

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

Monitor Names: George Elam, Elaine Elam

Date & Time: January 28, 2026, 3:30 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

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

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan, Director; Amy Broughton County Attorney
Corrine Duncan, Gabrielle Corey, Karen Rae with her replacement Rachael Wonderlich, Elections Coordinator recruitment, Aaron Bell and Morgan Chance, Elections Coordinators, Joyce Kavanagh, Devin Whitney, Bria Bailey.

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers: 1 LWV, 1 Dem. Online

I. Agenda Approval - Approved 5-0.

II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10) - Minutes for 1-6-25 and 1-15-25 were approved 5-0.

- Ms. Stein asked Dr. Weinert if there was any other information that needed to be passed on to the Board re meetings with Mr. Dallas Woodhouse, the State Auditor's special liaison. Dr. Weinert stated there was nothing new to report. Ms. Stein asked about a power point presentation from the meetings with Mr. Woodhouse. Dr. Weinert said there was nothing to date, but she would keep the Board informed

III. Office Updates –Corinne Duncan, Director

- Ms. Duncan said that absentee ballots have been mailed.
- Ms. Duncan introduced Rachael Wonderlich, the new outreach coordinator who has been on staff two weeks, working and training with Ms. Karen Rae. Prior to coming here, she worked with the County resource center after Helene. She has also been a poll worker in Pennsylvania. and done outreach with other organizations.
- Ms. Duncan started media availability and has done 2 interviews so far.
- The State Board conference moved to Feb 5th and 6th, this Thursday and Friday. The format and content are the same as for the one originally scheduled.
- Voter registration deadline is Friday, Feb 6th. at 5pm.
- Early Voting starts Feb 12th. Early Voting training is completed. Now Election Day training is underway. All poll worker training will be at 200 College and not be split between 200 College and 40 College.

IV. Report on Filling Poll Worker Vacancies (Resolution 2025-09) – Rachel Wonderlich

- Ms. Wonderlich updated the Board on filling 50 vacancies for poll workers.
- Wherever possible people were replaced with people from the same party.
- Mr. Quinn clarified that the appointments for party or chief judge would not be for a typical 2-year term but would instead need to be made anew prior to each election until the original 2-year term expires.
- Ms. Rae leaves Feb 3.

V. Resolution for Counting Absentee Ballots (G.S. § 163.234 SL: 2023-140)

- Ms. Duncan presented a resolution for counting absentee ballots, which is one among many possible resolutions. This resolution sets the time and place for counting absentee ballots on Election Day at 2 pm.
- The resolution passed 5-0.
- Ms. Duncan will put notices in newspapers and media.

V. Absentee Ballot Review (G.S. § 163.230.1(f)) - Aaron Bell

- Mr. Bell, the new Absentee Coordinator, went over definitions of the various abbreviations for Civilian – CIV the vast majority, Uniform Overseas Civilian Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) include both Military and Overseas Civilians, and OVERSEAS ballots.
- Today there are a total of 11 absentee ballots. 8 civilian and 3 overseas.
- So far there have been no ballots returned as undeliverable.
- He went over the Board's green binder that addresses the absentee process and includes numbered memos.
- Then Mr. Bell went over the checklist the Board uses to review the ballots and the duplicating process.
- A total of 667 absentee ballots has been requested.
- Ms. Duncan said the 950 scanner was not working and they will have to use the DS200.
- Ms. Duncan also said the processing of ballots will be greatly improved since they can combine pending ballots (those that have an ID exception form) with other ballots.
- Mr. Bell passed ballots to the duplicating team that had been emailed or received through the portal and one that did not scan.
- Mr. Quinn asked if the 65 and older expired licenses were still valid for mail in ID.
 - Ms. Duncan and Mr. Bell said yes.
- Mr. Quinn made a motion to approve the 11 (8 CIV and 3 OVR) ballots presented tonight. Passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next Meeting: February 3, 2026 at 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin Street