



BUNCOMBE COUNTY ELECTION SERVICES

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting Agenda

Monday November 23, 2020

2:30 pm

Welcome of Visitors

I. Protest Hearing

Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2020

Opening

The scheduled meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 2:30 pm November 23, 2020 at 50 Coxe Avenue, 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)
Linda Block (in person)
Stephen G. Duncan (in person)
Elizabeth Newman (in person)
Jay Watson (in person)

BOE Staff-

Corinne Duncan, Director (in person)
Curt Euler, County Attorney (in person)

Visitors-

3 virtual guests
Chris Connelly and Scott
Anderson; Grimes Teich &
Anderson, LLC

Welcome Visitors and Introduction Participants

Chairman Jake Quinn welcomed virtual and in-person guests.

Preliminary Hearing for Holland Protest

Chairman Quinn opened floor for review of Holland protest filing then solicited comment.

- Member Block expressed that the challenge process would be a more appropriate means of addressing the issue raised.
- Member Watson emphasized that the Board faithfully followed standard procedures, laws and directives and there was no basis for investigating irregularity.
- Member Duncan and Secretary Newman expressed the opinion that probable cause was not found.

Chairman Quinn moved to dismiss the protest on no basis for probable cause. Member Duncan seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

Preliminary Hearing for Beasley Protest

Chairman Quinn opened floor for review of Beasley protest filing then solicited comment.

- Member Block noted that the protest involved approximately 78 Buncombe County voters.
- Secretary Newman stated that facially it appears that there was not an understanding of the internal process followed by staff of Buncombe County Board of Elections, and that some allegations amounted to hearsay.
- Member Duncan asserted that staff meticulously followed processes including Numbered Memo 2020-19, consistently.
- Chairman Quinn also reiterated that NC State Board of Election processes were followed throughout, but noted that their processes may not have been similarly followed by other counties and noted the extensive research he observed being performed on these issues before the protest was filed.
- Member Watson pointed out that protestor alleges both a defect in the manner by which votes were counted and a violation of election law.

Member Duncan moved to dismiss the protest on no basis for probable cause. Secretary Newman seconded. The Board approved in a 4 to 1 vote. Chairman Quinn dissenting.

Chairman Quinn initiated discussion on when to meet to verify recount results; it was decided to schedule the meeting for 6 pm Tuesday, November 24rd.

Member Duncan encouraged Board members to contact the NC State Board of Elections as well as the NC Legislature regarding procedures that are not addressed or may be interpreted differently by counties. Member Block and Chairman Quinn also hope for the NC State Board of

Elections to devote attention to such issues.

Public Comments

Public questions and comments from the virtual attendees were addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58pm on November 23. The next meeting will be at 6pm on November 23, 2020, at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Minutes submitted by: Corinne M Duncan

Approved by: 
Jake Quinn, Chairman

Elizabeth Newman, Secretary *REMOTE ATTENDANCE*


Linda Block, Member


Stephen G. Duncan, Member


Jay Watson, Member