

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

Monitor Names:

Aiden Carson, Elaine Elam, George Elam, Cheryl Williams

Date & Time: July 14, 2026, 3:30 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

Glenda Weinert, Chairman (R), Mary Ann Braine, Secretary (R), Courtney Blossman (R). Jake Quinn, Board Member (D) by video due to illness. Not attending Sally Stein, Board Member (D).

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan, Director; Gabrielle Corey, Elections Administrative Coordinator; Ryan Oliver, Elections Technical Specialist; Amy Broughton, County Attorney

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers: 14 total including, 4 Democrats, 4 LWVAB and 6 unknown; unknown number online.

I. Approval of Agenda – passed 4/0

II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10) Minutes for June 29 were passed 4/0

III. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan

- The interview process to fill the candidate coordinator position is going smoothly and the Office hopes to have a candidate soon.
- Filing for a seat on the Soil and Water Board closed, with 4 candidates filed.
- Filing Montreat and Black Mountain seats closes on Friday, July 17.
- The NCSBE conference is August 9-11 in Greensboro. All staff and Board Members are attending.
- The Office paid dues for each Board Member to the NC Election Board Association.
- Ms. Fox submitted the approved Early Voting Plan to the State Board for review.
 - Before moving to Mr. Ryans' presentation, Dr. Weinert said a question had come up about the presentation of Sunday voting at the last meeting. Someone alleged that Sunday voting, as

- presented in the slides, was termed mandatory not optional and questioned what could be done about it since the Board approved the plan. Moreover, Sunday voting was alleged to have the lowest turnout. (Note: there is a strong movement at the state level to curtail Sunday voting.)
- Both Ms. Duncan and Ms. Corey looked at the slides and said that the person must have been confused with the mandatory weekend hours. (Note: The slides did not present Sunday voting as mandatory according to my review.)
 - In light of that discovery, the question of whether to change the plan's Sunday voting option was dropped.
 - Mr. Quinn said that Buncombe County has used Sunday in each election since at least 2012. In fact, he would not have voted for a plan that lacked a Sunday option. While the turnout may be low it is the best option for some members of our community. It also sends the right message to voters across the county.
 - Dr. Weinert said she didn't know what could be done about it now except to remember that weekend voting (except for the last Saturday before the election) are choices for the Board to make and are not mandated by state statute.

IV. Voting Location Changes (G.S. § 163-128) – Ryan Oliver

- Mr. Oliver said that the Abiding Savior Church may not be an Election Day polling location because the church closes in August and will be undergoing a governance change.
- He thinks it will still be a polling location, but if not, the old Stevens High School is within the precinct and would be an alternative site.
- A motion to approve the school as an alternative site passed 4/0

V. Voter Challenges Preliminary Hearing (G.S. § 163-85(d))

- A citizen brought forward challenges to 41 voters who may be dead.
- Ms. Blossman and Ms. Braine questioned why names going as far back as 2017 are still on the poll records.
 - Ms. Duncan explained that the State has not issued guidance for the removal of possibly dead voters from the rolls. If the names provided to Elections Services by Dept. of Health and Human Services, which the office gets weekly throughout the year, but daily during election season, is not an exact match, the Office does not remove the name.

- Ms. Blossman said that if the name is close and the birthdate exact, they should be removed. Ms. Duncan said twins can have the same birthdate, so a match on birth day is not sufficient to remove a person from the polls.
- Mr. Quinn noted that all but one of the 41 seem to have died in Buncombe County. The other voter died in Yancey County. He wondered how their names were missed.
- Ms. Duncan thinks that the reason the Auditor's Office conducted an audit of several counties' procedures was to get a more complete picture of how counties are currently handling this aspect of list maintenance. Perhaps when the reports on all counties in the sample (7, I think) are complete, the Auditor's Office will prepare guidance so that every county follows the same procedures.
- The procedures need to ensure that voters are provided due process before their names are removed.
- The audit team consisted of 4 people who spent about 4 hours with staff processing the names on a list of 25 voters the audit team brought with them. As staff went through the procedures, the team asked questions to understand the process.
- The Board's goal in this preliminary hearing is to determine: 1) whether each challenge was properly filed and 2) whether reasonable cause exists to move to the final hearing on each challenge.
- The Members present reviewed the challenges individually. The challenges were sent electronically to Mr. Quinn to review. All decided they would vote on the challenges as a block.
- A motion to accept the challenges and move to a final hearing at the next meeting, August 25, passed 4/0

VI. Next Meeting Date: August 25 at 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin St.

The Board adjourned at 4:10 pm.