

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

Monitor Names: Elaine Elam, George Elam, Cheryl Willilams

Date & Time: March 6, 2026, 1:00 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; Gabrielle Corey, Elections Administrative Coordinator; Morgan Chance, Elections Coordinator (Training); Aaron Bell, Absentee Coordinator; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist; Devin Whitney, Election Technical Specialist, GIS; 2 Duplication Teams of 4 persons each

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers: 3 LWV, 1 Common Cause, 2 Democrats, 1 unknown

I. Approval of Agenda – approved by acclimation

II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10) Deferred

III. Office Updates (Corinne Duncan)

- The audit is going well. Have completed a first pass at all sites.
- All equipment is back at the warehouse.
- Today Devin Whitney will present ballot challenges and describe the process. These voters have the option to attend challenge hearing on canvass.
- Today is also the supplemental abstract for civilian ballots.
- Glenda will take the oath and will sign off on the supplemental absentee civilian list. Ms. Bailey will notarize. Then we go on to provisionals. Mr. Bell will go over the detailed process.
- Tuesday, March 10 is the deadline for voter challenges. Will know then if a meeting is necessary. Staff check daily for deaths and persons on the felon list.

- Corrine said the Office had received 143 absentee ballots that arrived after the deadline of 7:30 on Election Day. The Board will review these ballots on Thursday at the Pre-canvass meeting.
- Today's focus is provisional ballots, the largest part of the meeting. This will be the last significant addition to the results. When finished the results will be posted on the website. We have a deadline of 5 pm to process these ballots. This is the first large election with this deadline in place.
- Monday, March 10 at 10 am is the audit of precincts randomly selected by the State Board, specifically Election Day at precincts 55.1 and 59.1. It is an open meeting.
- Tuesday is the last day to answer any challenges if there are any. The pre-canvass meeting will also include the supplemental UOCAVA absentees. None have been received so far.
- Then Friday, March 13 is canvass at 11am, the final meeting for this primary election.

IV. **Ballot Challenges (G.S. § 163-89) Devin Whitney**

- Mr. Whitney presented the Board with 3 challenges to votes because the voter died before election day, appeared on the list of persons convicted of a felony, or any other risk maintenance list issue.
 - 3 is a lot fewer than were received in 2024.
- The first is a registered voter who appeared in Early Voting and registered the same day to change parties. The two registrations were not linked, which gave rise to the challenge. The voter has been contacted.
 - At canvass the ballot will be removed from the tally.
 - The voters have the right to appear at canvass to present evidence.
 - No action is required by the Board in this instance, although others may require action
 - The Board entered the challenge 5/0
- The second challenge is due to incorrect ballot style because the voter was given an incorrect ballot style on the first day of Early Voting. The voter was notified immediately and returned to cast a provisional ballot. In the 2024 general election there were many such instances, but this is the only one in this election. Staff recommend approving the provisional ballot. This ballot had been pending because the incorrect ballot style was due to inconsistent documentation that the voter wanted to change party affiliation. Specifically, the voter asked

for a Republican ballot but was identified in the poll records as a Democrat. The poll worker issued a Provisional Ballot and on the application the voter attested that they were a registered Democrat. The Board decided that the documentation going back to 2016 suggested the voter affiliated with the Republican Party.

- The Board entered the challenge 5/0 which moved the ballot from pending to approved for further review.
- The last challenge is to a person who voted absentee then died before Election Day. The absentee ballot was approved and scanned at the February 10 absentee meeting. To enter the challenge would require the Board to disapprove the absentee ballot first. Notice to the family is in the mail because FedEx had a chemical spill and could not deliver the notice overnight.
 - The motion to disapprove the absentee ballot and enter the challenge was approved 5/0.

V. Supplemental List of Absentee Ballots (cures and UOCAVA mailed) (G.S. § 163-230.1(e1)) – Aaron Bell

- Mr. Bell presented the list of executed absentee ballots that was approved 5/0
- Cures and mailed UOCAVA ballots may still be received until the day of canvass.
- Dr. Weinert swore the oath to certify the list.
- Ms. Bailey returned with the zero abstract for Members to review and initial.
 - The abstract was approved 5/0.

VI. Provisional Review (G.S. § 163-182.2(a)(4)) – Corrine Duncan, Aaron Bell, and Victoria Pickens

- Provisional ballots are federally required when disputes arise about a voter's eligibility, often due to party affiliation, timely registration, voting jurisdiction, and occasionally administrative issue such as a new address. The ballots are researched after election day to determine whether the voter is entitled to a ballot. It is a way to help ensure that eligible voters get to vote and ineligible ones do not. Every election produces provisional ballots.
 - This is the first large election with the new deadline of reviewing these ballots by 5 pm 3 days after the Election.
 - Ms. Pickens developed a new method for researching the ballots and additional staff were hired and trained to complete the

review within the prescribed timelines. Two teams reviewed each ballot and made a recommendation, which is what the Board will review.

