

Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Opening

A meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 3:30pm on October 8, 2024, at 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC 28801.

Attendance

Board Members	Election Services Staff
Jake Quinn, Board Chair (in-person)	Corinne Duncan, Director (in-person)
Glen Shults, Secretary (in-person)	Neggy Fox, Deputy Director (in-person)
Steven Aceto, Member (in-person)	Anna Katherine Moore, Clerk to the Board (in-person)
Mary Ann Braine, Member (in-person)	Devin Whitney, Elections Tech. Specialist (in-person)
Sally Stein, Member (virtual, left at 4:54pm)	Bria Bailey, Elections Tech. Specialist (in-person)
17 virtual guests	Ryan Oliver, Elections Tech. Specialist (in-person)
27 in-person guests	Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator (in-person)
	Justin Muldowney, Administrative Assistant (in-person)
	David Steffen, Duplication Team (in-person)
	David Frankel, Duplication Team (in-person)
	Anita Sparks, Duplication Team (in-person)
	Gregg Teufel, Duplication Team (in-person)

Welcome Visitors

- Chair Quinn welcomed in-person visitors and recognized the virtual visitors and thanked everyone for attending.

Item One: Approval of Agenda

- The agenda for today's meeting was approved by acclamation.

Item Two: Minutes

- Minutes will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.

Item Three: Office Updates

Director Duncan gave office updates including the following:

- Gave an update on operations post Tropical Storm Helene which hit September 27.
- Reviewed the State Board's Resolution that passed on October 7, 2024, titled "Resolution Regarding the Conduct of Early Voting, Election Day Voting, Absentee Voting, and Voter Registration for the 2024 General Election in the 13 Counties Most Affected by Tropical Storm Helene".
- Election Day training begins this week.

Item Four: Early Voting Plan Amendment

- Director Duncan gave an overview of the old Early Voting plan and Early Voting poll worker status.
- Deputy Director Fox presented the proposed amendment to the Early Voting Implementation Plan. The Board discussed the proposed amendment.
- Director Duncan shared about the damage that happened Black Mountain Library and Fairview Library and what repairs are underway to remedy those damages.
- The Board discussed how to identify which places to post an amended plan and how to record when it was posted. Kassi Day and Curt Euler talked to the question, and it was decided that an affidavit be created that could be filled out when someone posts the plan at shelters or disaster relief areas.
- The Board discussed and made changes to the draft of Resolution 2024-09: Resolution Revising the Early Voting Sites in Buncombe County as a Result of the Damages Caused by Tropical Storm Helene for the 2024 General Election.
- Chair Quinn took comments and questions from audience members Robin Lively Summer, Wendy Haner, Roni Freeman, Kathie Kline, Diane Amos, Audrey Reynolds, and David Franklin.
- Member Aceto moved to approve Resolution 2024-09 with the following revisions: in the sixth whereas clause change the word unavailable to unusable, in the body of the resolution number 1a.(6) to affirm that UNCA Health and Counseling Center will be the sixth site instead of North Asheville Library, in the body of the resolution number 1b.(2) will read “The Early Voting Sites will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. October 17 through November 1, 2024” and 1.b(3) will read “The Early Voting Sites will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on November 2, 2024”. The motion passed with five in favor and zero against.
- Chair Quinn took questions from audience members including Annie Lewis.

Item Five: Early Voting Machine Testing at 50 Coxe Ave

- The Board recessed at 4:54pm to move to 50 Coxe Ave for Early Voting machine testing. The meeting recommenced at 5:22pm.
- According to NC G.S. § 163-33.2, the Board shall test voting machines, in a reasonable number of combinations, no less than ten percent (10%) of all voting machines programmed for each election.
- There were ten machines that could be tested. The Board tested five of them.
- The Board tested machines with the following serial numbers:

Early voting DS200:

DS 03153 50429	DS 03153 50365	DS 03153 50107
DS 03153 50135	DS 03153 50380	

ExpressVote Machines:

EV 02223 80394	EV 02223 80181	EV 02223 80507
EV 02223 80201	EV 02223 80378	EV 02223 80256

- The Board did a hand-eye comparison of ballots to machine tapes and found no errors.

- Secretary Shults moved to approve the machine testing, that all machine counts matched hand-eye counts. The motion passed with four in favor and zero against. Member Stein was not present.
- The meeting recessed at 6:39pm and moved to 59 Woodfin Pl. The meeting reconvened at 6:49pm.
- To stay within the City of Asheville 7:30pm curfew, absentee will be reviewed tomorrow.
- The meeting recessed at 6:52pm on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, to reconvene tomorrow, October 9, at 3:30pm.

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Opening

A meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called back to order at 3:33pm on October 9, 2024, at 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC 28801.

Attendance

Board Members	Election Services Staff
Jake Quinn, Board Chair (in-person)	Corinne Duncan, Director (in-person)
Glen Shults, Secretary (in-person)	Anna Katherine Moore, Clerk to the Board (in-person)
Steven Aceto, Member (in-person)	Devin Whitney, Elections Tech. Specialist (in-person)
Mary Ann Braine, Member (in-person)	Bria Bailey, Elections Tech. Specialist (in-person)
Sally Stein, Member (not present)	Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator (in-person)
5 virtual guests	Justin Muldowney, Administrative Assistant (in-person)
3 in-person guests	Ronald Howel, Duplication Team (in-person)
	Brook Croley, Duplication Team (in-person)
	David Steffen, Duplication Team (in-person)
	Dave Epley, Duplication Team (in-person)

Welcome Visitors

- Chair Quinn welcomed in-person visitors and recognized the virtual visitors.

Item Four (revisited): Early Voting Plan Amendment

- Staff brought up two technical amendments to be made to resolution 2024-09. The UNCA Health and Counseling Center address should start with 118 and Weasley Grant Southside Center address should start with 285. Secretary Shults brought up two typos, one in the third whereas section and one in the fourth whereas section; the word effected should be affected.
- Member Aceto consented to the amendments that were proposed regarding the third whereas, fourth whereas, and the addresses for early voting sites six and nine. The motion carried with four in favor and zero against. Member Stein was not present.

Item Six: Absentee Ballot Review

- Staff Member Tate presented an overview of the absentee by mail process.
- Staff Member Tate presented 10 ballots that were pending Board review. The Board reviewed the 10 ballots. Member Braine made a motion to approve the 10 ballots that were reviewed. The Board approved with four in favor and zero against.
- Staff Member Tate presented 12 ID exception ballots. The Board reviewed the ballots.
- Staff Member Tate presented 76 civilian (CIV) ballots. The Board reviewed the ballots.
- Member Aceto made a motion to approve the 76 CIV ballots that were reviewed. The Board approved with a vote of four in favor and zero against.
- Secretary Shults moved to accept the 12 ID exception ballots that were reviewed. The Board approved with a vote of four in favor and zero against.
- Staff Member Tate presented 24 military (MIL) ballots. The Board reviewed the ballots. Chair Quinn moved to accept the 24 MIL ballots that were reviewed. The Board approved with a vote of four in favor and zero against.
- Staff Member Tate presented 359 overseas (OVR) ballots. The Board reviewed the ballots. Member Braine moved to approve the 359 OVR ballots that were reviewed. The Board approved with a vote of four in favor and zero against.
- The duplication team duplicated six ballots. Chair Quinn inquired whether all the calls and marks were clearly heard and seen and if the ballot was reproduced fully and accurately, and the duplication team answered affirmatively.
- In total, 481 absentee ballots were approved.

Item Seven: Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 3:30pm at 59 Woodfin Pl, Asheville, NC 28801.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Minutes submitted by:


Anna Katherine Moore, Clerk

Approval date: 10/22/2024

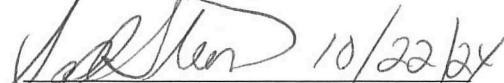
Minutes approved by:


Jake Quinn, Chair


Glen Shults, Secretary


Steven Aceto, Member


Mary Ann Braine, Member


Sally Stein, Member

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09

RESOLUTION REVISING THE EARLY VOTING SITES IN BUNCOMBE COUNTY AS A RESULT OF THE DAMAGES CAUSED BY TROPICAL STORM HELENE FOR THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2024, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 315, declaring a State of Emergency in response to Tropical Storm Helene in anticipation of significant impact and damage to the State of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2024, the President of the United States issued a Federal Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-4827-DR, for the State of North Carolina in response to Tropical Storm Helene for 25 counties in western North Carolina.

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2024, the North Carolina State Board of Elections adopted a resolution regarding the conduct on Early voting, Election Day voting, Absentee Voting and Voter Registration for the thirteen (13) counties most affected by Tropic Storm Helene.

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is one of the thirteen (13) counties affected by Tropical Storm Helene.

WHEREAS, Buncombe County has conducted an inspection of all the current early vote sites and made a damage assessment.

WHEREAS, based on the assessment a number of sites are unusable based on damages to the building or inability to access the site, or repurposed for other disaster mitigation roles.

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Election Services staff recommends that the Board consider an amendment the County's early voting plan due to Storm Helene and its impact to Buncombe County.

WHEREAS, the Board of Election finds that the proposed amendments minimize, to the extent possible, reduction in the number of hours available for voters to participate in early voting in Buncombe County.

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 163-27.1 and 163-166.35, based on the extensive damage to road, building and infrastructure in Buncombe County, the Buncombe County Board of Elections belief it is in Buncombe County's best interest to adopt a revised Early Voting Plan for Buncombe County for the 2024 Election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Buncombe County Board of Elections as follows:

1. The 2024 Early Vote Plan originally adopted at the May 14th, 2024, meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections, is hereby amended as follows:
 - a. The Early Voting Site locations shall be the following ten (10) locations:
 - (1) Black Mountain Library – 105 N. Dougherty St, Black Mountain 28711.
 - (2) East Asheville Library – 3 Avon Rd, Asheville 28805.
 - (3) Enka-Candler Library – 1404 Sand Hill Rd, Candler 28715.
 - (4) Fairview Library – 1 Taylor Rd, Fairview 28730.
 - (5) Leicester Community Center – 2979 New Leicester Hwy, Leicester 28748.
 - (6) UNCA Health and Counselling Center – 118 WT Weaver Blvd, Asheville 28804.
 - (7) South Buncombe Library – 260 Overlook Rd, Asheville 28803.
 - (8) Weaverville Community Center – 60 Lakeshore Dr, Weaverville 28787.
 - (9) Wesley Grant Southside Center – 285 Livingston St, Asheville 28801.
 - (10) West Asheville Library – 942 Haywood Rd, Asheville 28806.
 - b. The new hours of operation for the Early Voting Sites will be as follows:
 - (1) Early voting will commence on October 17, 2024, and end on November 2, 2024.
 - (2) The Early Voting Sites will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. October 17 through November 1, 2024.
 - (3) The Early Voting Sites will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on November 2, 2024.
2. That this resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.
3. The Election Services Staff shall notify the media of the changes and make reasonable efforts to post notice of such changes at as many disaster shelters and other places where disaster relief is provided to the general public within the county as possible.

This 8th day of October, 2024.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Jake Quinn
Jake Quinn, Chair

Glen Shults
Glen Shults, Secretary

Steven Aceto 10.9.24
Steven Aceto, Member

Mary Ann Brain 10/9/24
Mary Ann Brain, Member

Sally Stein 10/9/24
Sally Stein, Member approved virtually