



BUNCOMBE COUNTY ELECTION SERVICES

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday June 26, 2020

5:30 pm

Welcome of Visitors

- I. Office Updates
- II. Supplemental List of Executed Absentee Ballots
(G.S.163A-1312(a)/163-232.1*)

* Old law G.S.163A now back to G.S.163

Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2020

Opening

The scheduled meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 5:30 pm June 26, 2020, at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

In response to the COVID-19 threat and NC Stay at Home Order, the board meeting was held with limited in-person Board members and staff. Board members, staff, and the public could attend by a virtual public access site hosted through the Public Teams meeting app. Directions on how to attend by virtual access were provided on the Buncombe BOE website.

Present

Board Members-

Jake Quinn, Chairman (in person)
Linda Block (in person)
Stephen G. Duncan (in person)
Elizabeth Newman (in person)
Jay Watson (in person)

BOE Staff-

Corinne Duncan, Director (in person)
Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist (in person)
Kaylea Noce, Absentee (in person)
Bobbie Johnston, Absentee (in person)
Neggy Fox (in person)

Visitors-

1 virtual guest

Welcome Visitors and Introduction of Remote Meeting Features

Chairman Jake Quinn welcomed the virtual guest.

Item One - Office Update

Director Duncan gave the following updates:

- Election Day went well and there were no issues.
 - There were close to 8,000 voters on Election Day compared to the approximate 1,500 voters during Early Voting.
 - The new process for Election Night check in was implemented and went very well. There are some small modifications we will be implementing during the next election.
 - Canvass week processes:
 - Audit is complete
 - Provisional ballots (104) have been reviewed.
 - Warehouse is being organized

- Next week board meeting will be to review all 104 Provisional Ballots on Thursday (July 2, 2020) 5:30pm and Canvass on Monday July 6, 2020.
- State Board of Elections has issued Numbered Memo 2020-13 RE: One-Stop Planning for the 2020 General Election.

Item Two—Consideration of Absentee Ballot Applications Civilian, Overseas and Military

- Staff member Kaylea Noce presented 32 civilian absentee ballots, these are the final civilian absentee ballots since the deadline was 5:00PM today, June 26, 2020. There were zero UOCAVA absentee ballots for review by the CBOE.
 - The Board worked in two bipartisan teams to review and approve the absentee ballots.
 - The teams were provided with a list of the corresponding absentee ballot envelopes.
 - After approval by the BCBOE, ballots were removed and scanned.
 - Staff member Noce notified the Board:
 - One ballot was not approved for it was incomplete.
 - Four ballots received the day after Election Day did not have postmarks so per current election laws they cannot be approved.
 - The Post Office has been contacting BOE almost daily to find out what problems we have been encountering.
 - The Board discussed how this is troubling and part of the cause is the way envelopes are processed through USPS machines. Staff member Johnston said that we have had approximately 50% of the ballots mailed out returned, which was expected for some people had indicated this was a backup plan if they didn't feel comfortable going to in-person voting.
 - Member Block noted that out of the 10,194 ballots cast in this 2nd Primary, only 400 or so of these were absentee ballots. Director Duncan explained that this is not representative of a regular election.
 - Staff member Noce presented the Supplemental Certificate of Executed Absentee Ballots for Civilian and Military & Overseas Citizens –(Post Election) for Chairman Quinn to sign.
 - The Board signed the audit log for the executed 32 civilian absentee ballots.
- Chairman Quinn motioned to approve the 32 civilian absentee ballots. The Board approved the absentee ballots unanimously.
 - The Board verified the sealed polybag containing the 32 original civilian absentee ballots.

Item Three – Additional Discussion about 2nd Primary Election

- Member Block reported that only one of the Chief Judges during the 2nd Primary Election night check-in return expressed concern about the lack of mask wearing of the voters, estimating that 50% were without..

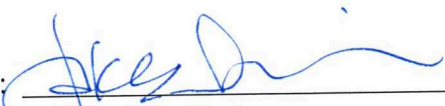
- Staff member Neggy Fox announced a survey had been sent to all Election Day workers, which included questions regarding any safety concerns for themselves or voters from the virus, along with other typical Election Day issues.

