

**Buncombe County Board of Elections – Sample Audit
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:

Mary Ann Braine, Board Member

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending: Corrine Duncan, Director;
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 2 observers: 1 LWV, 1 Common Cause

**Sample Audit of Early Voting at the Weaverville Community
Center and Election Day Voting at the Woodfin Community
Center**

A bipartisan team of 4 staff had been assembled to call and record the ballots for each voting location randomly selected by the State Board of Elections. The teams used the count 5/call tally method so any discrepancy will immediately surface when the two recorders did not agree on the count.

They started with the race for Weaverville Town Council. The eye-hand count perfectly matched the tabulator count.

There were a greater number of ballots for Woodfin Early Voting which were distributed among 4 ballot styles. The team first separated the ballots by style, then combined ballot types 2 and 3, then counted those ballot styles that contained the race for mayor. (NOTE: the election included a race for trustee positions for the Buncombe Woodfin Sanitary Water and Sewer District. As a result, not all voters within the boundary of the Water and Sewer District live within the municipal boundary of Woodfin.)

Ms. Duncan said that the guidance from the state did not define the “top” race but left that to the discretion of county staff. Buncombe County staff decided that it would literally be the race at the top of the ballot. Further, she noted, because not all ballot styles had the same race at the top of the ballot the totals for the sample will not precisely match to the grand total from the tabulator. They were able to extract the count for the ballot styles with the mayoral race at the top.

The count had to be restarted when the team missed a 5-count tally. The second attempt was completed and matched the ballot total the staff had extracted.

Ms. Duncan said they would upload the results to the State Board of Elections. Ms. Braine reviewed and signed off on all the required documentation.

The Sample Audit was completed at noon.