

**Buncombe County Board of Elections
Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters**

Monitor Name: Karen Ward

Meeting Date and Time: May 17, 2022 2:00 p.m.; Recess; 7:00 p.m.

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 2:05 by Chairman Quinn

Chairman Quinn welcomed and thanked the attendees in the room and the virtual attendees for attending the meeting

Agenda Item: Minutes

Chairman Quinn passed around minutes for the May 10 and May 16 meetings.

Discussion was held and some corrections were made and agreed upon by all of the Board Members. The minutes were then approved unanimously as amended.

Agenda Item: Office Updates by Ms. Duncan

She reported that all 80 Election Day voting sites were up and running on time. 450 poll workers were setting up and getting ready, beginning at 5:30 to open at 6:30. The sites will stay open until 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Duncan gave a lot of reminders for voters potentially tuning in. She will get and report turnouts today at 10:00, 2:00, and 4:00.

They now have stickers for voters.

She noted that it is difficult to predict turnout numbers, but turn out at primaries are usually the same as numbers of Early Voting. So far today there were no lines. The Wait Time app is available today at the BOE website.

Schedule for today: At 7:30 pm they will upload the results from Early Voting and Absentee Ballots. As precinct's results come in, they will be periodically uploaded.

Absentee Ballot Review: Ms. Austin

118 Absentee Ballots for this evening

- Civilian: 114
- Overseas: 3
- Military: 1
- Recommended by Staff for Challenging: 2

They began with the Civilian ballots. The Board teams did their reviews

- Ms. Block and Mr. Aceto
- Mr. Shults and Mr. Carpenter

Civilian ballots were opened and separated. Verified name on BOE list. Validated that 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.

(Because of Ms. Austin not wearing a mask, I was unclear when the teams were handed the 3 overseas ballots to review, and the 1 military ballot to be reviewed. I was also not aware of the presence of a Duplicating team, because their station is out of sight of the camera.) (kw)

Absentee Ballots presented by Staff for possible challenge: Mr. Whitney

Mr. Whitney had 2 ballots and documents to present to the Board.

Chairman Quinn explained that the Board would be asked to review each one, and then they would vote on whether to have either of them proceed/move to a challenge hearing. Mr. Whitney presented each case separately and then passed the folder to each Board member for them to look through.

One was regarding an Early Voter who voted on April 29, and died on May 14, so not alive on Election Day.

One was regarding a voter who voted the opposite party than the one he had registered for, and other issues.

The Board, after each member had read the material and asked any further questions, voted unanimously to move both ballots forward to a Challenge hearing.

Final procedures:

The machine count of ballots was brought in and shown to each Board Member and Mr. Quinn.

Polybags were brought in, sealed, and signed by each Board member.

One Board member asked the staff present what is usually the per cent turnout for mid-

term elections. Ms. Duncan said it's usually around 16% of the population. She expects this mid-term per cent turnout to be around 35%, based on early voting numbers.

Closing all One-Stop Voting Poll sites: Mr. Whitney

These sites have to close on election day. Early voting was stopped there on the last Early Voting day, but today the machines needed to be turned off (that was my impression from what he said) The Board voted unanimously to give Mr. Whitney permission to do that.

An abstract will be printed for the board members to sign. They need to return at 7:00 pm

The meeting was recessed until 7:00 pm

Chairman Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

All Board members are present. All staff present at the earlier meeting today are again present.

Agenda Item: Board members will be reviewing the Absentee Abstract.

Office Updates: Ms. Duncan

- Media availability scheduled for 7:45 pm. They will be talking with Ms. Duncan; Board members may also talk with them.
- A “runner” is waiting for delivery of final results, printout counting the number of precincts. (I think that is what she said)
- When they get a little group of precincts in, they upload them; will do flash drives for precincts as they come in.
- When the polls closed, the lines were short, so the results should be ready quickly.
- These are still preliminary reports, as provisional ballots need to be counted.
- The last action at the end of the night is the Chair has to sign the counting journals.
- A discussion ensued among the Board regarding audits and checks, in response to a question from an in-person monitor.

At 7:30 Mr. Whitney passed out some papers to each team. They compared the abstract to the report (? which one?) for accuracy. Each board member signed in front of a notary, and the notary signed.

This meeting was recessed at 7:53. They will all reconvene at the Warehouse, this evening.

I was unable to monitor that meeting.