



# BUNCOMBE COUNTY ELECTION SERVICES

## BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### **Board Meeting Agenda**

Friday November 13, 2020

#### CANVASS DAY

Welcome of Visitors

9:00am

- I. Provisional Review
- II. Absentee Review

11:00am

- I. Administrative Challenges
- II. Manual Edit Tally
- III. Recess for Finalizing Results
- IV. Minutes
- V. Presentation of Canvass Reports and Abstract

# NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS: NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

In making a recommendation to the Buncombe County Board of Elections, Election Services staff made every effort to thoroughly research each provisional application. The following resources were utilized:

- The voter's provisional voting application
- The county's voter registration database (active, inactive, removed and denied voters)
- Pending voter registration applications, including applications in the incomplete, review and archive queue
- The non-public access to statewide voter registration information (intranet site)
- DMV provisional research results (DMV Research list as well as SBOE results)
- Any other relevant resource of information such as requested information from other counties, contacts with poll workers or voters, and SBOE guidance

### SUMMARY: PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS BY CATEGORY

Presented 12-13 November

Approve	211
Partially Approve	61
Not Approve	471
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>743</b>

<b>Approve Provisional Applications</b>	<b>211</b>
Out of Precinct	17
Timely Attempts	25
Geocodes	36
Unreported Moves	0
Election Official Error	
Election Official Error, should have voted normally	22
Election Official Error, wrong voter selected	4
Election Official Error, (same day registration), wrong ballot selected	1
Election Official Error, wrong ballot selected	0
ID Provided	8
Voter removed due to list maintenance, never moved from Buncombe	91
Database update	6
Other	1

<b>Not Approve Provisional Applications</b>	<b>471</b>
Not Registered	347
Registered After Deadline	55
Voter Already Voted	3
Inserted ballot into DS200 tabulator	
Did not provide a residential address	11
Address is not in Buncombe County	17
Has Not Been a Resident for more than 30 Days	9
ID Not Provided	27
Application Incomplete/Illegible	2
Voter Arrived After Polls Closed	0

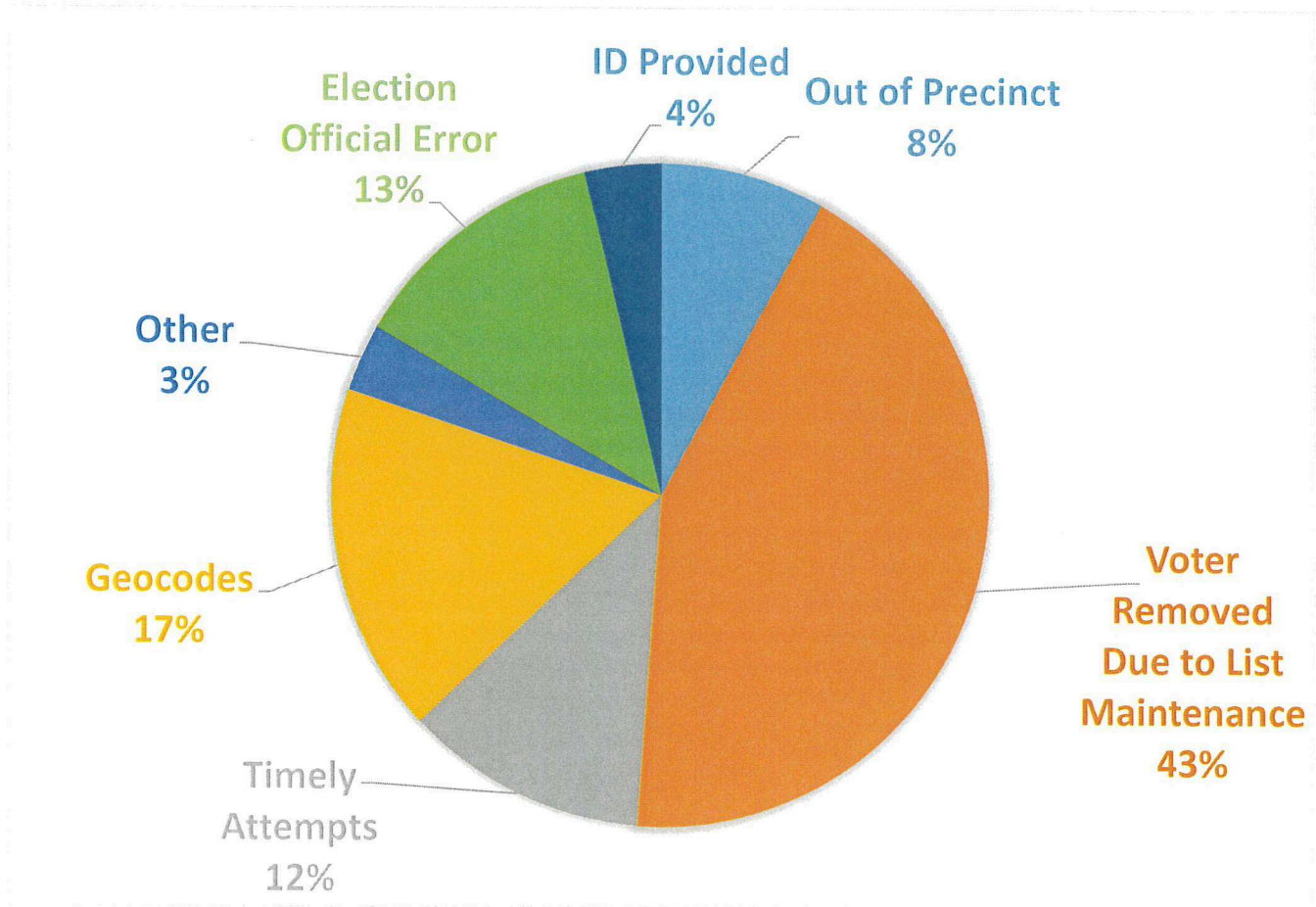
<b>Partially Approve Provisional Applications</b>	<b>61</b>
Out of Precinct	59
Unreported Moves	0
Timely Attempts	0
Geocode	2

# NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS: NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

### 211 RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED



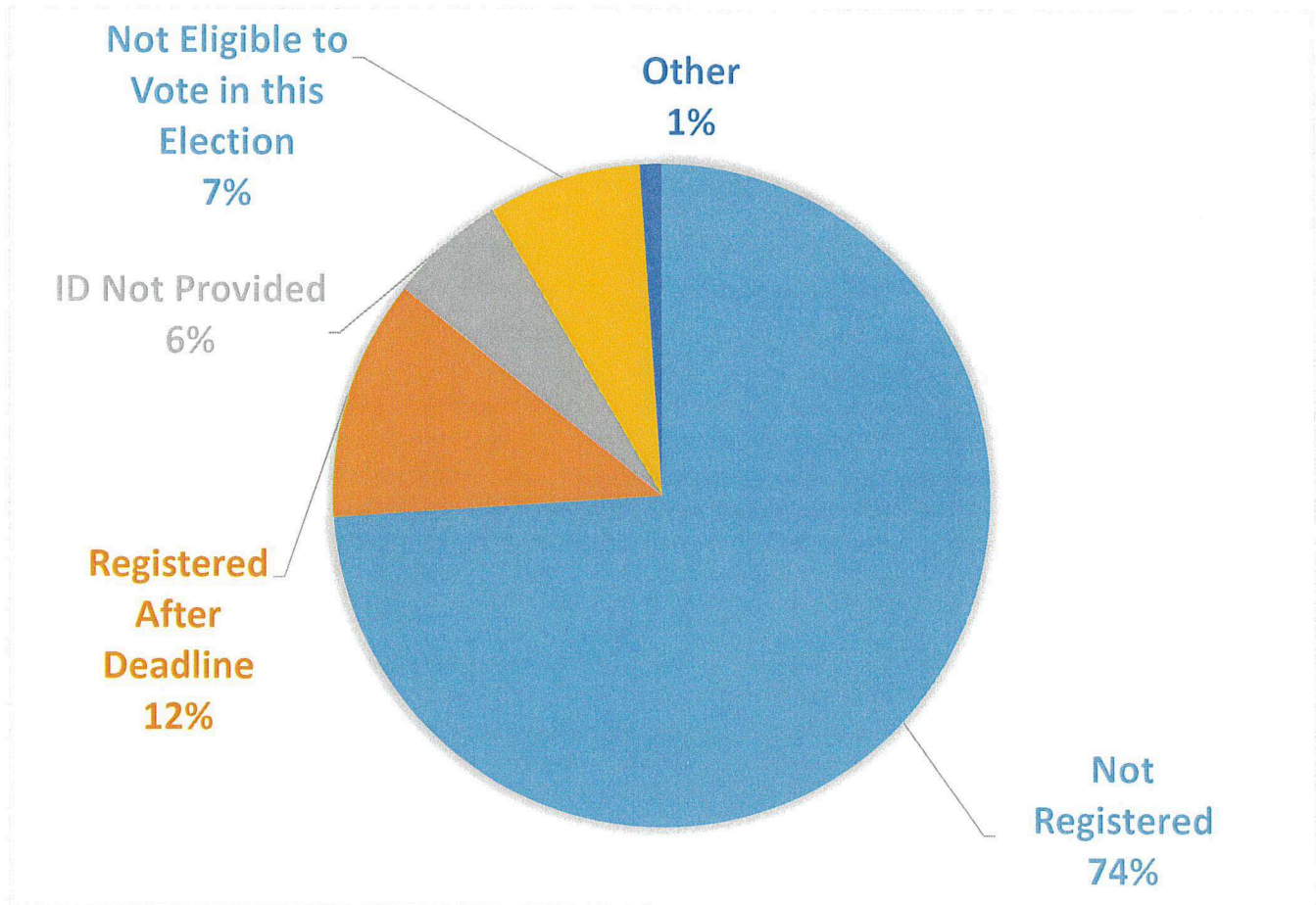
- **91 Voter Removed Due to List Maintenance**
- **17 Out of Precinct**
- 25 Timely attempts (Provides missing registration information from the elections database)
- **36 Geocodes (Found to be valid but missing from the elections database)**
- **27 Election Official Error**
- **8 ID Provided**
- **7 Other**
  - Database Update
  - Voter placed ballot into DS200 on Election Day, must be approved

# NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS: NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

## 471 RECOMMENDED NOT TO BE APPROVED



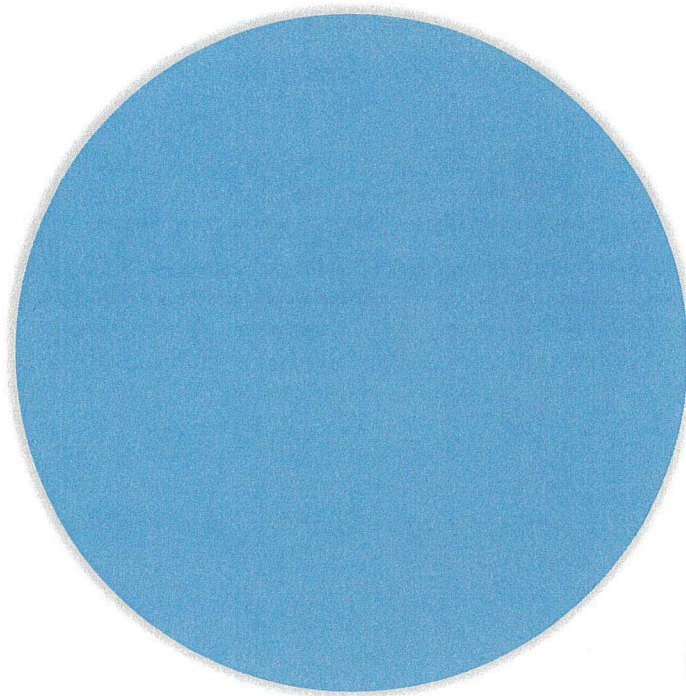
- **347 Not Registered**
- **55 Registered After Deadline**
- 27 ID Not Provided
- **37 Not Eligible to Vote in this Election**
  - Address is Not in Buncombe County
  - Has Not Been a Resident for More Than 30 Days
  - Did Not Provide Residential Address
- **Other**
  - Voter already voted: placed marked ballot in the DS200
  - Application Incomplete/Illegible

**NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS: NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

**61 RECOMMENDED TO BE PARTIALLY APPROVED**



Out of  
Precinct  
100%

- 61 Out of Precinct

**Buncombe County Board of Elections**  
Meeting Minutes  
**November 13, 2020**  
**Canvass Day**  
**9am**

**Opening**

The scheduled meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 9:11 am November 13, 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;  
9AM)  
Linda Block (in person; 9AM)  
Stephen G. Duncan (in person;  
9AM)  
Elizabeth Newman (in person;  
9AM)  
Jay Watson (in person; 9AM)

