

Buncombe County Board of Elections

Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters

Monitor Name: Aiden Carson

Meeting Date & Time: November 8, 2022 5:30 pm

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Glen Shults, Board Member

Robert (Bo) Carpenter, Board Member

Linda Block, Board Member

Names of Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan, Director

Jacquelyn Austin (Absentee Program Coordinator)

Anna Katherine Moore (minutes)

Devin Whitney (Elections Technical Specialist)

Bria Bailey (Elections Technical Specialist)

Other staff

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jake Quinn at 2:03 PM

Agenda Items

Minutes from last meeting were deferred.

Operations Update (Corinne Duncan):

- Weather is good for Election Day and turnout is good.
- Good turnout for press conference.
- Absentee Ballots will not close until Canvass.

Absentee Ballot Review (Jaqueline Austin):

- Jaqueline presented 135 Civilian, 66 Overseas, and 7 Military Absentee Ballots.
- 7 ballots were suggested for disapproval.
- 1 ballot was suggested for special processing.
- 3 bipartisan teams were formed to process the overseas ballots first, so they could be turned over to the duplicating team while the rest of the Absentees were being reviewed.

- During the proceedings a number of probing questions were asked by one of the Republican observers about exactly how and when balances and tapes were checked to make sure no votes had been altered. He appeared to be gathering information in order to refute possible claims of tampering.
- The special handling ballot had previously been disapproved because it was a mismatched CID not attributable to the printing error. On review, staff found that the voter had messed up the original ballot and requested a replacement. They returned the replacement in the original envelope. The Board approved the ballot unanimously.
- Chairman moved to disapprove the 7 ballots recommended for disapproval by staff and they were disapproved by unanimous vote.
- Most were disapproved for lack of one or more signature, with one disapproved for a missing witness address.
- 136 Civilian (including the 1 special one), 44 Overseas, and 7 Military ballots were approved unanimously for a total of 187 approved.

Board Challenges (Devin Whitney):

- These are challenges of Early Voting ballots already counted that are being challenged by staff.
- There was an incident at Leicester Community Center where there was one more ballot processed than there were ballot requests. The extra ballot had the same number (manually written) as another ballot for a different person. There is no way to identify the person to notify them. The problem does not fit any of the categories on the challenge form. The Board voted unanimously to challenge the ballot. Final resolution will be at Canvass.
- In another incident, a voter had been given the wrong ballot style by mistake and voted Avl City races when they should not have. The voter has been notified but has not replied. It will require a manual edit to remove the illegitimate votes if nothing changes before Canvass. Board voted to challenge the ballot.
- A voter refused to give his address or birth date (and was acting strangely). He went away then returned later (or the next day) and still refused, saying he did not live at the residence on his registration information. He should have filled out a provisional ballot but did not want to, and the poll worker allowed him to cast a regular ballot. The Board voted to challenge.
- In another group of challenges, 3 voters have been designated as dead. Board voted to challenge. Lastly, 3 people voted during Early Voting but subsequently died. Board voted to challenge.

The meeting was recessed at that point and came back at 6:58 to approve and sign the Abstract. As I understand it, the Abstract is created by loading the Early Voting tapes into a computer, which we witnessed, but I'm pretty fuzzy on it. The Board checked and signed 3 copies of the Abstract.

At 7:30 PM Devin began uploading the Absentee data to the state and Corinne shared printed copies of the results to the observers present (I had gone home and was observing virtually).

At that point the Board moved to the warehouse to be available to help with the work there.

Next Meeting Date: 11/14/2022 (Sample Audit) at 10:00 AM