

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

Monitor Names: George Elam, Elaine Elam and Aiden Carson

Date & Time: February 17, 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; Neggy Fox, Assistant Director; Gabrielle Corey, Elections Administrative Coordinator; Morgan Chance, Training Coordinator; Aaron Bell, Elections Coordinator; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; Joyce Kanavel; Amy Broughton, County Attorney

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers: 3 LWV in person, 1 Common Cause, a few others

I. Approval of Agenda – approved by acclamation

II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10) Minutes for February 10, 2026, were approved by acclamation

III. Office Updates (Corinne Duncan)

- Early Voting is in full swing
- Next week there will be a budget update with the County
- Early Voting turnout has been high, higher than the last Presidential Primary.
- Upper Hominy has had the smallest turnout and Mr. Quinn suggested spreading the word about that site .
- Ms. Duncan expects the number or provisional ballots to be up significantly and there is less time allowed to process them, but the team has been trained to handle them. There are more reasons now to vote provisional.
- Absentee Ballot Request deadline was at 5 PM on Feb. 17.
- The NCSBOE upheld the Board’s Lunsford-Mormon hearing decision.
- There have been numerous complaints about the South Buncombe Library Early Voting site. They’ve expanded parking but the new lot is on the lower level behind the building and many people aren’t aware of it. Mr. Quinn visited the site and said the signage is not clear and there are 17 steps to access the voting area and the 50 foot markers were not correct. Ms. Duncan said signage will be improved and Dr. Weinert said curbside voting is now in place at both doors.
- **Voter Registration Letters – Neggy Fox**
 - Two separate letters have been sent.

- **Registration Repair Project:** Was started last summer with a November deadline. Voter registrations which lacked either the last four numbers of the SSN or the driver's license number were flagged. A letter was sent to those voters asking them to update the information. In Buncombe County this affects about 1100 voters. They will be asked to vote a provisional ballot at the polls. The missing numbers will be captured and later checked and entered. Chief judges and party judges have been given additional training to handle this.
- **February 3rd letter:** Another group of about 5000 Buncombe voters has been flagged by the state for having data that did not validate state rolls, DMV, or SS. Poll workers will be able to enter the appropriate data on the spot and there will be no need for provisional ballots. Voting will be allowed even if numbers are not provided by the voter.
- Mr. Quinn noted that the letter from the SBOE did not make it clear that the voter would be allowed to vote regardless, it only stated that the voter must supply data, without specifying what data. Buncombe County staff and Board were not given a heads up before the letter was sent and they have received many calls. He called it an unfunded mandate imposed at a crucial time right before a primary election and said it "stinks to high heaven".
- Ms. Stein said it could have been handled better and the process needs to be emphasized in training.
- Ms. Duncan said that Numbered Memo 2025-03 did mention the issue but the letter was dropped on February 3.
- A member of the audience said that an ACT article had said that complete SS numbers were being required. Ms. Fox said only the last four numbers were needed and there are only 4 spaces on the forms. Ms. Duncan said that if that was published she would issue a correction.
- A member of the audience asked about a lawsuit regarding the missing data. Dr. Weinert read a report that the NC Republican Party had settled a lawsuit regarding missing data on voter registrations. The SBOE will continue to work on the repair project.
- Dr. Weinert reported receiving an email from Dallas Woodhouse with an article from the State Auditor. She said it was general information on Early Voting Sites and hours. She will copy the rest of the Board.
- Ms. Stein and Dr. Weinert gave an update on a meeting with Tim Love regarding facilities. There will be no change to the warehouse this year. They viewed a list of possible sites and thought it was a good effort by the County to show the work they've done. It will be a long term effort. Ms. Stein asked people to be on the lookout for large vacant buildings.

IV. **Question for Counsel**

Ms. Blossman asked Ms. Broughton who her client was and who she represents. Ms. Broughton said that her client is Buncombe County. Buncombe County offers legal services to the BOE as a service for the Board. She noted that the Board does have independent counsel. Ms. Blossman asked that that reply be entered into the minutes.

V. Absentee Ballot Review (G.S. § 163-230.1(f)) – Aaron Bell

- 85 Civilian and 11 Overseas ballots were presented, for a total on 96 Absentee Ballots.
- 1,505 Absentee Ballots have been sent out so far, and a total of 236 will have been approved after today.
- 2 ballots were received that were not curable and those have been reissued.
- Duplicating team duplicated 2 ballots.
- Envelopes were duly processed and signed by all Board Members.

VI. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, February 24 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin St.

VII. Closed Session - Personnel (G.S. § 143.318.11(a)(6))

The meeting was recessed at about 5:27 pm so the Board could go into closed session.