

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

Monitor Name: Elaine Elam, George Elam in person

Date & Time: February 6, 2024 3:30 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Glen Shults, Secretary

Mary Ann Braine, Board Member

Steven Aceto, Board Member

Sally Stein, Board Member

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending: Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Neggy Fox, Deputy Director; Bobby, Volunteer; Joyce Kanavel (back temporarily)

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

5 from the Democratic Party, 3 from Republican Party, 1 from Common Cause, 2 from LWVAB, 4 duplicating team

Agenda Items

I. **Minutes** from January 30 approved 5/0 and Agenda for this meeting approved 5/0.

II. Office Updates – Neggy Fox

Early Voting training has concluded. Election Day training started today and will go until March 1st.

A software update for the Express Vote machine enables it to print the ballot style, precinct, and application number on the header. Should improve check in time. Sally asked if that would mean fewer poll workers needed. Neggy responded that it's too early to tell.

Poll observers training will be Thursday from 11:30 to 12:30.

Last week's mock election was a success. It was held on 2-1-24.

2 students have signed up for the new student assistant program. Students must submit an application and have approval from parents and school. Neggy stated young people are very good using electronic equipment. Her 17 year old son is one of the students. Also Election Day is a school day in Buncombe.

III. Early Voting Closure Policy Resolution – Anna Katherine Moore

Anna Katherine presented the previously discussed Early Voting closing policy including Mr. Aceto’s suggestions. Approved 5-0.

IV. Absentee Ballot Review – Justin Tate

Justin presented remarks from the Numbered Memo 2021-03 Absentee Container-Return Envelope Deficiencies before presenting the Board with 6 ballots from the MAT team that needed Board approval. The Board approved 5 and rejected one for lack of a voter signature.

There were 8 overseas ballots approved 5-0.

Justin presented 56 absentee ballots with ID exemption forms. The Board formed 4 bipartisan teams to review them. Members of the MAT team who were in the audience joined the Board to form the review teams. Most, but not all, of the ballots w/exemptions were from the MAT team.

Reasons for exemptions: 38 for illness or disabilities, 15 not able to print an ID, 3 lack of transportation. Motion to approve 5-0

Justin presented 71 regular ballots with ID. Motion to approve 5-0
2 ballots pending cure. 2 spoiled.

As for absentee requests:

1492 civilian.....155 returned

93 overseas.....17 returned

5 military.....2 returned

V. Machine Testing

The meeting was recessed for machine testing at 50 Coxe Ave. Observers did not attend machine testing

VI. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13 at 3:30

Location: 59 Woodfin Place