

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

Monitor Name: George Elam, Aiden Carson in person

Date & Time: February 27, 2024 3:30 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Mary Ann Braine, Board Member

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Glen Shults, Secretary

Sally Stein: Board Member

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending: Corrine Duncan, Director; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; and Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist; Joyce Kanavel (back temporarily)

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

10 observers as follows: 4 Democrats, 3 Republicans, 1 Common Cause, and 2 LWVAB. Two virtual observers.

Agenda Items

I. Approval of Agenda

Agenda for this meeting approved 5/0

II. Minutes

Minutes for 2/20 meeting approved 5/0

III. Office Updates – Corinne Duncan

- Corrine has been on the media regularly every Tuesday during Early Voting and will give 3 media appearances on Election Day.
- As a result of state law changes, early voting results will be reported later than usual. This may in turn cause Election Day results to be reported later as well. Session Law 2023-140 sec29 mandates local Boards must wait until 7:30 to close out the polls and the process may take 30-60 minutes extra. Election Officials do not know exactly how long reporting results may take. (For exact wording see the NCSBOE memo on 2-27-24)
- On Tuesday 3-5-24, the Board will meet at 2pm for an absentee meeting and address any absentee ballot challenges in addition to counting absentee ballots.
- On Wednesday 3-6-24 the State Board of Elections will chooses precincts for sample audits.
- Voter turnout has continued to increase, with over 12,000 ballots already cast.
- Express Vote machines have proved to be faster and more efficient.
- Van Duncan has surpassed the required number of signatures to be on the ballot for Chair of Buncombe County Commission. He is running as unaffiliated. One

other person running for County Commission District 3 has not reached the required threshold.

- A second Observer Information Session was held this week for 6-10 people.
- NCSBOE has started training on the use of NARCAN, a drug to reverse overdoses. This is due to a county recently receiving an envelope containing a white powder. NARCAN kits are now available both at the Election Services offices and at the warehouse.
- Election Services has gone through 2 rounds of review for the budget, and Corrine will present to Avril on Thursday.
- A change has been made in the procedure dealing with absentee ballots needing cures, They will now be approved but set aside until cured. Staff will contact the voter.
- A HAVA complaint has been received by the State Board of Elections and they will handle it.

IV. Absentee Ballot Review – Justin Tate

Justin presented 8 Absentee Ballots to be reviewed by the Board. These ballots had issues such as the ballot being placed in the clear sleeve meant for the voter id. They were reviewed in accordance to numbered memo 2021-03. After review they were sealed so they can be counted later.

Justin presented 18 Overseas Civilian Absentee Ballots for Board review, one with an issue. They were approved 5/0.

Justin presented 2 Military Absentee Ballots for Board review. They were approved 5/0.

Next, 4 2-party teams were formed, pairing duplicating team members with Board members, to review 73 ballots with Exception Forms. All were approved 5/0.

Then 5 2-party teams were formed to review 330 civilian ballots. 2 ballots were rejected due to non matching CID numbers. The Board voted 5-0 to spoil the ballots. The voters will be contacted and given the opportunity to resubmit or vote early. 3 ballots with overvotes were examined for voter intent and approved 5/0.

328 Civilian ballots were approved.

V. Next Meeting: Monday, March 4 at 5:30 **Location:** 59 Woodfin Place