

Buncombe County Board of Elections

Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters

Monitor Name: George Elam, Aiden Carson

Meeting Date & Time: October 18, 2022 3:30 pm

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman (attended virtually)

Linda Block, Secretary

Glen Shults, Board Member

Robert (Bo) Carpenter, Board Member

Board member Steven Aceto was absent.

Names of Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan, Director

Jaqueline Austin (Absentee Program Coordinator)

Other staff

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Linda Block

Agenda Item: Director's Update (Corinne Duncan)

- Early Voting starts Thursday, October 20.
- The Weaverville voting site was set up today.
- The "I VOTED" stickers designed by Polly Crutchfield have arrived and were displayed.
- The Director proposed an Interim Contingency Plan for Early Voting sites. The plan would follow the county's emergency closures due to weather or other types of emergencies. If the emergency occurred on a day when the County offices are closed, the Director (or Assistant Director) would be allowed to close one or more sites as needed. This would allow sites to be closed without an Emergency Board Meeting. Ms. Block moved that the plan be adopted (it can be cancelled at any time) and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item: Absentee Ballot Review (Jaqueline Austin)

- 771 Absentee Ballots were presented, including 738 Civilian, 30 Overseas, and 3 Military.
- 19 were recommended for disapproval and 1 to be discussed as to disposition.
- 28 of the Overseas and one Military ballot were pre-duplicated to save time.

- 3 bipartisan teams began the review of Absentee Ballots. The process began with checking the names on the ballots the first time around, then a second round where they checked the signatures. I'm assuming this was to allow signature disparities to be noted and discussed before the ballots were opened.
- All ballots were secured overnight.

The meeting was recessed at about 5:30 PM, to be continued the next day at 3:30 PM.

Monitor Name: George Elam, Aiden Carson

Meeting Date & Time: October 19, 2022 3:30 pm

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Linda Block, Secretary

Glen Shults, Board Member

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Board member Robert Carpenter was absent.

Names of Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan, Director

Jaqueline Austin (Absentee Program Coordinator)

Other staff

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 by Chairman Jake Quinn.

Agenda Item: Absentee Ballot Review Continued (Jaqueline Austin)

- 4 bipartisan teams continued the ballot review.
- The ballot initially referred to as anomalous (my wording, not the Board's) was discussed. A MAT Team was assisting the voter in this case and the voter evidently sealed the ballot after marking it without the second MAT member being able to witness the marking of the ballot. The voter opened the ballot to show that it had been marked and then re-sealed it with tape and signed over the tape. Member Shults stated that he felt the deviation from procedure had been so extensive that the ballot should be disapproved, even though all members believed the steps had been followed, albeit in the wrong order. A motion to accept the ballot passed 3-1, with Mr. Shults voting against.
- Member Block left the meeting early, about 5:30 PM.
- There was discussion about how to handle mismatched CID numbers. Minutes were distributed from a 2020 meeting where the Board had adopted a policy on

handling ballots from the same household that had been mixed up. The ballots had to be from the same household in order for CID mismatches to be accepted.

- 24 ballots were disapproved: 17 for missing signatures, 4 for mismatched CIDs, 1 that was improperly delivered (interoffice mail), 1 that was unsealed, and 1 with incomplete witness information.
- 767 ballots were approved: 734 civilian, 30 overseas, and 3 military.
- At of this date, over 6000 Absentee Ballots have been requested and over 2000 have been returned. They expect about 1000 to be processed at the next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for October 25 at 3:30 PM.