county Admin.
- Many questions and concerns were asked of Scott concerning 35 Woodfin. Security and office continuity were top concerns.
- The BOE offices would not all be together or on the same floor. There would be a shared space for a board room. There would be BOE, Planning Department, Air Quality, Tax Collections, Tax assessment, and Family Justice center in the building.
- Scott assured them no one would be able to access the BOE offices without a security badge or an escort. BOE offices would be mostly on the second floor. Board rooms, break rooms, and bathrooms would be on every floor. Temporary election workers would be on the first floor conference room.
- Jake had many concerns regarding the proposed plans.
- Mr. Aceto had concerns about security.
- Online staff were texting Corrine with concerns that she voiced. (no one at Election Services seemed happy about the move). The Board also was not enthusiastic.
- I asked later in the meeting why the move in the first place. Scott said it was because the county wanted to fill up the empty space it had in county buildings. Then I asked what was to be done with the 59 Woodfin building. No one could answer that one.
- Next, Robert Brown explained the timeline for the warehouse to be built at Riverside. They expect to complete planning by 3-25. It will take 12 months to complete design.
- 16-18 months to finish project plus one year to move everyone in. There will be 44 departments using the building for storage.
- Both county reps used power point presentations. They are not available to the public.
- The next facility discussion will be on January 8th Wed @ 2pm, prior to having a meeting with the county.

#### **V. Budget Update (GS § 163-33(11), GS § 163-37) - Victoria Pickens**

- Next, Victoria presented the FY 25 budget update. The budget will be a little less than 1.5 million.
- Planning had started pre Helene.

- Jan 24 Corrine will meet with Tim Love, the liaison to the county administration.
- Victoria said there are no large capital items. They will need 50 K to replace ballot boxes. There were 3 elections in 2024. They anticipate 2 in 2026.
- The State Board returned 11K due to Helene.
- The next budget update will be January 13th to approve the budget.

#### **VI. Poll Worker Survey – Karen Ray**

- Karen Rae provided the poll worker survey results.
- 73% of the workers were past workers. Many said it would be their last. Many said the same thing at the last election cycle.
- Karen would like to recruit younger workers.
- Many poll workers see the process positively due to the checks and balances.
- The ExpressVote machines received mostly positive comments

#### **V. Next Meeting**

Wednesday, January 8 at 2:00 PM at 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville