

Buncombe County Board of Elections

Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters

Monitor Name: Deborah Britt

Meeting Date & Time: April 26, 2022, 3:30pm

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Linda Block, Secretary

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Glen Shults, Board Member

Robert (Bo) Carpenter, Board Member

Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan (Director)

Jacqueline Austin (Absentee Program Coordinator)

Karen Rae (*? Title... does the training*)

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm by Chairman Jake Quinn.

Chairman Quinn welcomed the attendees in the room and the virtual attendees.

He instructed attendees present to sign the guest register per procedure.

(I attended this meeting in-person)

Agenda Item: Minutes

Chairman Quinn – stated that the Board had minutes from April 12 and April 19 to discuss and approved.

April 12 – Chairman Quinn asked the Board if they reviewed the addition to the minutes submitted by Board Member Carpenter. He verbalized that the addition provided more detail in the election process of the Appointed Judges. The Board had reviewed and there was no questions or discussion. The Board unanimously approved the April 12 Minutes.

April 19 – The Board unanimously approved the April 19 minutes.

Agenda Item: **Office Updates** given by Director Corrine Duncan

- Director Duncan announced that Maggie Fox was named as Deputy Director. Ms. Fox has been on staff at Buncombe's BOE since 2015. Her prior work history includes government work. She has a Bachelor's in Political Science.
- Early Voting for 2022 Primary Election starts Thursday, April 28 – May 14
 - All sites are set-up
 - Hours of Early Voting
 - Monday-Friday – 8am-7:30pm
 - Saturday 5/7 and Sunday 5/8 – 10am-3pm
 - Last Saturday 5/14 – 8am-3pm
 - If citizens missed the 4/22 deadline to register to vote by mail, they can register to vote during Early Voting. However, they cannot change their party during Early Voting.
 - Encouraged everyone to prepare to vote by going to the online “voter lookup tool” and printing their sample ballot.
 - Encouraged use of the online “Wait Map” prior to heading out to one of the Early Voting sites. They can see in real time how many voters are in-line at each site.
 - Reminded everyone about the changes of two of the sites –
 - The Mall site was moved to “East Asheville Library”.
 - The ??? site was moved to “Wesley Grant Episode Center”.
 - Training – given by Karen Rae
 - Early Voting training completed
 - Teams at each site include one Captain and 8 members.
 - Election Day
 - 21 classes (4 hours each) are scheduled
 - Poll workers needed for Election Day
 - One Judge
 - 10 Assistants
 - Back-ups

Agenda Item: **Absentee Ballot Review** given by Jacqueline Austin

- Past week, approximately 300 requests for Absentee Ballots
- Tonight, 143 Ballots to review

- 136 Civilian
- 7 Overseas (One was “mailed” and will not need to be duplicated)
- No military
- Six are recommended to be disapproved
- Started with Overseas – Secretary Block and Board Member Aceto designated to review
 - The team checked the following: name on the ballot envelope matched the name on the BOE list, there is a signature on the envelope, and that the envelope had not been opened or damaged.
 - Envelope then handed off to the left. Board Member Shults appeared to check envelope and handed off to the left where Chairman Quinn opened the envelope and created two piles: The envelopes and the ballot requests.
 - Chairman Quinn called for Duplicating Team and provided instructions which I could not hear.
- Ms. Austin provided the two teams the Civilian Ballots – Secretary Block & Board Member Aceto and Board Members Shults & Carpenter.
 - The 136 Civilian Ballots were opened and separated. Verified name on BOE list. Validated Envelope Number matched the Ballot Number. Checked for having either two witnesses or a notary stamp verifying the voter’s signature, checked the name and signature, and checked the address.
 - Two incidences where ballots of “same household” switched envelopes. Team called Absentee Program Coordinator Austin over to review. Ms. Austin reviewed every detail of each ballot and envelope. Both ballots were approved. (Of note, this occurred in 2020 and was approved.)
- Duplicating Team signaled they were finished with the Overseas Ballots. Chairman Quinn went over and asked the routine questions and they all responded Yes after each question. I could not hear all of the questions. Last year the questions were: Did you hear the call?, Did you see the mark?, Are you confident the ballots are accurate and completed in their entirety, and Do you have any questions? Chairman Quinn thanked the Duplicating Team.
- Absentee Ballot Coordinator Austin presented the 6 ballots that the Staff were recommending to be disapproved.
 - Two ballots – no signature of witness
 - One ballot - No signature of voter – will be cured
 - One ballot – incomplete address for witness
 - Voter contacted and informed. In the conversation, the Voter

- stated the witness was an employee where she lived and had helped her. Staff called the facility and provided education to the facility to include the availability of MAT Teams. Facility knew of MAT Teams. Apparently, the Voter declined the MAT Team.
- Two Ballots where Notary used an Emblem Seal instead of a Stamped Seal.
 - I could not hear clearly the entire conversation.
 - Chairman Quinn referred to memo 2021.07 (?).
 - I believe the Emblem Seal showed up backward and was not legible.
 - Chairman Quinn voiced he would follow-up with the State BOE regarding Notaries and the use of Stamp Seals verses the Emblem Seal.
 - Board unanimously approved to disapprove the six ballots presented and BOE Staff to follow-up.
 - Chairman Quinn asked that the Ballots be prepared and scanned
 - Director Duncan brought forward the Election Day formality resolution for Chairman Quinn and all Board Members.
 - Chairman Quinn
 - For Absentee Ballots, all Board Members must be present at 2pm on Election Day for the “Pre-Processing of Absentee Ballots”.
 - The Pre-processing results of the Absentee Ballots are uploaded to the State (by the Chairman of the Board) and the State posts the results.
 - Required by all County Board of Elections within the State.
 - To follow, is the votes from Early Voting
 - Two scanned Ballots brought forward by the person who scanned the ballots
 - Apparently, the ballots could not be read by the scanner. I could not clearly hear the conversation.
 - Chairman Quinn reviewed the ballots and identified the ballots contained stray marks. He asked that both ballots be reviewed by the two teams. The teams were to answer the question – “Can the Voter intent be determined?” The two teams (Ms. Block & Mr. Aceto and Mr. Shults & Mr. Carpenter) reviewed both ballots and all answered yes that voter intent could be determined on both ballots.
 - The Board voted unanimously that both ballots be approved as Voter intent was determined.
 - Chairman Quinn called in the Duplicating Team to duplicate these

two Ballots. After duplication, Chairman Quinn asked the routine questions of the Duplicating Team and they all responded Yes after each question. He thanked the Duplicating Team.

- Chairman Quinn asked that the Ballots be prepared and scanned
- Board Member Carpenter asked to be excused as he had another meeting. He verbalized he could be in tomorrow morning to sign the envelopes. Chairman Quinn excused Mr. Carpenter.
- Staff brought in the Polybags.
 - Polybags were passed around to each Board Member where they reviewed the stamped information, the staff's signature, ensured the polybag was sealed, and then each Board Member signed their name.
- Chairman Quinn :
 - Ballots processed at this meeting:
 - 136 – Civilian Ballots
 - 7 – Overseas Ballots
 - No – Military
 - 6 Ballots were disapproved and staff to follow-up
 - He shared that by law Absentee Ballots received last week “must be” processed by today
 - He called for question and there were none.

Chairman Quinn adjourned the meeting at 5:43pm.