Public Comments


No questions or comments were submitted by virtual attendees.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56pm. The next meeting will be 5:30pm on July 2, 2020, at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Minutes submitted by: Mary Harrill

Approved by: 

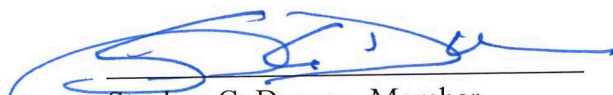
Jake Quinn, Chairman



Elizabeth Newman, Secretary



Jay Watson, Member



Stephen G. Duncan, Member



Linda Block, Member



NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611

(919) 814-0700 or
(866) 522-4723

Fax: (919) 715-0135

Numbered Memo 2020-13

TO: County Boards of Elections
FROM: Karen Brinson Bell, Executive Director
RE: One-Stop Planning for the 2020 General Election
DATE: June 24, 2020

Submission of One-Stop Plans

The deadline for submission of one-stop plans is **Friday, July 31, 2020**. July 31 is the deadline for both unanimous and non-unanimous plans. We need to receive all proposed majority and minority plans by this deadline to ensure that our data team has time to complete its data analysis prior to the State Board's meeting. Letters explaining the rationale for the proposed plan and other supporting documents may be submitted after July 31. Supporting documents may be sent directly to the Legal Division.

We anticipate that the State Board will hold its meeting to consider non-unanimous plans during the last week of August.

Recommendations for One-Stop Sites

Counties should begin work now on one-stop plans and have those ready for the final week of July. **As Executive Director, I strongly encourage all counties to consider expanding the number of one-stop voting sites for the 2020 general election, for which Session Law 2020-17 appropriated funds.**

Presidential elections traditionally have high turnout, and as we have seen in some other states and jurisdictions, conducting an election during the coronavirus pandemic has caused long lines for in-person voting, which conflicts with recommendations from public health officials about large gatherings and the spread of the virus. It may take longer to process voters as we employ health and safety measures and social distancing. Counties should also consider conducting one-stop early voting each of the 17 days permitted by law to further accommodate the large volume of voters and to adhere to health and safety measures.

Because of North Carolina's tendency to have tremendous participation during the one-stop early voting period, we must prepare accordingly. While we believe we will see an increase in absentee by mail voting, the Congressional District 11 Republican second primary has shown that North Carolinians will continue to vote in-person. For voters who choose to vote in-person, one-stop early voting is the best means to ensure there is not a bottleneck on Election Day, when we may face additional challenges in administering voting including possible poll worker and polling place shortages.

As we have reiterated since March, no voter should fear disease when casting their ballot. Expanding the opportunity to vote during the one-stop period with an increase in the number of sites and providing in-person voting everyday of the 17-day period is the most proactive step we can take to ensure the health and safety for voters, poll workers, and all election officials during in-person voting since we know our Election Day polling places are often limited in size, availability, and accessibility.

Statutory Requirements

"In Lieu of" Site

G.S. § 163-227.6(a) permits a county board of elections to conduct one-stop voting at a site other than its office if the site is "reasonably proximate" to the office. These sites are typically referred to as "in lieu of sites."

We have received questions about how county boards should determine whether a particular location may serve as an in lieu of site. I am not aware that the State Board has issued guidance on this matter. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some county board of elections offices or typical in lieu of sites are not large enough to accommodate social distancing needs this year. Therefore, I am issuing the following guidance that I will use in my review of unanimous one-stop plans to determine whether a site is reasonably proximate to the county board office.

The in lieu of site must be:

1. In the same city or town as the county board of elections office; and
2. Either (a) within 4 miles driving distance of the county board office; or (b) within 10 minutes driving time, using Google Maps or a similar online calculator.

Additionally, if the site is being moved to a different area of town, the county board must consider whether an additional site or sites are necessary to reduce the driving or commuting time for voters for whom the in lieu of site is less convenient than the previous office location.

State Board Criteria

Previously, statute required the State Board to consider the "factors including geographic, demographic, and partisan interests of that county" in adopting a plan for a county board of elections.

G.S. § 163-227.6, as amended by Session Law 2019-239, now requires that the State Board consider “whether the Plan disproportionately favors any party, racial or ethnic group, or candidate.”