- Each Board Member will be paired with staff from the review teams to consult with any questions they may have.
- Ms. Duncan recommended that the provisional ballots be reviewed in 4 categories with the final vote to approve or not held until all ballots have been reviewed.
- For approved and partially approved ballots, Members will open the ballot envelope and check for the precinct number.
- Unapproved ballots are not opened.
- The order of review will be first, pending of which there are only a few, including 3 with ID exception forms; second, partially approved ballots that must be duplicated which will take time for the 2 teams to complete; third, approved ballots; and fourth, not approved ballots.
- Once the Board has decided, results will be posted to the website and provided to the Board.
- A motion to allow any Member, with the Chair’s approval, to initial the ballots passed 5/0.
- Mr. Bell began presenting the provisional ballots with more description of the process, including the Registration Repair process. The team researches each ballot by examining a range of databases, most of which are in SEIMS, including Voter View and Voter Scan, as well as Voter Search tool, and DMV report. Of key interest is attempts to register after the February 6 cutoff. The research is recorded in an excel spreadsheet.
- A total of 304 provisional ballots were categorized as follows:
 - Driver’s license/Social Security Number dispute 53
 - ID not provided but with reasonable impediment 28
 - ID not provided – no exception form 12
 - Incorrect Party 57
 - Incorrect Precinct 29
 - Jurisdictional dispute 9
 - No record of registration 82
 - Previously removed 6
 - Unrecognized address (GIS problem) 23
 - Unreported move 3
 - Voter already voted 2
- **Total 304**

- The numbers are comparable to past years except for the DL database review which is part of the Registration Repair project.
- 3 provisional ballots had been entered twice, and 1 ballot was still pending from a prior meeting leaving a total of 304
- Ballots that may not be approved but were accompanied by a completed registration form to update affiliation for example will be correctly registered for future elections.
- Members were directed to note whether the Provisional application was signed and had a number on the back of the Provisional envelope.
- The ballots were reviewed in order by precinct. Any ballot recommended for partial approval will have a summary of staff research. After the initial review, Members will open the provisional envelope to confirm that the ballot is in the envelope and paper clip it to the envelope to help ensure that it can be later traced to the voter.
 - These partially approved provisional ballots are largely due to incorrect party or incorrect ballot style, for example someone who lives in the county but not the city was given a ballot for city elections, which are not eligible races for any but city residents.
 - Members were also given a blank ballot of the correct style which the teams will duplicate. Members must write the correct precinct number at the top of the blank ballot.
- After the partially approved ballots were given to the duplication teams, the Board moved on to the fully approved ballots.
 - Members were instructed to open the ballot envelopes to ensure that a completed ballot is inside and to notify others if the envelope contains anything else.
- Results, after duplication of ballots:

Approval status	Starting Count	Add or subtract	Final tally
Partially approved	21	+3	24
Fully approved	154	-3	151
Disapproved	128	+1	129
Total	303	+1 (the pending at the beginning)	304

- Following duplication, Dr. Weinert administered the oath to the duplication teams that that heard all the calls and saw all the marks and were satisfied that the duplication was conducted correctly.
- Motion to approve the 24 partially approved ballots passed 5/0

- Motion to approve the 151 fully approved ballots passed 5/0
- Motion to disapprove the 129 ballots recommended by staff for disapproval passed 5/0

Adjourned 4:50 pm

VII. Next meeting Thursday, March 12 at 5:30 pm at 35 Woodfin St.

a. Sample Audit on Monday, March 9 at 10 am

11:49 Sat Mar 7

publicinput.com — Private

MARCH 3, 2026, PRIMARY ELECTION

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

PROVISIONAL BALLOT APPLICATION AUDIT

Presented on March 6, 2026

SUMMARY: PROVISIONAL BY CATEGORY

Total Provisional Ballots Cast: 304

Provisional Reason	Count of Provisional Voting Reason
DL/SSN PROVISIONAL	53
ID NOT PROVIDED - EXCEPTION - REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT	28
ID NOT PROVIDED - NO EXCEPTION FORM/RETURN WITH ID	12
INCORRECT PARTY	57
INCORRECT PRECINCT	29
JURISDICTION DISPUTE	9
NO RECORD OF REGISTRATION	82
PREVIOUSLY REMOVED	6
UNRECOGNIZED ADDRESS (GEOCODE ISSUE)	23
UNREPORTED MOVE	3
VOTER ALREADY VOTED	2
Grand Total	304

So there's, um,

FILES 1

11:51 Sat Mar 7

publicinput.com — Private

Buncombe County / Buncombe County Board of Elections Meetings

All tools Edit Convert E-Sign Find text or tools

Grand Total 304

Reason	Count
DL/SSN PROVISIONAL	53
ID NOT PROVIDED - EXCEPTION - REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT	28
ID NOT PROVIDED - NO EXCEPTION FORM/RETURN WITH ID	12
INCORRECT PARTY	57
INCORRECT PRECINCT	29
JURISDICTION DISPUTE	9
NO RECORD OF REGISTRATION	82
PREVIOUSLY REMOVED	6
UNRECOGNIZED ADDRESS (GEOCODE ISSUE)	23
UNREPORTED MOVE	3
VOTER ALREADY VOTED	2
Total	304

FILES 1