Visitors-

15 virtual guests

BOE Staff-

Corinne Duncan, Director (in person)  
Kaylea Noce, Absentee & Training  
Specialist (in person)  
Victoria Pickens, Accounting Technician II  
& Campaign Finance (in person)  
Kevin Roberts, Administrative Technician  
(in person)  
Tyler Henry, (in person)  
Neggy Fox, (in person)  
Becca Broughton, (in person)  
Benjamin Bordeaux, (in person)  
Leslie Offill, (in person)  
Emily Homolka (in person)  
Jim Vaughn, (in person)  
Emma Rose Trautmann-Galloway (in  
person)

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

Chairman Jake Quinn welcomed virtual guests.

## **Office Updates**

- Director Duncan gave a brief overview of meeting agenda.

## **Item One – Minutes**

- Discussion and approval of the minutes was deferred to a later date.

## **Item Two – Provisional Review**

- Staff member Pickens gave a brief summary of the breakdown of provisional ballots cast including categories, as well as the reasons for casting a provisional ballot. A copy of the summary of numbers is attached.
- The Board continued review of the provisional ballots from previous meeting.
- 214 provisional ballots were recommended to the Board for approval.
  - The Board reviewed each ballot application and opened the envelopes to ensure that the ballot contained within the envelope was of the correct ballot style and to record the precinct number on the ballot.
- The Board members each checked the number on the DS850 scanner to ensure that the number reflected the 58 partial ballots that were scanned during the previous meeting.
- The lists of provisional ballots were updated to reflect the three ballots that were identified during the meeting to require partial duplication.
  - The number of partial duplication increased from 58 to 61.
  - The number of provisional ballots recommended for approval decreased from 214 to 211.
- Staff member Pickens presented the DS850 totals and results from the provisional ballots scanned.
  - Staff member Pickens noted that the totals show a discrepancy of one ballot due to one provisional ballot that was scanned on Election Day and, being unmarked, could not be retrieved.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve in full the 211 provisional ballots and partially approve the 61 provisional ballots, the motion passed unanimously.

## **Item Three – Absentee Review**

- Staff member Noce presented the Board with three ballots that arrived on November 12 and were postmarked after Election Day.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the three ballots that were not postmarked in time. The Board passed the motion unanimously.



- Staff member Noce presented the Board with 163 ballots that were pending cure, the voter did not return the affidavit before the deadline and did not vote early or on Election Day. These ballots were recommended for disapproval.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the 163 ballots that were pending cure and the affidavit letter was not returned. The Board passed the motion unanimously.

**Public Comments**

Public questions and comments from the virtual attendees were addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 11 am on November 13 and moved directly into the canvass meeting at 11 am on November 13, 2020, at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

**Buncombe County Board of Elections**  
Meeting Minutes  
**November 13, 2020**  
**Canvass Day**  
**11am**

**Opening**

The scheduled meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 11 am November 13, 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;  
11AM)  
Linda Block (in person; 11AM)  
Stephen G. Duncan (in person;  
11AM)  
Elizabeth Newman (in person;  
11AM)  
Jay Watson (in person; 11AM)

Visitors-

21 virtual guests

BOE Staff-

Corinne Duncan, Director (in person)  
Kaylea Noce, Absentee & Training  
Specialist (in person)  
Victoria Pickens, Accounting Technician II  
& Campaign Finance (in person)  
Kevin Roberts, Administrative Technician  
(in person)  
Tyler Henry, (in person)  
Neggy Fox, (in person)  
Becca Broughton, (in person)  
Benjamin Bordeaux, (in person)  
Leslie Offill, (in person)  
Emily Homolka (in person)  
Jim Vaughn, (in person)  
Emma Rose Trautmann-Galloway (in  
person)

### **Item One – Administrative Challenges**

- Staff member Noce began the process of finalizing the administrative challenges that were filed on Election Day.
- There were a total of 31 challenges that will be heard and decided upon today.
  - 22 deceased voters whose records have all been updated to include a death certificate.
  - Five voters who received the wrong ballot style during early voting. In four of the cases, the voters went to vote provisionally and their provisional ballots were approved and counted. In one case the voter did not vote provisionally.
    - Staff recommendation for the voter who did not vote provisionally was to go through with the challenge and then when performing the manual edits, remove the races they were ineligible to vote in.
  - Two voters whose ballots were approved but the signature was found to not be that of the voter.
  - Two voters who were removed from the voter rolls due to moving to a new county before Election Day.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the 22 ballots of the deceased voter, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the provisional ballots for the four people who voted provisionally and disapprove the original ballots cast, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Quinn moved to ask staff to apply the manual edits in the case of the voter who did not return to vote provisionally so that their vote only reflects the races they were eligible to vote in, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the ballots of the two voters who filled out the absentee ballot application incorrectly, the motion passed unanimously

