

# Buncombe County Board of Elections

## Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters

**Monitor Name:** Aiden Carson

**Meeting Date & Time:** July 26, 2022 5:30 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, attending by Zoom

**Names of Staff Attending:**

Corinne Duncan, Director

Neggy Fox (Election Preparation Specialist)

Mr. Mueller (Legal Counsel)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairman, Jake Quinn

Chairman Quinn welcomed the attendees in the room and the virtual attendees. He asked the attendees in the room to sign the guest register as per procedure.

**Agenda Item:** Minutes

Minutes for meetings of 6/7, 7/12, and 7/19 were approved.

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

- 4 new permanent positions will be posted soon: Warehouse Manager, Administrative Assistant, Recruiting, and one I didn't get.

**Agenda Item:** Early Voting Plan given by Neggy Fox

- Almost 1000 people participated in online feedback for the proposed plan
- There were ~500 comments, most asking for another weekend, longer weekend hours, or a downtown location.
- They noted that the 10-3 weekend hours allow them to have only one shift for poll workers on those days. Also noted that the greatest numbers show up closer to the election, so the second weekend is preferable, and having a pause on the first weekend allows them to pause and evaluate how it's going. They usually do both weekends for a presidential election but only one for midterms.
- Ms. Fox proposed 11 Early Voting Sites, with North Asheville and second South

Asheville locations to be determined.

- Ms. Fox proposed setting a deadline of 8/17 for all the sites to be chosen, as they have to submit the plan to the state by 8/23.
- Discussion of various site options ensued. If Reynolds Village is used again for N. Avl. Neggy said they would request some changes including better signage.
- They expressed a wish to replace the Wesley Grant Center for this election only because of construction and poor connectivity. (There is a new WG Center being built.)
- Members of the public present at the meeting made several suggestions, primarily focusing on the South Side and the Black community.
- Ronald King suggested using Black Asheville (Black Wall Street?) at 8 River Arts Place.
- Others spoke up for the Eddington Center, though that was seen as not possible because they could not accommodate the process after 1 PM.
- Several people advocated staying with Wesley Grant despite current issues in order to provide continuity for the community.
- There were questions about the connectivity issues at Wesley Grant – Would they be resolved when the new facility replaces the old? (probably not – it’s more the site than the facility) Ms. Duncan noted that, long term, the county’s 2024 Plan (?) will address connectivity issues.
- The discussion seemed to sway the Board. Chairman Quinn proposed they go for 12 sites instead of the 11 originally proposed:
  - Black Mountain Library
  - East Asheville Library
  - Enka-Candler Library
  - Fairview Library
  - Leicester Community Center
  - South Buncombe Library
  - Weaverville Community Center
  - West Asheville Library
  - Downtown site at 50 Coxe Ave.
  - North Asheville site TBD
  - Second South Asheville site TBD
  - Wesley Grant Center
- Mr. Quinn demurred on setting a firm deadline but said he expects they will be ready to approve the final plan at the 8/16 meeting.

**Agenda Item:** Adoption of Board Meeting Schedule for the General Election

The proposed schedule was adopted by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item:** Discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Buncombe County Board of Elections and the Buncombe County Human Resources Department

- There was a long discussion about what the BOE would be agreeing to in regard to personnel policies, particularly grievance procedures.
- The intent is to regularize policies across the county, with the Register of Deeds, the Sherriff's Office, and the BOE retaining some independence in personnel matters.
- Chrm. Quinn will communicate with the two entities above to see how they're handling the matter, and they will take it up again at the 8/16 meeting.

**Agenda Item:** Closed Session for Discussion of a Personnel Matter

The public portion of the meeting was ended at about 7 PM so the Board could begin closed session.