

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

Monitor Name: Aiden Carson, George Elam, Elaine Elam

Date & Time: November 7, 2025 1:00 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

Glenda Weinert, Chairman (R) (virtual)

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; Nathaniel Speier, Candidate Coordinator; Virginia Pickens, Accounting Tech and Finance; Karen Rae, Recruiting Outreach; Angelica Tyler, County PIO and ?; and Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist.

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers:

3 LWV, 1 unknown. Online Sailor Jones (Deputy Director Common Cause)

I. Approval of Agenda

Approved without objection.

II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10)

It was decided to defer the approval of Minutes to a future meeting.

III. Office Updates –Neggy Fox, Deputy Director

- Recruiting and Outreach position held by Karen Rae has been posted due to Karen Rae taking another position. Hopefully Karen can overlap new employee.
- The Sample Audit will be on Monday at 10 am. The SBOE randomly chose 2 precincts for the Sample Audit: precinct 5.1 (83 ballots) and the Coxe Ave. Early Voting site (334 ballots).
- Gabrielle handed out unofficial results to the Board.

IV. Supplemental List of Absentee Ballots (cures and UOCAVA mailed (G.S. § 163-230.1(e1))– Neggy Fox

- There was nothing to consider in this category.
- Three ballots were returned after the Absentee Deadline and were recommended to be disapproved.
- The 3 ballots were shown to the Board and they signed to confirm..
- Ms. Stein asked if such ballots would prevent a voter being marked as inactive. Ms. Fox said yes, and the Absentee Request itself counted as a contact.
- A motion to disapprove the 3 ballots passed 5/0.
- Mr. Quinn noted that of the 3 ballots, only one showed a postmark. That one was mailed from Louisville KY on 10/25 and was not received until 11/6, too late to be counted.
- A question was asked about voter turnout. 2021 – 19%; 2023 – 16%; 2025, 22%

V. Provisional Review (G.S. § 163.182.2(a)(4)) – Nathaniel Speier

- Mr. Speier handed out binders to the Board Members containing applicable laws and numbered memos.
- He discussed changes in the law from the last election.
 - SB 382 reduced the time to review provisionals from 10 days to 3.
 - Last year there were over 1400 provisional ballots.
 - Staff have been looking for ways to increase efficiency so the processing can be done within the reduced window.
 - They hired a few additional staff this time, despite there being only 6 provisionals. The idea is to test out the process.
 - For the next election they plan to hire 10 – 20 additional people.
 - Ms. Stein asked about the budget impact. Mr. Speier said they had taken it into consideration.
 - Mr. Quinn said he would like to see a cost estimate. The new law amounts to an unfunded mandate and he thinks a bill should be sent to the legislature for the additional cost. He doesn't see how this change adds any benefit to the process.
 - Mr. Speier described another efficiency measure in replacing the paper checklist used in researching provisionals with a digital form which will streamline the process and allow results to be stored in a searchable database.
 - There were no Voter ID Exception forms in this election, but they need to plan how to handle those to get them done by the new deadline. He suggested they might be done on Election Night.
- For this Municipal Election, there were only 6 provisional ballots.
- 4 were geocode issues (unknown address). This can happen with a new address that has not yet made it onto the county's system.
- 1 was an incorrect precinct, but the correct ballot style had been used.
- 1 was flagged as "already voted". But staff research said this was a poll worker error.

- Staff recommended that all 6 be approved in full.
- The Board reviewed the 6 ballots in bi-partisan teams. A motion to approve all 6 fully w passed 5/0.
- The ballots were given to Ms. Bailey to scan.
- They were placed in a blue envelope which was signed by all Board Members present and the envelope sealed by Ms. Fox.

VI. Ballot Challenges (G.S. § 163-89) – Devin Whitney

- There were no challenges.
- Mr. Whitney described the Ballot Challenge procedure in some detail.
- Board Members signed all 3 copies.
- Bria notarized the Abstracts.
- A printout of the results will be brought to the warehouse.
- A motion to accept the Absentee Ballot Abstract Preliminary Results passed 5/0.

VII. Next meeting date

There will be no meeting on Wednesday unless challenges are received. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday Nov. 10 at 10 am for the Sample Audit.