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the ballots of the two voters who moved out of the county before Election Day, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Quinn moved to sustain the challenge of each of the 31 cases, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Item Two – Manual Edit Tally**

- Staff member Whitney explained to the Board the manual edit process that will need to take place.
  - There were two provisional ballots that went through the DS200
    - One ballot that could not be identified to be retrieved, for that reason it was included in the total provisional ballots approved.
    - One ballot was retrieved but since it had been scanned the results will need to be tallied in order to be manually deducted.

- The situation in which the voter was given the wrong ballot style and did not return to vote the correct ballot style provisionally. The voter was eligible for all but two races on the ballot. Those two races will need to be tallied in order to be deducted and the ballot was duplicated onto one of the correct ballot style.
- One case where a confidential voter presented themselves at an early voting site, but through a miscommunication the ballot was not scanned. These totals will be tallied in order to be included in the final results.
- The ballots of the challenged voters also required tallying in order to deduct their votes from the finalized results.
- The Board members paired up in order to tally the results of the ballots that will require manual edits.

### **Item Three – Recess for Finalizing Results**

- The meeting recessed at 12:25 for manual edits to occur and lunch to reconvene at 2pm. The meeting reconvened at 2:02 pm with the update that manual edits required more time than anticipated.

### **Item Four – Approval of Minutes**

- The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of October 27.

Member Watson moved to adopt the minutes as amended, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

- The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of October 30.

Member Watson moved to approve the minutes as amended, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

- The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of October 31.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the minutes, the motion passed unanimously.

- The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of November 2.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the minutes as amended, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

- The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of November 3.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the minutes of November 3 as amended, the Board passed the motion unanimously

- The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of November 9.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the minutes as amended, the Board passed the motion unanimously

- The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of November 12.

Chairman Quinn moved to approve the minutes as amended, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

The Board recessed at 3:18 pm to return at 4:15. Results finalizing again required more time and the meeting recessed until 5:15. The meeting began again at 5:18 with the update that reconciliation was still underway.

#### **Item Five – Presentation of Canvass Reports and Abstract**

- Staff member Noce provided an overview of absentee-by-mail numbers. All of those materials are attached.
- Staff member Noce presented three voter conflicts that were identified while voter history was being finalized.
  1. A simple clerical error; a voter was attached to the wrong record. Staff corrected the records.
  2. A father and son with the exact same name both voted. The father mistakenly voted his sons absentee by mail ballot, the son voted provisionally in person due to this error, and the father voted in person as well, resulting in two voting records for the son and one for the father.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the absentee ballot which was not signed by the correct voter and to ask staff to complete a manual edit to remove those vote tallies. The Board passed the motion unanimously.

3. During one-stop early voting, a wife voted under her husband's voter registration record and then returned and also voted under her own record. When the husband came in to vote, he cast a provisional ballot. A reasonable determination could not be made as to the correct ballot to pull in order to manually edit out the results.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the one-stop early vote completed by the incorrect voter, with the identifier OS-SBBI-134728, to forward the case to the SBOE for further investigation, and for the SBOE to report back to the Buncombe County Board of Elections as to their findings. The Board passed the motion unanimously.

- Staff member Whitney presented the spreadsheet of the final tallies after all adjustments. A copy is attached. There are three discrepancies that all have explanations:
  - The provisional ballot that went through the DS200 and could not be retrieved.
  - The situation where the wife voted twice, once under her husband's record and once under her own and the appropriate ballot to remove could not be determined.
  - The third situation occurred on Election Day. A voter was accidentally given two ballots. When the situation was noticed the voter assured workers that the second

ballot was blank. Election Day ballots cannot be identified to the voter. The auditing team could not find a blank ballot cast.

- The Board was presented with the results reports from the ElectionWare computer, one of the copies contains all of the results from each precinct and the write-ins.
- The Board signed the results lists and election abstract.

