

**Buncombe County Board of Elections
Asheville/Buncombe County Board of Elections**

Monitor Name: Elaine and George Elam, Aiden Carson, and Cheryl Williams in person

Date & Time: November 3, 2025 5:30 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

Glenda Weinert, Chairman (R)	Mary Ann Braine, Secretary (R)
Jake Quinn, Board Member (D)	Sally Stein: Board Member (D)
Courtney Blossman, Board Member (R)	

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan, Director; Neggy Fox, Deputy Director; Gabrielle Corey, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; and Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist.

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers:

No number for online observers. 5 in-person observers including: 1 Common Cause, 2 LWVAB, and the rest unknown.

I. Approval of Agenda

Approved without objection.

II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10)

Approved without objection.

- Ms. Braine noted that the minutes showed that a second had been missed on one motion.
- Mr. Quinn said that a second is not required and the Board can act by consensus.

III. Office Updates –Corinne Duncan, Director

- The Municipal Election is tomorrow, November 4 and later she will go over the schedule so that the Members know when their presence will be needed.
- The County is conducting a food drive. Donations can be dropped off at 50 Coxe Avenue or 35 Woodfin Street.
- The office has received another 25 challenges to voters who the challenger believes have died. Ms. Duncan reviewed the relevant laws and concluded that the office is required to wait until after the election. She proposed that a preliminary hearing be set for December 9.
- The State Board has circulated a resolution to the Counties, including:

- Submitting Early Voting Plans, which Buncombe County has already done.
- Appointment of emergency assistants: Buncombe has 16 workers in reserve for emergencies such as a vacancy on Election Day.
- Appointment of 3 types of assistants/vacancies which Ms. Duncan will consolidate into a policy statement for the Board's consideration.
- Ms. Stein asked whether the State Board had set a minimum number of 8. Ms. Duncan said Buncombe County has 16.
- The update on whether or not to read the names of absentee voters, Ms. Duncan said that numbered memo 2020-25, page 4 said the names of voters with approved Absentee Ballots may be read aloud because their ballots, according to chapter 163 election laws, are public record. Reading the names needs to balance the requirements of Voter Confidentiality laws and Open Records/Meetings laws. Going forward, the staff will group the names into categories.
 - She further explained that an absentee ballot request is not a public record and must remain private. However, when a completed ballot is returned, it becomes a public record once it's approved.
 - She also said that the names could be read after review and before final approval.
 - Mr. Quinn asked hypothetically that if the Board received 20 Absentee Ballots but only approved 18, then only 18 names would be read aloud. Ms. Duncan said yes.
 - Ms. Braine asked whether Ms. Duncan had heard how the State Board's move in the direction of using resolutions rather than numbered memos might affect Buncombe County.
 - Ms. Duncan said that a lot of talk is going on about the practicality of such a move, in part because resolutions take longer and must go through the entire Board. The latest guidance on Early Voting and Emergency Vacancies came via resolutions. If the State Board used regulations, it would take even longer.
 - Ms. Braine asked whether Ms. Duncan had heard anything about the State Board's plan to consolidate all existing numbered memos as a way to eliminate duplicative guidance. Ms. Duncan said she has not heard anything more than that.
- To date there have been 951 Early Voters which is up from the last municipal election which had a total of 618 Early Voters. She anticipates that the turnout will be good on Election Day because it will be in the 70s and sunny.
- Poll workers have all the supplies and are setting up sites now to be ready for a 6:30 am opening on November 4. Media availability was done today and WLOS came which is good because municipal elections often don't get much attention.
- Election day schedule passed out to Members:
 - The sections highlighted in yellow will help Members know when to be here.

