

Buncombe County Board of Elections

Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters

Monitor Name: Aiden Carson and George Elam

Meeting Date & Time: November 7, 2022 5:30 pm

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Glen Shults, Board Member

Robert (Bo) Carpenter

Missing: Linda Block, Secretary

Names of Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan, Director

Jacquelyn Austin (Absentee Program Coordinator)

Anna Katherine Moore (minutes)

Other staff

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jake Quinn at 5:33 PM

Agenda Items

Minutes from last meeting were deferred.

Office Update:

- They've been busy setting up all the voting sites for Election Day
- Over 70,000 people voted during Early Voting
- 27 poll workers have dropped out in the last 36 hours. Even though they had 50 extras standing by, they have run out of workers and some polling locations will be short. Most gave Covid as the reason. Corinne said that next time around they will try to have 100 standbys.

Absentee Ballot Review

- Jaqueline presented 771 Civilian, 33 overseas, and 10 Military Absentee Ballots.
- 16 ballots were suggested for disapproval.
- Jake said they would hold all additional disapprovals until the end and do them all together.
- 4 bipartisan teams were formed by teaming up a Board member with a staff member

and they reviewed the envelopes and ballots.

- Chairman Quinn said that in his opinion one of the 16 ballots suggested for disapproval should actually be disapproved. On this ballot, the second witness did not write his address, but had written his address on the yellow slip used when he dropped off the ballot.
- During the ballot review, the Board identified an additional 5 ballots to be considered for approval.
- Chairman moved to disapprove 15 of the ballots recommended for disapproval by staff and they were disapproved by unanimous vote.
- Chairman moved to approve the 16th ballot described above. Discussion ensued as Board members tried to find guidance in the statute and in numbered memos for such a case. Clear guidance was not found. Even though they had the address of the witness since he filled out a yellow sheet when he dropped the ballot off, it was pointed out that the witness in that case was attesting to dropping it off, not attesting that he had witnessed the ballot. It was also noted that staff had already contacted the voter in plenty of time for them to fix the problem. The final vote was 3 to 1 for disapproval, with Chairman Quinn voting to approve.
- The duplicating team was dismissed, having been quizzed by Chairman Quinn in the usual manner.
- The Board then moved on to consider the additional 5 problematic ballots.
- The first 3 were mismatched CIDs not attributable to the printing error. They were disapproved unanimously.
- The 4th was found to be unsealed, though it looked like it had appeared to be sealed when it was received. It may have been sealed but come unstuck. On investigation it was discovered that even though there was no postage and no cancellation, the ballot had been received by mail. Jaqueline said they had received several ballots through the mail with the same characteristics. The necessity of a postmark only applies to ballots received after Election Day. Discussion ensued. Mr. Carpenter thought a sealed ballot was integral to the process. The ballot was approved 3 to 1, with Mr. Carpenter voting to disapprove.
- On the 5th ballot, one person acted as an assistant and also as a witness. He signed in the assistant box but not in the witness box. After discussion the ballot was approved unanimously.
- Mr. Carpenter and Chairman Quinn processed the 4th and 5th ballots.
- In total, 19 ballots were disapproved (the 16 recommended by staff plus the 3 identified by the Board). Lack of witness signatures was the primary reason. In one case the voter did not sign, and in one case the second witness did not include an address.
- Three cases of mismatched CIDs that were attributable to the printing error were moved to pending status.
- 765 Civilian, 33 Overseas, and 10 Military ballots were approved unanimously.

- The Board certified the entire Absentee Ballot list totaling 70,371 Absentee Voters. That list will be sent to the precincts and will be available to the public. Corinne clarified that this list is not used to check whether voters have already voted. Those votes are already recorded in the poll book.
- Chairman Quinn moved to approve all 70,371 ballots and it was passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: 11/8/2022 (Election Day) at 2:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM