



BUNCOMBE COUNTY ELECTION SERVICES

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday November 3, 2020

Election Day

Welcome of Visitors

1pm (77 McDowell St)

- I. Presentation of executed absentee lists
- II. Filing of challenges
- III. Begin counting of absentee by mail and early voting

7pm (77 McDowell St)

- IV. Presentation of absentee abstract

10pm (50 Coxe Ave)

- V. Signing of chain of custody forms (EIAJ)

Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2020
Election Day

Opening

The scheduled meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 1:11 pm November 3, 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;
1PM)

Linda Block (in person; 2PM.
Member Block was not aware of
the meeting time change.)

Stephen G. Duncan (in person;
1PM)

Elizabeth Newman (in person;
1PM)

Jay Watson (in person; 1PM)

Visitors-

4 virtual guests

BOE Staff-

Corinne Duncan, Director (in person)

Kaylea Noce, Absentee & Training
Specialist (in person)

Devin Whitney, Elections Technical
Specialist (in person)

Kevin Roberts, Administrative Technician
(in person)

Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist
(in person)

Sara Joss (in person)

Emma Rose Trautmann-Galloway (in
person)

Welcome Visitors and Introduction of Remote Meeting Features

Chairman Jake Quinn welcomed virtual guests.

Item One – Presentation of Executed Absentee Lists

- Staff member Noce presented the Board with the complete record of executed absentee ballots. These ballots included civilian absentee-by-mail, one-stop early voting, and all UOCAVA ballots. There were 141,390 records in total.
- On the executed list there were nine voters that were not attached to a precinct. Two of these voters will be included in the challenge process today. The remaining seven have been removed from the voter rolls due to a denied registration status.
 - The state guidance is clear that if a voter failed their verification process within 90 days on an election and it is the sole reason for a denied status, that the submitted vote of the individual should not be challenged.
- Each board member signed off on the list.

Item Two – Filing of Challenges

- Before each board meeting an auditing process occurs. This process included checking for voters removed for various reasons. In order for a ballot to be counted, individuals must be considered an eligible voter on Election Day.
- During this process, staff found some voters who had submitted valid absentee ballots, and whose ballots had been tabulated, had since been removed as ineligible. For these voters a challenge process is required in order to remove the already scanned ballot.
- The following ballots were presented to the Board to consider for challenge;
 - 22 voters who passed away before Election Day.
 - 5 voters who were given the wrong ballot style during early voting due to worker error.
 - These voters were contacted immediately and returned to vote the correct ballot style provisionally.
 - 2 voters who moved within the state after submitting their absentee-by-mail ballots.
 - 2 voters who did not complete the absentee-by-mail ballot return envelope correctly.
- The Board first considered the voters who received the incorrect ballot style during early voting.

Chairman Quinn moved to proceed with the challenge process, the Board passed the motion.

- There were 16 deceased voters who had a death certificate already on file to present to the Board.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the applications of the 16 voters who had passed away after submitting their absentee ballots but before Election Day and to proceed with the challenge proceeding, the Board passed the motion.

- There were 6 voters who did not yet have a death certificate to present. These certificates will be presented to the Board during the challenge hearing on November 13.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the absentee applications of the 6 presented voters who have passed away but do not yet have death certificates and to proceed with the challenge hearing, the Board passed the motion.

- The Board considered the two voters who were removed due to registering in Pitt County after submitting their absentee ballots in Buncombe County. The voters have been contacted and are planning on voting in their new home county.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the absentee applications of the two individuals and to proceed with the challenge of the votes, the Board passed the motion.

- Staff member Noce then presented to the Board two ballots whose signatures on the absentee return envelope is not that of the voter.
 - There was no indication that this was of malicious intent.
 - The Board considered both absentee return envelopes following the state guidance that indicates the Board should consider “if the name appears to be the name of the voter”. The Board determined that the signed names are clearly not that of the voters.

Chairman Quinn moved to disapprove the applications of the two ballots and to proceed with the challenge process, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

Item Three – Begin Counting of Absentee-By-Mail and Early Voting

- At 2 pm two members from the auditing team began closing the one-stop early voting polls.
 - This process cannot take place until Election Day.
- All absentee results were also pre-processed in order to have everything ready as close as possible to 7:30 to send to the SBOE, and in order to have the abstract of results prepared to present to the Board.

Item Four -- Presentation of the Absentee Abstract

- The Board reconvened at 7:22 for the presentation of the abstract of absentee tallies.
 - These abstracts combined the results of one-stop early voting and absentee-by mail ballots cast.
- The abstract did not include write-in tallies, those will be tabulated during canvass and presented on November 13.
- The polls were announced closed at 7:30 in Buncombe County.
- The Board signed off on all presented abstracts.

The meeting recessed at 7:45 and will reconvene at 9pm at 50 Cox Ave.

Item Five – Signing of Chain of Custody Forms (EIAJ)

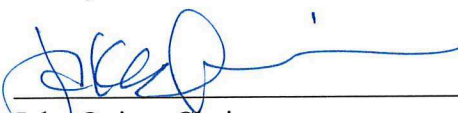
- All of the flash drives were returned to 77 McDowell and the results were entered into the election software system. All of the Chief Judges checked in their supplies at 50 Coxe Ave.
- Once all materials had been returned, the Board reconvened and signed off on the EIAJ forms from each precinct.

Public Comments


Public questions and comments from the virtual attendees were addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 pm on November 3. The next meeting will be at 3:00 pm on November 9, 2020, at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Minutes submitted by: Emma Rose Trautmann-Galloway

Approved by: 


Jake Quinn, Chairman



Elizabeth Newman, Secretary



Linda Block, Member



Stephen G. Duncan, Member



Jay Watson, Member