



# BUNCOMBE COUNTY ELECTION SERVICES

## BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### **Board Meeting Agenda**

Friday October 30, 2020

3:00 pm

Welcome of Visitors

- I. Minutes
- II. Office Updates
- III. Absentee Review

**Buncombe County Board of Elections**  
Meeting Minutes  
**October 30, 2020**

**Opening**

The scheduled meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 3:10 pm October 30, 2020 at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801. A copy of the agenda is attached.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and NC Safer at Home Order, the board meeting was held with limited in-person Board members and staff. Members of the public and additional staff were invited to attend virtually using Microsoft Teams. Directions on how to attend this virtual meeting are provided to the public on the Buncombe BOE website.

**Present**

Board Members-

Jake Quinn, Chairman (in person;  
3PM)  
Linda Block (in person; 3:05PM)  
Stephen G. Duncan (in person;  
3:10PM)  
Elizabeth Newman (in person;  
3PM)  
Jay Watson (in person; 3:00PM)

Visitors-

5 virtual guests  
John Noce, SST District 1 (in  
person)

BOE Staff-

Corinne Duncan, Director (in person)  
Kaylea Noce, Absentee & Training  
Specialist (in person)  
Kevin Roberts, Administrative Technician  
(in person)  
Kanthilata Kahaduwe (in person)  
Marc Zigterman (in person)  
Patrick Kilroy (in person)  
Anita Sparks (in person)  
Alyssa Hunt (in person)  
Tyler Henry (in person)  
Karen Rae (in person)  
Rodrick Dupree (in person)  
Mary Kancevitch (in person)  
Ian Thompson (in person)  
Emma Rose Trautmann-Galloway (in  
person)

## **Welcome Visitors and Introduction of Remote Meeting Features**

Chairman Jake Quinn welcomed virtual guests.

### **Item One – Approval of Minutes**

- Chairman Quinn deferred the discussion meeting minutes.

### **Item Two – Office Updates**

- Director Duncan gave the following updates:
  - The office is shifting its focus towards Election Day.
  - Early voting is wrapping up with today and tomorrow being the last days.
    - The sites will be open from 8am until 3pm on the last day, October 31.
    - That is also the last chance for same-day registration.
    - Once the audit is complete from early voting sites all Election Day laptops will be updated with the information and sent out to the polling locations.
    - Supply pick-up for chief judges is coordinated for Sunday and Monday.
  - Update on turnout numbers:
    - Turnout for early voting in 2016 was a little over 100,000 voters, this year sites are at approximately 99,000 voters and are expected to exceed 2016 turnout in the second to last day.
    - Between early voting and absentee-by-mail ballots returned, turnout for all of Buncombe County is at 62% with Election Day still ahead. Turnout for all of 2016 was 71%.
    - There are 205,000 registered voters in Buncombe County, 129,000 voters have already voted which leaves about 77,000 voters to cast a ballot.
    - Statewide turnout reached 50% as of October 30.

### **Item Four – Absentee Review**

- Staff member Noce first presented to the Board for approval the UOCAVA ballots;
  - There are 29 MIL and
  - 84 OVR
  - For a total of 113 UOCAVA ballots.
- There were approximately 3,000 absentee-by-mail ballots set for approval this meeting, from return dates between October 26 and October 29.
- Staff member Noce presented the Board with the zero tapes from the DS850 scanner being used this meeting.
- Staff member Noce presented the Board with the write in ballots from last meeting that the Board authorized staff to prepare outside of the meeting.

- Staff member Noce presented the Board with a ballot that had been received via the online portal for a visually-impaired person. This was the first one that the office received through this new feature.

The Board recessed at 5:56 for 40 minutes for dinner; the meeting reconvened at 6:46.

