

Buncombe County Board of Elections
Asheville/Buncombe County Board of Elections

Monitor Name: George Elam and Elaine Elam

Date & Time: October 10, 2023 3:30 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Glen Shults, Secretary

Mary Ann Braine, Board Member

Sally Stein: Board Member

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending: Corrine Duncan, Director;
Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board;
Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; Devin Whitney Elections Technician Specialist

Location of Meeting: 9 Woodfin Place, Asheville, NC and 50 Coxe Avenue for machine testing

Observers:

Two representatives from LWVAB, one from Common Cause, and a few from both political parties..

Agenda Items:

Minutes:

- Minutes from 9/2 were approved 5/0.

Office Updates (Corinne):

- Warehouse position filled. Person starts 10-23-23 and has experience from Jackson County
- On 10-5-23 86 counties participated in a mock election to check data upload to SBOE.
- Last Friday 17 absentee ballots sent out. 23 overseas requests. None have been returned.
- Training for early voting starts next week.
- Corrine is preparing a document to present to the Board regarding delegation of her authority.

- Aceto stated the SBOE memo regarding absentee ballots and delegation of staff functions is very specific. GS 163.234.

Resolution for Counting Absentee Ballots:

- The Board passed a resolution for counting absentee ballots for the muni elections currently going on. The resolution needed to be passed in order to send out to the media.
- Corrine gave the Board a checklist to go by for accepting photo IDs.
- Justin: The whole Board will have to determine acceptable photos.

Absentee Ballot Review:

- Corinne gave an overview and Karen followed with a detailed account of the process used (for Election Day Chief Judges only).
- Jake showed the new AB ballot with the clear pocket attached to the outside of the ballot. That pocket is for the photo or the exception form. That way staff can see the photo or the exception without opening the ballot. Only the Board can open ballots.
- Corrine reviewed the procedure for processing absentee ballots as the photo requirement is new. If a voter does not include a photo ID in the clear pocket of the envelope, they will need to fill out the yellow exemption form, checking the box(es) for the reasons (such as disability, lack of transportation, etc.)
- The ballot will be accepted unless all 5 members of the board reject it. As in prior years, two witnesses or a notary must sign the ballot verifying the voter's identity.
- Postage to mail in the ballot is \$1.59. The ballot may also be hand delivered to the BOE office at 59 Woodfin Place.
- The absentee ballot will include a 4 page insert from the SBOE for filing out the ballot.
- The SBOE numbered memo 2021.03 deals with the new photo ID requirements and exemption forms, as well as other areas of absentee ballots. (worth reading).
- Overseas ballots are received via email. Duplicated by a bipartisan team, then printed.
- Buncombe County Election Services at 59 Woodfin Place, is offering free ID's.
- Corrine stated that Mecklenburg County had either 24,000 or 26,000 mail in ballots and had only 34 yellow exemption sheets.

Machine Testing:

- Machine testing at the warehouse at 50 Coxe Ave went well. More than 10% of the machines were tested. Both hand marked ballots and express vote ballots were used.
- Express vote machines will be used for the Woodfin and Weaverville municipalities for early voting.
- To view a video for the ExpressVote machine, got to Youtube. Type in “Express vote machine tutorial” and look for the Fairfax video. Three minutes to watch.
- Also for complete videos of Buncombe County BOE meetings:
<https://engage.buncombecounty.org/A44572>

Next Meeting Date:**October 17 at 5:30 pm****Location: 59 Woodfin Place**