- Staff and the emergency team will be both at 35 Woodfin and 50 Coxe Avenue at 5:30 until whenever election work concludes, likely at 9:30 pm or so.
- Board Members are welcome to be here at any time they wish. Meals will be provided.
- Starting at 6:00 am, Elections staff need to be able to contact Board Members but Members don't have to be in person until 5:00 pm when they will have the first of 3 Absentee Ballot meetings to review ballots received by mail or hand delivery; the 2nd will be after checking the PO box; and the last when the polls have closed.
- It will be good to go through the whole process because the March primary will generate large enough numbers of Absentee ballots at each stage to require a meeting. Going through the process helps let staff know how well the protocols work.
- If no Absentee Ballots have been received by 7:30, the Board and staff will move straight into preparing the tallies for Early and Absentee voting. Flash drives from the polling sites will be delivered to 35 Woodfin Street. Board and staff need to be there until it is clear the process of receiving and processing the flash drives works. Then they can move to Coxe Avenue to shut down the machines. If the timing doesn't work well for them to observe at Coxe Avenue, they will get a report on how things went.
- Guidance from the State Board dictates the order Absentee ballots will be reviewed: ballots received during Early Voting are reviewed first because at 7:30 it is done. Then ballots received on Election Day.
- Dr. Weinert said she had received a questionnaire from Mr. Dallas Woodhouse asking general questions such as how many polling places the county has now and in the past and when the Board voted on the Primary Early Voting Plan. She also provided information on Helene. She and Ms. Duncan reviewed and answered the questions.
 - Mr. Quinn asked whether she had highlighted the addition of Hominy Creek. Dr. Weinert said yes, she had.
 - Ms. Stein asked whether Mr. Woodhouse provided any more detail on the meeting with her to occur in December. Dr. Weinert said no.
- Dr. Weinert thanked all the staff and Members for their hard work.
- Ms. Braine asked for an update from the meeting between Dr. Weinert, Ms. Stein, and the Board's attorney.
 - Dr. Weinert said they discussed the personnel portion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the reporting chain for information. Regarding the facilities planning, the attorney accepted all the Board's suggestions and plans to find a way to address them from a functionality perspective now and throughout the various temporary locations until the Office has developed a proposal and a plan.
 - Dr. Weinert said his review will then be sent to the Board for its review.

- Ms. Stein said that she and Dr. Weinert had provided the attorney with more history of Buncombe County as well as information on how county Elections Offices work in other parts of the state.

IV. Absentee Ballot Review (G.S. § 163-230.1(f))– Neggy Fox

- Ms. Fox said that a total of 29 Absentee Ballots had been received to date consisting of 21 Civilian ballots, 8 overseas ballots, and NO military ballots. The totals include the 2 Civilian ballots and 4 overseas ballots that the Board will review today.
 - Ms. Stein asked how many Absentee ballots had been sent out. Ms. Fox said 96.
- Ms. Fox reviewed the process to Certify the results for Absentee Ballots in each of the 3 categories and the oath that the chair will take to certify the results for each category.
- Ms. Blossman and Mr. Quinn formed one team to review the 2 Civilian ballots. Ms. Braine and Ms. Stein formed a second team to review the 4 Overseas ballots.
- As the ballots were reviewed, Ms. Fox took them to Ms. Bailey to scan. All ballots scanned appropriately.
- After the ballots were approved and while scanning was underway, Dr. Weinert read the names of the 29 voters who submitted Absentee Ballots.
 - Ms. Duncan said that another way to make the names public is to compile a list that can be viewed by the public either at the office or online. A list may be more practical than reading the names aloud which introduces the possibility of mispronouncing the names.
- Then the documentation supporting the 4 duplicated Overseas ballots were placed in a red poly envelope that each Member reviewed and Dr. Weinert signed and sealed. The 2 Civilian ballots and 4 Overseas ballots were placed in a blue poly envelope that each Member reviewed and Dr. Weinert signed and sealed. The poly envelopes were then secured.
- Dr. Weinert took the oath to certify each category of ballots.
- A motion to approve the 2 Civilian and 4 Overseas Absentee ballots passed 5/0.

Adjourned: 6:30 pm.

V. Next Meeting Date

- Tuesday, November 4, at 5:00 PM at **35 Woodfin Street basement Board room.**