- Staff member Noce presented the Board with ballots that required closer consideration.
  - Three ballots with no voter signature but there was indication that the voter was unable to sign.
    - The Board considered each of the ballots individually and were able to determine that the voter did require assistance and received that assistance from a person who is legally able to provide it, such as a near relative or legal guardian.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the three ballots presented, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

- One ballot where the witness did not print their name in the provided section but did provide it elsewhere on the absentee return envelope.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the ballot, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

- A few ballots where the witness is the same as the assistant; in the assistant section they provided their information in full, however that information is not fully present in the witness section.
- The same situation, however it was the mistake of a MAT member. Staff member Noce recommended that the two situations be considered separately because one was the oversight of a staff member.
- The Board reviewed each of the envelopes and determined that the witness and the assistant are the same person and all of the necessary information was provided on the return envelope in case that person would need to be contacted.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the presented ballots, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the two ballots where the MAT members erred in completing the absentee return envelope fully but did provide all the necessary information, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

- One ballot that had been returned with a cure affidavit where the signature is very different on the affidavit from that of the voter on the return envelope; and where the signature on two ballot envelopes are very similar to one another.

Member Watson moved that the absentee ballot with CIV number 38811 be approved, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

Member Duncan moved to approve the cured ballot in question, the motion passed, member Block abstained.



- One ballot returned in a different CIV numbered envelope. It was determined that the ballot and envelope all belonged to the same voter who had spoiled their first ballot and requested a second one. The second ballot was returned in the first return envelope that had been issued.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the ballot, the motion carried.

- Five ballots with CIV swap that were determined to be the mistake of staff members.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the ballots where in mailing out the absentee ballots, staff mismatched the CIV numbers, and that they be duplicated with the correct CIV number as in previous meetings, the motion carried.

- Staff member Noce presented the Board with absentee-by-mail ballots recommended for disapproval;
  - Two ballots where the voter signed the incorrect absentee envelope.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the two ballots presented, the motion carried.

- One ballot found during the meeting, the voter had been sent a cure affidavit but the absentee return envelope was missing a witness signature, which per state guidance is not a curable deficiency.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the ballot presented, the motion carried.

- Finally, there were 18 ballots presented and recommended for disapproval due to missing witness signature.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the 18 ballots missing a witness signature, the motion carried.

- Staff member Noce brought to the Board an issue that has come up over the course of the past weeks; voters who have returned absentee-by-mail ballots but after returning their ballots moved at some point; therefore they did not vote the correct ballot style.
  - All of the affected voters have been contacted; and been made aware of the situation. They will be able to go to early voting or vote on Election Day in order to vote the correct ballot style, or have the possibility to have their absentee-by-mail vote count as a partial vote based on where they currently reside.
- At the end of the night the Board members each checked the total number of ballots scanned against the report printed to ensure that the number matched, all members agreed the numbers balanced.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the 3,320 CIV ballots reviewed today, the motion carried

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the 84 OVR ballots reviewed today, the motion carried.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the 29 MIL ballots reviewed today, the motion carried.


**Public Comments**

Public questions and comments from the virtual attendees were addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm on October 30. The next meeting will be at 3:00 pm on October 31, 2020, at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Minutes submitted by: Emma Rose Trautmann-Galloway

Approved by:   
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Jake Quinn, Chairman

  
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Elizabeth Newman, Secretary

  
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Linda Block, Member

  
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Stephen G. Duncan, Member

  
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Jay Watson, Member



# BUNCOMBE COUNTY ELECTION SERVICES

Board Meeting Date: 30-Oct-20

APPROVED				
		Count total from Board Checked Lists	Cumulative total from Scanners	Daily Total from Scanners
	Date	Generated in SEIMS	Generated by DS850	Calculated
Day 1	10/30/2020	3433	3433	3433
Day 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GRAND TOTALS		3433		3433

DISAPPROVED		
		Count total from Board Checked Lists
	Date	Generated in SEIMS
Day 1	10/30/2020	21
Day 2	N/A	N/A
GRAND TOTALS		21

Ballots are separated by precinct

Board Members use SEIMS generated lists to match to ballots

Staff use two DS850 scanners to count ballots removed from envelopes


The number counted by the Board must equal the number from the DS850 for every precinct

BOARD MEMBER SIGNATURES:



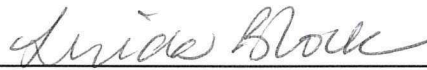
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Jake Quinn, Chairman



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Elizabeth Newman, Secretary



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Linda Block, Member



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Stephen G Duncan, Member

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John D. Watson III, Member