**Additional Items**

- Member Watson requested personal memo to be attached to these minutes. A copy has been attached to the minutes.

**Public Comments**

Public questions and comments from the virtual attendees were addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm on November 13. The next meeting is TBD.

Minutes submitted by: Emma Rose Trautmann-Galloway

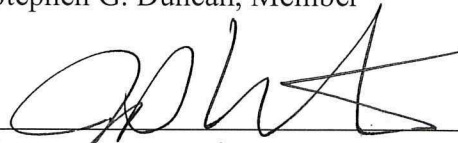
Approved by:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jake Quinn, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Newman, Secretary

REMOTE  
ATTENDANCE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Block, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen G. Duncan, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Watson, Member

**Memorandum of John “Jay” Watson, Member Buncombe BoE  
to Minutes of BoE Election Canvass November 13, 2020**

This memorandum is being submitted to place in the minute record my position with regards to the 2020 General Election and canvass, and to be incorporated into the minutes by reference and as an attachment to the minutes of the Buncombe County BoE November 13, 2020. This memorandum is not intended to reflect the opinion of the full Board nor any other member of the Board.

I signed the 2020 Abstract of Votes for the 2020 General Election with reservations. My reservations do not arise from the independent work of the staff of the Buncombe County Board of Elections nor the Board. My reservations arise from the directives, instructions, and information communicated by the North Carolina State Board of Elections to the County Boards over the course of the 2020 General Election, that conflict with the laws of the State of North Carolina as set forth in the North Carolina General Statutes, and with orders of the U.S. District Court, as set forth in an Order of the US District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina and/or in Memorandum Opinion and Order of the US District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. See, Timothy K. Moore, *et.al.* vs. Damon Cicosta, *et al.*, USDC, Eastern District of North Carolina, 5:20-CV-507-D, Order of October 3, 2020; Democracy North Carolina, *et al.* v. The North Carolina State Board of Elections, *et al.*, USDC, Middle District of North Carolina, 1:20cv457, Memorandum Opinion and Order, October 14, 2020; Democracy North Carolina, *et al.* v. The North Carolina State Board of Elections, *et al.*, USDC, Middle District of North Carolina, 1:20cv457, Memorandum Opinion and Order, October 30, 2020; and the consolidated order in the cases of Timothy K. Moore, *et al.* v. Damon Cicosta, *et al.* and NC Alliance, *et al.*, USDC, Middle District of North Carolina, 1:20cv911, Memorandum Opinion and Order, October 14, 2020, *and*, Patsy J. Wise, *et al.* v. The North Carolina State Board of Elections, *et al.*, and NC Alliance, *et al.*, USDC, Middle District of North Carolina, 1:20cv911, Memorandum Opinion and Order, October 14, 2020.

The above referenced Orders and Memorandum Opinions and Orders are incorporated herein by reference. The following excerpts from the various Orders and Memorandum Opinions and Orders of the Court(s) demonstrate why I have concerns over the guidance and directives for the SBE and, consequently, reservations about the 2020 General Election and Abstract of Votes.

From, Order of October 3, 2020, USDC, Eastern District of North Carolina, 5:20-CV-507-D:

- “At bottom, the NCSBOE has ignored the statutory scheme and arbitrarily created multiple, disparate regimes under which North Carolina voters cast absentee ballots, and plaintiff voters in this case and in Wise are likely to succeed on their claims under the Equal Protection Clause.” (Order, pg. 15)
- “The NCSBOE inequitably and materially upset the electoral status quo in the middle of an election by issuing memoranda and giving the memoranda legal effect via the October 2, 2020 consent judgement.” (Order, pg. 15)

From the Memorandum Opinion and Order of October 14, 2020, 1:20cv457:

