

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

**Monitor Name:** Cheryl Williams in person

**Date & Time:** November 13, 2023 10:00 AM

**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; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; Josh (?), Elections Technical Specialist; Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Bria Bailey, Elections Tech Specialist; and another staff

**Location of Meeting:** 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

**Observers:**

There were 6 observers. 1 LWV, 1 who did not stay for the entire and who in the past has identified with the NCEIT, the rest of unknown affiliation

Josh (?), who was covering for Devin Whitney, did not know how to determine whether any one observed the meeting virtually.

**Agenda Items**

**I. Minutes**

Mr. Quinn said that the minutes would be reviewed at the next meeting

**II. Operations Update:**

- The Election is over and things went very well.
- The Board and Staff are moving on to the canvass.
- Staff have completed the sample audit of precinct 59.1 for the Woodfin mayoral race and early voting at the Weaverville Community Center
  - The precincts were randomly selected by the State Board of Elections
  - The audit consists of an eye-hand count of the ballots compared to the tabulated results.
  - In each instance the results matched perfectly.

- Staff have reviewed the 8 provisional ballots and presented them at the Thursday meeting.
- Tonight, the board will process supplemental absentee ballots. It's possible, but unlikely that there will be more supplemental absentee ballots.
- On Thursday, the Board will process the 8 provisional ballots.
- It's pretty certain the Board will not need to have the provisional ballot meeting at 9 am on Friday.
- The 9 am meeting Friday was cancelled.
- The Board will proceed to canvass at 11 am on Friday.
- Ms. Duncan provided Board members with a draft job description and delegation resolution and explained how she developed it. The draft will guide discussion at a future meeting.
  - For the job description, she obtained information from the Human Resources Department for the job posting in 2019 and combined it with input from the prior discussion by the Board.
  - She also included references to statutes focused on specific delegations rather than all possible delegations.
  - For the delegation resolution, she focused more acutely on the specific delegations.
    - She began with a reference to GS 163.35d which outlines the standards in statute for the duties of the Director.
    - Then she referenced 133.2 regarding the appointment and concluded with the one Chair delegation related to administering the oath.
    - She returned to the statutes for the specific delegations in 163.335, 163.336, etc.
  - The delegation is targeted to specific delegations in the law and the job description is more general.
  - Mr. Quinn and the Board agreed to put the draft on the agenda for Thursday's meeting to begin the discussion and, if needed, continue at Friday's meeting.
- Staff are working on the FY 2025 budget and would be ready to present to the Board on December 12, which happens to be Ms. Braine's birthday.
  - Mr. Quinn asked everyone to review their calendars and be prepared to set a date for the December meeting on Thursday.
  - Because it includes the Presidential General Election it will be a big budget.

### **III. Supplemental CIV & UOCAVA Absentee Ballot Review (GS §163.231(b)(2): Justin Tate**

- One supplemental absentee ballot arrived today. Mr. Tate cautioned the Board to be careful to keep the voter's identity confidential because voting results have been released to the public.
- The ballot could be included because the Friday after the election was a federal holiday so USPS did not make delivery on Friday. As a result, the next delivery during office hours was today, Monday. The ballot was properly postmarked on Nov. 7
- Board members reviewed the envelope for required signatures.
- Mr. Quinn commented that this is the last election to include a grace period of 3 days following election day to count ballots post marked on or before election day and received by the end of the grace period.
- Starting with 2024 elections mailed absentee ballots, except for overseas absentee ballots, must be received by 7:30 pm on Election Day.
- The voter included a copy of a temporary ID that had expired as has happened in another case. The State Board of Elections said in both cases the provided ID was within the guidelines and could be accepted.
- The ballot envelope contained all the relevant information and the number on the ballot matched the number on the envelope.
- A motion was presented and seconded to approve the ballot. It passed 5/0.
- The ballot was taken to the tabulator. Both the ballot and the flash drive were brought back in with color coded plastic envelopes and sealed for storage.

#### **General discussion about the next meeting occasioned by a question from Ms. Stein**

Mr. Quinn said the Thursday meeting is likely to be short. Staff will present the ballots, usually in 3 stacks based on their review: 1) reject in full; 2) accept in full, and; 3) accept in part.

The State Board of Elections has issued a press release stating the number of provisional ballots by county. The numbers range from small (0 in some counties) to quite large (445 in Durham). Buncombe County had a total of 8; 3 during Early Voting and 5 on Election Day. Next year will likely bring more provisional ballots.

Mr. Quinn observed that Woodfin had more people turn out to vote than in the last municipal election while Weaverville had fewer turn out. Further, that in the last municipal election Woodfin did not have a mayoral race while Weaverville did. Perhaps the race for mayor is an attraction.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:02 PM

**IV. Next Meeting**

**Thursday, November 16 at 5:30 pm**

**Location: 59 Woodfin Place**