

## Buncombe County Board of Elections

### Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters

**Monitor Name:** Linda Kinsinger

**Meeting Date and Time:** November 17, 2022 3:30 pm

**Names of Board Members Attending:**

Jake Quinn, Chair

Linda Block, Secretary

Glen Shults, Board Member

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Robert "Bo" Campbell, Board Member

**Names of Staff Attending:**

Corinne Duncan, Director

Anna Katherine Moore

Joyce Knavel

Other staff

**Public Attending**

There were 4 members of the public in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Quinn at 3:30 pm.

**Agenda Item:** Minutes from Nov. 7 and 8, 2022 have been distributed to Members but will be discussed and approved at tomorrow's meeting.

**Agenda Item:** Office Updates

- Most absentee ballots were processed last Monday.
- The sample audit has been completed. No discrepancies were found in precinct 13.1 for election day voting. Three differences were found at the Fairview Branch Library early voting site but they were easily resolved.
- Feedback about the voting process has been elicited and received from election workers. Staff will also be asked for feedback. Board Member Block asked if the feedback could be shared with Board Members. Director Duncan will consider it. Those giving feedback were promised confidentiality.

**Agenda Item:** Abandoned Ballot

- One ballot was marked by a voter but not accepted by the voting machine, due to unclear markings on the ballot. The voter took the ballot back to a voting booth but then left without further completing it or getting assistance from election workers. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the ballot overall, as they felt the voter intended to cast the ballot. They then went through each race individually to vote on whether the voter's intent was clear enough for that race and voted. The ballot was then given to the duplicating team to produce a ballot with just the approved races marked.

**Agenda Item:** Write-in Ballots

- 2 mailed ballots had a candidate's name written in but the candidate's name was also printed on the ballot and the bubble had been filled in.
- An uncertain number of other ballots had write-in names. The Board Members were told that they did not need to determine if the person whose name was written in was actually eligible for that race. Chairman Quinn wrote something on a sticky note for each ballot with a write-in and they passed them on to the other Board Members for review. (I wasn't clear on what they were reviewing them for.)

#### **Agenda Item: Provisional Ballots**

- A total of 581 Provisional Ballots were cast. Director Duncan explained the process of reviewing the provisional ballots. She noted that there were 3 sets of such ballots: those approved by staff (157), those partially approved by staff (54), and those disapproved by staff (370). Each provisional ballot was in its own envelope, along with notes from the poll worker and from Board of Elections research team, as to why it was deemed to be "provisional." Research team staff investigate each ballot thoroughly, using a checklist.
- The Board Members started with the "partial approved" ballots first. These are mostly from voters who voted in the wrong precinct and were given ballots that didn't match the ballot they were actually eligible to vote on. The Board Members were divided into 2 teams and each team opened the envelopes and reviewed half of the ballots. Chairman Quinn then signed off on all ballots. Once the review was completed, the ballots were given to 1 of 2 4-member duplicating teams who filled in the correct ballot for each voter, based on the races that the voter was eligible to vote for. The review process resulted in a final total of 58 ballots in the "Partial Approved" category.
- Next the Board Members reviewed the "approved" provisional ballots. These were likely ballots in which the voter voted in a different precinct but one in which the ballot was the same as the correct precinct, so they don't need to be duplicated. The Board Members opened each envelope and wrote in the correct precinct number on each ballot and Chairman Quinn reviewed and signed them. The initial tally of "Approved" provisional ballots was 152, but that was later amended to 150 (see below).
- Next the Board Members reviewed all the "disapproved" ballots. These were mostly ballots from voters who had not registered in time or who were registered in another county or state. These envelopes were not opened but Board Members checked names from a list of names. The initial tally of "Disapproved" provisional ballots was 371, but that was later amended to 373.
- Finally, the Board Members discussed 2 ballots that had been approved by staff but about which there were concerns. Apparently, one of the ballots was from a disabled voter who wasn't able to properly verify their name and did not ask for help, as required by law. I'm not sure about the other ballot but they seemed to be connected to each other. Both were disapproved on a 4-1 vote.

The meeting was concluded at 8:47 pm by Chairman Quinn.

Next meeting scheduled for Nov. 18, 2022 at 11:00 am.