

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

Monitor Names: George Elam

Date & Time: March 3, 2026, 2:00 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, Elections Coordinator; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers: 1 LWV in person, 1 Common Cause, 1 Dem

I. Approval of Agenda – approved by acclamation

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

III. Office Updates (Corinne Duncan)

- Election Day turnout as of 10 am: 3,650 voters.
- The warehouse is up and running.
- The EOC is up.
- All voting sites opened on time.
- Ms. Duncan has given one media update this morning.
- Absentee ballots must be in today by 7:30 pm.

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

- There are 20 absentee ballots: 5 civilian, 14 overseas, and 1 military.
- There is one pending ballot. One of the overseas ballots is a never resident. By law this person may only vote in federal contests (Memo 2025-01). So that ballot was duplicated to allow only the federal contests.
- Two bipartisan teams were set up to review these ballots.
- Ms. Duncan gave turnout numbers from previous years:
 - In 2024 early voting was 25,603 and Election Day was 31,001.
 - In 2022 midterm early voting was 24,585 and Election Day was 27,652 (best comparison).
- Final count for today's Absentee Ballots
 - 6 civilian, 14 overseas, 1 military
 - 21 total

- The Board approved 21 Absentee Ballots 5/0.
- Ms. Duncan gave the preliminary Early voting number of 30,773. In comparison, the 2024 primary numbers at 2 pm were 15,391.

The meeting was recessed and reconvened at 7:30 PM.

- Ms Duncan said the polls have closed, but results are delayed until 8:30 pm due to one county having a 1 hour delay opening. All counties must delay results.
- No new ballots are accepted now (7:30).
- Need to close the DS-200. Also need to close the EV machines.
- Flash drives should start to arrive appx 8 pm.
- The video link to the warehouse is up and running.
- Bria demonstrated closing the DS-200 and handed out the data roll for absentee ballots.
- 11 ballots for the first meeting were passed around for the Board to view and sign off.
- Joyce and Crystal will close out the EV machines.

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

- Aaron presented 20 absentee ballots that arrived before 7:30 pm:
 - 11 civilian, 8 overseas, and 1 military.
 - Bipartisan Board teams reviewed them.
 - There was one UOCAVA voter. Aaron called it a FWAB. (Federal Write in Absentee Ballot).
 - Final count. 1 military, 9 overseas, and 12 civilian. Total 22.

V. Preliminary Early Voting, Absentee, and Election Day Results (G.S. § 163.182.2, G.S. § 163-234)

- Bria presented the abstract for absentee ballots.
- Board voted to approve 5-0.
- Crystal presented the final tapes from the EV machines for the Board to review.
- Bria handed out the hand written and printed absentee ballot abstract for Early Voting.
- Dr. Weinert moved to adjourn the meeting and move to the warehouse, where Devin is starting to close out the ED machines. They will close the meeting from there.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, March 6, 1:00 PM