

Buncombe County Board of Elections

Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters

Monitor Name: Deborah Britt

Meeting Date & Time: May 27, 2022, 11:00 am

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)

Bria Bailey (Elections Technical Specialist)

Karen Rae (Voter Registration Specialist)

Bi-partisan Duplicating Teams – BOE Staff ? names

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 am by Chairman Jake Quinn.

Chairman Quinn welcomed the attendees in the room and the virtual attendees. He encouraged all attendees to ask the Board any questions. {I counted 8 attendees in the room [including myself]. I do not know the number of virtual attendees.}

Agenda Item: **Minutes**

Chairman Quinn – Minutes from May 26 were deferred to the next meeting as the Board did not have the opportunity to review the minutes. Board unanimously approved to defer the May 26 minutes.

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

- Ms. Duncan outlined the Canvass agenda.
 - Challenges x 2
 - Manual Tally from Election Day
 - Provisional Results
 - Audit for entire Election

- Manual Edits in the system
- Printed Reports will require review and signature of each Board Member and then Notarized.
- Move to accept the election results

Agenda Item: **Challenge Hearings**

- Challenge #1
 - Chairman Quinn (speaking to attendees) voiced that the Board was familiar with this Challenge. He stated the Challenge had been presented and discussed at a prior Board Meeting.
 - During Early Voting a voter voted, but then passed away ‘before’ Election Day. By Law, anyone voting during ‘Early Voting’ must be alive on Election Day for their vote to count.
 - Ms. Duncan voiced that the BOE Staff had reached out to the Voter and to the Voter Family, but did not hear back.
 - At a previous meeting, Devin Whitney (Elections Technical Specialist) reviewed the ‘official’ data bases where they learn of deaths.
 - Chairman Quinn asked if the voter was present or if there was anyone present representing her. No one responded.
 - By Law (189.8?), Chairman Quinn sworn in Ms. Duncan as the Staff person compiling the documents for Challenge #1. Ms. Duncan stood and placed her hand on the law book (the red manual) that governs the BOE. She was asked if the documentation was true and accurate to the best of her knowledge. She was asked if there was official evidence that the voter was deceased. Ms. Duncan replied yes to both questions.
 - Chairman Quinn moved that this Challenge be sustained.
 - The Board unanimously approved.

- Challenge #2
 - Chairman Quinn sworn in Ms. Duncan following same process identified under Challenge #1.
 - During Early Voting, a voter voted on a different party Ballot that he was not eligible to vote.
 - Voter not present in-person or virtually.
 - Challenge #2 documents were passed around for review and discussion by the Board.

- Chairman Quinn moved that this Challenge be sustained and the Board would ask the Duplicating Team to duplicate only those races where he was eligible to vote.
 - The Board unanimously approved the two parts of the motion.
 - Duplicating Team duplicated the eligible races in the usual manner of procedure.
- Election Day Provisional by Bria Bailey (Elections Technical Specialist)
 - At Precinct 67.1, a voter put their Provisional Ballot into the scanning machine. Ballot was retrieved and placed in Provisional Envelope and was processed (as a Provisional) at the BOE meeting on May 26.
 - At this BOE Canvass meeting, a manual edit will be required during to adjust the machine count at Precinct 67.1.
 - Chairman Quinn stated Board was familiar with this incident and discussed at the May 26 BOE mtg. Board Members had no further questions/discussion at this meeting. Chairman Quinn moved to proceed with manual edit to adjust the machine count at Precinct 67.1
 - The Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item: Canvass G.S. 163-182.5

- Staff preparing for audits
- Board Members divided into bipartisan teams.
 - Block and Aceto
 - Shults and Carpenter
- Ms. Duncan had prepared a spread sheet for Early Voting. Voting numbers are reconciled each night and the last night for a full audit is run. Each Board member received a copy for review.
- Ms. Duncan presented a second spread sheet showing “all ways of voting”: Absentee Ballots, Early Voting, Election Day, Provisionals.
- Ms. Duncan had two situations to point out and explain to the Board:
 - Precinct 5.1 - At end of day, there was “one” extra ballot. The Voter was registered, checked-in and the ballot scanned. Staff hand-counted and the vote was not found. They further researched and could not determine the extra ballot. The Ballot was counted.
 - Precinct ??? – A vote was removed as the person that voted was not eligible to register or vote. Ms. Duncan said this situation was attributed to Pole Worker error. She also pointed out the uniqueness of this situation. The ineligible person had the ‘exact’ first-name, middle-name, last-name, and the ‘exact’ birthdate as another Registered Voter. The social security numbers were similar, but

different. The error was discovered and corrected. The Registered Voter was voted with a Provisional Ballot.

- Precinct Election Tapes (neatly folder) were brought out in a basket.
 - Board Members were encouraged to select tapes and match with the spread sheets to ensure numbers were reconciled.
 - The Board Members worked in bipartisan teams.
 - Ms. Duncan answered questions regarding the Tapes and Spread Sheet.
- Bria Bailey (Elections Technical Specialist) next brought out the Reports for review. Reports were for Precincts, Block-Style, and the Edit Logs and ???.
 - Board again, worked in bipartisan teams. Each team reviewed each and every report.
 - Brea answered questions by the Board Members.
 - Board Members looked for and reviewed the edits that were to be made at this Canvass meeting.
- Ms. Duncan passed around the “Abstract” for each report. Board Members instructed to review and then sign their signature.
- Abstracts rotated back to Chairman Quinn who reviewed and signed.
- Chairman Quinn asked if the Board had any additional questions regarding the Canvass. (My notes from 163-182.5 (a) ...the term “canvass” means the entire process of determining that the votes have been counted and tabulated correctly, culminating in the authentication of the official election results. ...” There was no further discussion.
- Chairman Quinn moved that the Election is certified.
 - The Board unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm by Chairman Quinn. He invited all attendees to Coxe Ave. on June 1st to observe the process of a recount. They will have chairs for observers.

Side notes while Reports being prepared:

- Chairman Quinn noted that there was a tie and referenced 163.11. A recount is mandatory. Process starts with a machine count of all the votes. Recount will be conducted at Coxe Ave., Wednesday, June 1st starting at 9am. Bipartisan teams will feed the Ballots to the machines. He mentioned hand-count of 3% of the precincts which are chosen by the State. There is the possibility of a second primary if there is a second tie.
- Handout attached - “May 17, 2022 Primary Election, Provisional Applications”. Staff member provided to attendees.