- “(the) Court finds that the North Carolina State Board of Elections improperly used this court’s Memorandum Opinion and Order of the court of August 4, 2020, in setting out its revised Numbered Memo 2020-19, thereby frustrating and circumventing the already-issued preliminary injunction order, (Doc.124), over which this court has continuing jurisdiction. This court will grant Defendant-Intervenor’s motion in part to enjoin the State of Board of Elections’ elimination of the witness requirement.” (Order, pg. 2-3)
- “Using the court’s Due Process language to effectively override the legislative witness requirement, after this court upheld it – in the supposed name of Due Process – is an unacceptable misuse of the remedy created by this court’s order. The State Board’s mischaracterization of this court’s injunction in order to obtain contradictory relief in another court frustrates and circumvents this court’s August Order, (Doc. 124).” (Order, pg. 22)
- “The State Board vehemently argues it had no intention of frustrating this court’s August Order... The record, however, explicitly disproves this fact.” (Order, pg. 24)
- “As if these misrepresentations were not enough, in its brief to the state court, the SBE directly stated that this court’s order held the opposite of what it really held...” (Order, pg. 27, emphasis in the original)
- “In addition to denying its representations about this court’s August Order, the SBE also claims it did not frustrate the August Order because its revisions do not actually eliminate the witness requirement. Yet Revised Memo 2020-19 clearly subverts this court’s findings in its August Order by effectively eliminating the contemporaneous witness requirement.” (Order, pg. 28)

From Memorandum Opinion and Order of October 14, 2020, 1:20CV911 and 1:20CV912:

- “... this court finds that the SBE engages in arbitrary behavior when it acts in ways that contravene the fixed rules or procedures that state legislature has established for voting and that fundamentally alter the definition of a validly voted ballot, creating “preferred classes of voters.” (Order, pg. 52)
- “...this court finds that the Defendant SBE improperly used this court’s August Democracy Order to modify the witness requirement.” (Citation omitted)  
“Because Defendant SBE acted improperly in that fashion, this court declines to accept argument now that elimination of the witness requirement was a rational and justifiable basis upon which to settle the state lawsuit. Furthermore, it is difficult to conceive that the SBE was authorized to resolve a pending lawsuit that could create a preferred class of voters...” (Order, pg. 56)



- Addressing the SBE Director’s Emergency Order of July 17, 2020, the Court found: “This directly contradicted the Rules Commission’s finding that such a change was outside SBE’s authority. In keeping with Bell’s actions, the State failed to note in argument before this court that Bell’s proposal had been rejected explicitly because SBE lacked statutory authority to exercise its emergency powers.” (Order, pg. 84, emphasis in the original)
- “This court agrees with the Rules Review Commission: ‘re-writing the definition of “natural disaster” is outside SBE’s rulemaking authority.’” (Order, pg.85)

After such clear and direct language from the Federal Court, one would expect that the SBE would have corrected its actions and proceeded with great caution, however, that was not the case, as shown by a subsequent order of the court.

From the Memorandum Opinion and Order of October 30, 2020, 1:20CV457:

- “... for the second time in this case, this court has serious concerns about the conduct of the North Carolina State Board of Elections.” (Order, pg. 3)
- “It is inconceivable to this court that, after months of litigation, the SBE has implemented a cure procedure that fails to comply with the express requirements of the law.” (Order, pg. 14)
- “State law clearly requires that the county boards receive the printed name, address, and signature of the witness. N.C. Sess. Laws 2020-17 (H.B. 1169) §1. (a).” The Court went on to express its “serious and substantial concerns that the cure procedures used by the SBE does not comply with the statutory requirements ...” (Order, pg. 14)

The above citations from the Court are not intended to serve as a complete recitation of all of the issues presented to the Courts, nor as a full analysis of the Courts in the respective cases. They should, however, be sufficient to raise serious concerns with the county Boards of Election and to demonstrate that the SBE on more than a few occasions did issue directives inconsistent with state law and/or orders of the Federal Court; did exceed its authority and, by omission and commission, did mislead county boards; did misrepresent the opinions and orders of the federal court to a state court(s) in related election cases; did exercise authority beyond its scope to circumvent the Legislature and Rules Commission; did not follow the law passed by the N.C. Legislature; did not follow or obey orders of the Federal Courts hearing election cases; and generally did exercise its power in a manner so as to dictate to county boards directives that were inconsistent with law or not well grounded in law, and/or which contravened the Legislature and/or the Courts.

County Boards often need to seek guidance and advice from the SBE. The County Boards rely upon and are instructed to trust and follow the guidance and directives of the SBE. By its actions as cited above, the SBE has seriously compromised its integrity and authority, and has eroded any confidence or trust which it otherwise may have retained.

In all circumstances in the elections of 2020, the Buncombe County Board of Elections and its staff acted with integrity and in compliance with the law as best we understood it at the time. However, the acts and omissions of the SBE have placed the several County Boards in an untenable position of certifying their respective elections based on actions taken under instructions and directives from the SBE which now appear to be questionable and even inconsistent with law. Consequently, it is with reservations that I signed the 2020 General Election Abstract of Votes.

