

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

Monitor Names: Elaine Elam, George Elam, Cheryl Williams

Date & Time: June 29, 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; Gabrielle Corey, Elections Administrative Coordinator; Neggy Fox, Assistant Director; Rachel Wonderlich, Recruiting and Outreach Coordinator; Amy Broughton, County Attorney

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers: 7 total including 1 Common Cause, 4 Democrats, 3 unknown, and 3 LWVAB.

I. Approval of Agenda – passed 5/0

II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10) Minutes for June 23 were passed 5/0

III. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan

- Ms. Duncan passed out flyers for information sessions for poll workers on July 6 at 5:30 pm and July 3 at 2:00 pm; observers on August 18 at 2:00 pm and September 1 at 5:30 pm; and a general election information session on Augusts 27 at 5:30 pm.
- Ms. Stein asked whether any one on the Board has had any contact from the State Board or from Dallas Woodhouse, the Auditor's liaison.
 - Dr. Weinert said she had no contact other than general emails sent to all County Board chairs and about a public records request (no details provided).

IV. Review/Finalize 2026 General Early Voting Plan – Neggy Fox

- Ms. Fox outlined the schedule, the proposed Early Voting, and public comment both in person and through the survey.

- She also provided a map of the county with population density shaded in as well as the location of the proposed sites.
- She also passed out turnout data for the General Elections but not going back as far as 2008.
- Ms. Fox and the staff propose 2 changes to the plan based on public input:
 - To be open the first Saturday after Early Voting opens, meaning the polls will be open 3 Saturdays.
 - To substitute the Friendship Center for the former Permits Office as the 12th site.
- Sites that remain available to the Board include: AB Tech Asheville campus, Avery Creek Community Center, Big Ivey Community Center, Bob Lewis Ball Park (parking lot), Warren Wilson College, and Upper Hominy Fire Station.
- Ms. Fox heard back from the vendor about the cost of a mobile voting unit: \$8,000/week just for the vehicle, the vehicle must be parked in one location; all damages are the Office's responsibility, and individual training for those who would staff the vehicle.
 - Her conclusion is that more thinking needs to be done before using this option.
 - Ms. Braine asked whether the \$8,000 was comparable to rent paid for the use of other sites.
 - Ms. Fox said that in 2020 the Office rented space for \$6,000 for the entire Early Voting period and when the Office rented the Civic Center it was \$20,000.
 - Ms. Stein noted that since they need the space for 2.5 weeks, the rent would be about \$20,000.
 - Ms. Duncan noted that the vehicle holds only 2 staff which would be a bottleneck.
 - Ms. Blossman said she had driven to Upper Hominy and found lots of people there. It didn't seem to her to be that close to Enka Candler Library, which has limited parking. In addition, she counted 11 churches on the main road.
 - Ms. Stein asked Ms. Duncan for her thoughts on reasons not to use Upper Hominy.
 - Ms. Duncan said that during Early Voting the focus is on places where people are likely to be in their daily activities, as they shop, work, or do other errands. Upper

Hominy isn't on the routes that take people to those kinds of places. Since 2012 the district has added 400 registered voters.

- Ms. Blossman said that since it hasn't been used as a site, people just need to know it's there.
- Dr. Wienert asked what other location would the Friendship Center pull from. Ms. Fox said South Buncombe and Arden.
 - Mr. Quinn said that the voter waiting app is very helpful for people deciding where to vote by showing them the places with shorter wait times.
- Ms. Braine said she would like for Upper Hominy to be added. She noted that the Elections staff had investigated the site in 2024 but it could not be used due to Helene. It's not fair if we say we want to serve all voters but what we really mean is all votes in urban areas.
- Mr. Quinn pointed out that one goal is to place sites on public transit routes. Upper Hominy does not have access to public transportation.
 - He also noted that the political parties are to nominate people to serve as poll workers, which was difficult for them in 2024. The drive to and from will also burden the staff.
 - Dr. Weinert asked what sort of limitations did staff face when they used Upper Hominy.
 - Ms. Duncan said the site was staffed with 3 people, the minimum required, but did not have to change hours or make any other adjustments.
 - Ms. Stein asked whether the site had observers.
 - Ms. Duncan said yes, the political parties opted to have observers there.
 - Mr. Quinn said that he guessed the observers did not stay long due to the low turnout.
 - Ms. Blossman asked how much it cost to open a site for Early Voting.
 - Ms. Fox said \$30,000 for each site.
 - Ms. Duncan said that the more sites staff have to manage adds to the complexities of administering the election.
 - Ms. Blossman said it is hard to reach rural areas.

- Dr. Weinert asked whether we could swap out another one of the 12 sites to add Upper Hominy.
- Ms. Stein said she preferred 12 sites.
- Mr. Quinn called for a vote on the existing proposed plan and reminded the Board that a non-unanimous vote left the decision to the State Board.
 - The motion failed 4 to 1, with Mr. Quinn the only yes vote.
- Ms. Blossman moved to have the Board vote on the revised plan that adds both an extra Saturday for voting and a 13th site, Upper Hominy.
 - The motion passed 5/0

V. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 14 at 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin St.

The Board recessed for closed session with the Board's attorney at 4:05 pm. Then adjourned after the closed session at 6:15 pm