

Buncombe County Board of Elections

Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters

Monitor Name: Karen Ward

Meeting Date and Time: May 3, 2022 at 3:30 pm

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)

Devin Whitney (Elections Technical Specialist)

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm

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

He instructed attendees present to sign the guest register per procedure. If they wanted to ask a question, they needed to raise their hand; when acknowledged they needed to state their name first, then ask the question. All of this is recorded.

Chairman Quinn announced that after all agenda items were completed, the Board will go into Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter. All visitors present and online will be asked to leave. No election business will be conducted after that.

Agenda Items:

- The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 26 meeting

- **Office updates:** Director Corrine Duncan

She stated that after 1 week of Election Day training, they have received a lot of praise for the changes in training that they had made

She quoted the statistics from the 2018 elections. That was the last midterm primary and there were just over 30,000 voters. For the 2018 Presidential election, there were 80,000 voters.

Also in 2018, there were 1,976 requests for absentee ballots in the midterm election and

2,277 requests for absentee ballots for the Presidential election.

- For this primary voting stats: as of 3:15 today, there were 927 voters just for today. There were no waits anywhere
- She believes that the 3rd week turnout will increase substantially
- She discussed the information and data available on the BofE website, some of which are the ability to check wait times at sites, view sample ballots, data about the turnout at each site: (South Asheville had the highest numbers and Leicester the lowest numbers)
- Ms. Duncan wanted to clarify semantics regarding “Absentee votes.” These are any votes that are NOT cast on election day. They include mail-in ballots and in-person “one stop” voting.
- A ballot marked “Accepted” shows that the ballot has shown up at the office, NOT that it has been reviewed.
- Ms. Duncan then described the process of how the ballots get from the voting sites to the warehouse, but I couldn't catch enough of the words to include this in the monitoring minutes.

Absentee Ballot Review: Jacqueline Austin

- Tonight there is 1 Military ballot, 12 Overseas ballots and 176 Civilian ballots
- There is 1 visually-impaired ballot and 1 ballot recommended for disapproval.
- Mr. Whitney presented a one-stop early voting ballot for a possible challenge (I'm not sure the difference between “disapproval” and “challenge.”) After receiving all of the information, the Board unanimously approved challenging the ballot. Staff will follow up with voter.
- The Military and Overseas Ballots were checked in the usual fashion and given to the Duplicating team for duplication. (I was not aware when they finished and didn't see Chrm. Quinn ask them the usual questions. In the previous place you could see the duplicating team, but with attendees here now, there doesn't appear to be room for them in the camera range)
- An audience member asked if there is a need for further checks. Chrm. Quinn suggested having a check list of all procedures that staff check off on. But he first wants to see what the State BofE's are doing, to be sure that this team is following all standards.
- Mr. Aceto asked if there is a Deputy Director who would stand in for an absence by Director Duncan, and who selects the Director? Chrm. Quinn stated that the Board of Elections selects the Director, and that the new Deputy Director starts on May 7. Then, in the absence of the Director, the Deputy Director will stand in.
- A motion was made by Chrm. Quinn to approve the 176 Civilian absentee ballots that were reviewed, the 1 Military ballot that was reviewed, and the 12 Overseas ballots that were reviewed. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 17 ballots were put into a red envelope: 12 overseas, 1 military, 1 visually

impaired, 1 torn ballot and 2 ballots with stray marks.

Chairman Quinn announced that there would be no meeting needed tomorrow, as they reviewed all of the ballots. Early voting will continue until 7:30 tonight. Staff are in the warehouse until 10:00 tonight.

Agenda Item: Closed session for a personnel matter.

At 6:15 in-person attendees left and monitoring stopped.