**Kevin Roberts**

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**From:** Gannon, Patrick <Patrick.Gannon@ncsbe.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:06 AM  
**Subject:** [State Board of Elections] County Boards of Elections Begin Regular Voter List Maintenance Processes



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 14, 2021

PATRICK GANNON, Public Information  
Director

[email](#)

## *County Boards of Elections Begin Regular Voter List Maintenance Processes*

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – In 2021, county boards of elections across North Carolina will conduct several important and required processes designed to keep the state’s voter rolls accurate and up to date.

These routine processes are required by state and federal laws. Accurate voter rolls are maintained by removing voters who have moved or died or are otherwise ineligible to vote in that jurisdiction.

Voter roll list maintenance is important because it ensures ineligible voters are not included on poll books, reduces the possibility for poll worker error and decreases opportunities for fraud.

As a result of these processes, the number of North Carolina voter registrations will decrease in the coming months. As of January 9, nearly 7.2 million voters were registered in the state.

[See [Voter Registration Statistics](#)]

[See [“Maintaining the Voter Registration Database in North Carolina.”](#) Updated July 27, 2017]

**“The removal of voters who have moved and are no longer eligible to vote in that jurisdiction is a routine and important aspect of elections administration,”** said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections. **“Before any voter’s registration is canceled, the county boards of elections attempt to contact the voter to allow them to confirm or update their registration.”**

The following are details about three of the many list maintenance processes the county boards of elections will complete in 2021:

### **Biennial List Maintenance (No-contact process)**

In the early part of every odd-numbered year, if a county board of elections has had no contact with a voter for two federal election cycles – a total of four years – and the voter has not voted during that time, it will send the voter a forwardable address confirmation mailing. The voter will be required to return the confirmation mailing within 30 days.

If the voter does not return the mailing, or the U.S. Postal Service returns it to the county board as undeliverable, then the voter’s record will be marked “inactive” in the state’s voter registration database. Inactive voters are still registered voters. If an inactive voter shows up to vote, the person will be asked to verify their address and update it, if necessary.

County boards will send mailings this year to voters with whom there has been no contact since October 12, 2018. Counties have started printing and mailing these notices, which must go out by April 15. More than 450,000 of these mailings are expected to be sent out statewide in 2021.

The registrations of these voters will be canceled if they do not confirm their registration by 2023.

### **Removal of Inactive Voters**

County boards of elections also have begun to remove certain “inactive” voters from the rolls. Voters will be removed from registration lists this year after being sent a no-contact mailing in 2016. Any voter removed in this way would not have had any contact with their county board of elections for four federal election cycles, not voted in any election during that time and not responded to a confirmation mailing.

The State Board estimates about 380,000 inactive voters will be removed from the voter rolls in 2021.

Any removed registrant must be reinstated if the voter appears to vote and gives oral or written affirmation that the voter has not moved out of the county and has

maintained residence continuously within the county. These voters' votes will be counted absent evidence that they moved out of the county.

Voters may check their registration status at any time using the State Board's Voter Search Tool: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>.

### **National Change of Address (NCOA) Mailings**

In January and July of each year, the State Board provides the 100 county boards of elections with change of address data from the U.S. Postal Service. County boards must send voters in this dataset postcard mailings to the new address to confirm whether they have an unreported change of address for voting purposes.

These mailings allow voters to update their names or addresses within a county or notify the board of elections of a move outside of that county. The voter is asked to respond to the mailing within 30 days. If the voter does not respond, the voter will be mailed a traditional address confirmation notice to their existing mailing address.

If the voter does not respond to that notice within 30 days, the voter's registration status will be changed to "inactive."

If a voter is deceased, a near relative may use the mailing to report the death so the county board can cancel the registration.

### **Additional List Maintenance Efforts**

N.C. elections officials also routinely remove voters who have died from the voter rolls. Death notifications are made available by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. County boards of elections also regularly remove voters who are convicted of felonies, using records from the N.C. Department of Public Safety and U.S. attorneys' offices.

To learn more about registering to vote in North Carolina, visit:

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/registering>.

N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles customers may register or update their registration online here: <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/offices-services/online/Pages/voter-registration-application.aspx>.

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