During its consideration of non-unanimous plans for the 2020 primary, the State Board interpreted the amendment to not constitute a substantial change in the criteria required for its consideration. The current statute requires that the entire plan, not an individual one-stop site, be considered in determining that a plan does not disproportionately favor a party, racial or ethnic group, or candidate. While the State Board must take the listed factors into consideration, it was not prohibited from considering other factors at the same time. Constitutional provisions, including the *NAACP v. McCrory* decision by the 4th Circuit in 2016 that struck down statutory changes designed to restrict Sunday voting, are also not affected by the change in state law.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

EXECUTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS SUPPLEMENTAL - PRECINCT SEQ.

ELECTION DATE = "06/23/2020"
 ABSENTEE TYPE = "CIV"
 BOARD MEETING DT (yyyymmdd) = "2020-06-26 05:30PM"
 1: VAD_ballot_return_lbi = "OK" AND
 2: VAD_ballot_approval_dt <> "" AND
 3: VAD_ballot_return_dt_str <> "" AND
 4: VAD_is_bill_rtn_before_elect_dt = 0

PCT	VTD	MUNI	NAME	RR	VRN	APPLICATION NUM	BALLOT NUM	BALLOT STYLE	BOARD MTG DATE	RETURN DATE
02.1	02.1	ASH	SMITH, BRANDON EDWARD		0000000450617	CIV-1494	000-1796	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
02.1	02.1	ASH	SMITH, TRACY NICOLE		0000000450614	CIV-1489	000-1791	R0001	06/26/2020	06/24/2020
13.1	13.1	ASH	FAIRFAX, LINDSAY MARIE		0000000456761	CIV-1270	000-1568	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
18.2	101.1	ASH	TOYNE-COLEMAN, MARGUERITE CASTLES		0000000321020	CIV-1026	000-1026	R0001	06/26/2020	06/24/2020
20.1	20.1	ASH	WOLFF, ROGER KENT JR		0000000372667	CIV-1446	000-1748	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
21.1	103.1	ASH	COURIER, CARY LAMOND		0000000370141	CIV-1568	000-1876	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
21.1	103.1	ASH	TAYLOR, BEATRICE W		0000000163493	CIV-1518	000-1820	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
22.2	104.1	ASH	DEUTSCH, HUNTING FOLGER	Y	0000000471808	CIV-1395	000-1697	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
22.2	104.1	ASH	DEUTSCH, MARY BRASSIL		0000000471803	CIV-1396	000-1698	R0001	06/26/2020	06/25/2020
29.2	102.1	ASH	FINNEGAN, ELIZABETH ANN		0000000170837	CIV-1555	000-1857	R0001	06/26/2020	06/25/2020
29.2	102.1	ASH	GILTNER, JENNIFER QUIST	Y	0000000490227	CIV-1567	000-1875	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
35.1	35.1	ASH	THOMAS, JAMES HENRY SR		0000000059618	CIV-605	000-1885	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
37.1	37.1	BMTN	DALE, JAMES WALKER		0000000400372	CIV-1577	000-1664	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
37.1	37.1		WILKINSON, ANTHONY ALLEN		0000000445252	CIV-1363	000-1663	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
38.2	38.2		WILKINSON, DORIS HUDSON		0000000446564	CIV-1362	000-1663	R0001	06/26/2020	06/24/2020
40.2	107.1		BUFF, BETTY RICE	Y	000000477070	CIV-1574	000-1882	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
40.2	107.1		THORNELOE, DORIS PLAYER		0000000394809	CIV-1499	000-1801	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
44.1	44.1	ASH	THORNELOE, KEITH CARTLEDGE II		0000000368395	CIV-1500	000-1802	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
47.1	47.1		HERRERA, MAYRA FERNANDEZ		0000000473699	CIV-1521	000-1823	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
48.1	48.1		SHIPMAN, EMILY NICOLE		000000008531	CIV-1578	000-1886	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
48.1	48.1		BRYSON, SANDRA PLEMMONS		0000000416092	CIV-1579	000-1887	R0001	06/26/2020	06/24/2020
49.1	49.1		BRYSON, THOMAS LARRY		0000000429245	CIV-1533	000-1835	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
51.2	107.1		TOM, KENNETH TYSON SR		0000000313650	CIV-1416	000-1846	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
57.1	57.1		PICKENS, DALE ALLEN		0000000175785	CIV-1390	000-1718	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
57.1	57.1		SUBLETT, GARY WAYNE		0000000175786	CIV-1394	000-1692	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
61.1	61.1		SUBLETT, ROSALINE POCOPANNI		0000000266753	CIV-1566	000-1696	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
65.1	65.1		SULLIVAN, BARBARA ANN		0000000146382	CIV-1589	000-1874	R0001	06/26/2020	06/23/2020
			ROCKWELL, DIANA LYNN				000-1897	R0001	06/26/2020	06/25/2020

Jun 26, 2020 3:18PM

ABS_exec_ballots_pct_seq.rpt

PCT	VTD	MUNI	NAME	RR	VRN	APPLICATION NUM	BALLOT NUM	BALLOT STYLE	BOARD MTG DATE	RETURN DATE
65.1	65.1		✓ ROCKWELL, RICHARD ANDREW JR		000000146383	CIV-1588	000-1896	R0001	06/26/2020	06/25/2020
67.1	67.1	WVLE	✓ STEPHENS, JAY WALTER		000000057556	CIV-1569	000-1877	R0001	06/26/2020	06/25/2020
70.1	70.1	WFIN	✓ WATMAN, LIZABETH ANN	Y	000000420698	CIV-1517	000-1819	R0001	06/26/2020	06/25/2020

Election Total: 32

GRAND TOTAL: 32

ELECTION DATE: 06/23/2020

[Handwritten Signature]
[Handwritten Signature]
 Sandra Black 6/26/20

SUPPLEMENTAL CERTIFICATE OF EXECUTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS
(MILITARY & OVERSEAS CITIZENS - POST ELECTION)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

I, Jake Quinn, Chair of the BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a list of all executed military-overseas ballots to be voted in the election to be conducted on the 23rd day of June, 2020, which have been approved by the county board of elections, and which have either:

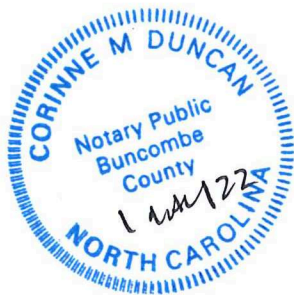
1. been received by the county board of elections no later than the close of the polls,
or
2. the covered voter submitted the ballot for mailing, electronic transmission, or other authorized means of delivery not later than 12:01 A.M. on the day of the election and the ballot was delivered to the board of elections by the end of business on the business day before the canvass conducted by the county board of elections.

I further certify that I have *issued* military-overseas ballots to no other persons than those listed herein and further that I have not *delivered* military-overseas ballots to persons other than those listed herein; that this list constitutes the only precinct registration of covered voters whose registration may be permanent or temporary as provided by law.

This the 26th day of June, 2020.

Jake Quinn
(Signature of Chair of County Board of Elections)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26 day of JUNE, 2020.



Witness my hand and official seal.

CWO
(Signature of Officer Administering Oath)

DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS
(Title of Officer)

SUPPLEMENTAL CERTIFICATE OF EXECUTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS
(CIVILIAN - POST ELECTION)

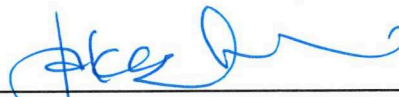
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

I, Jake Quinn, Chair of the BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a list of all executed absentee ballots to be voted in the election to be conducted on the 23rd day of June, 2020, which have been approved by the county board of elections, and which have either:

1. been transmitted by mail or by commercial courier service, at the voter's expense, or delivered in person, or by the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian and received by the county board not later than 5:00 p.m. on election day.
- or
2. been postmarked on or before the day of the election and received by the county board of elections not later than three days after the election by 5:00 p.m.

I certify that the chair, member, officer, or employee of the board of elections has not delivered ballots for absentee voting to any person other than the voter, by mail or by commercial courier service or in person, except as provided by law, and have not mailed or delivered ballots when the request for the ballot was received after the deadline provided by law.

This the 26th day of June, 2020.



(Signature of Chair of County Board of Elections)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26 day of JUNE, 2020.



Witness my hand and official seal.



(Signature of Officer Administering Oath)

DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

(Title of Officer)