

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

Monitor Name: Elaine Elam, George Elam in person

Date & Time: January 30, 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: Corrine Duncan, Director; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; and Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Victoria Pickens, Accounting Technician II & Campaign Finance; Shannon Cole, Voter Registration Coordinator; Bobby ?; Joyce Kanavel (back temporarily)

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

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

Agenda Items

I. **Minutes** from December 12 and January 9 approved 5/0 and Agenda for this meeting approved 5/0.

II. Office Updates

Corinne - reminder absentee ballots require photo ID and need to be returned by Election Day before 7:30 pm. Mail early or drop off at BOE office, 59 Woodfin Pl.

Shannon - briefly stated the voter registration application form has been updated. Numbered memo 2023-05 from NCSBOE on Same Day Registrants. States how the verification process works after a person submits a voter registration form.

Corinne - Thursday a statewide mock election and machine testing will be held. All will be uploaded at the same time same time.

There was a briefing Monday on the emergency planning scenario scheduled for Thursday 1-31-24.

Observer training for EV will be held early February. Observer training for the general will be late February.

Corrine will not be at the next BOE meeting. She will be at a Statewide meeting. Neggy Fox will be taking her place for the February 6 meeting.

III. Board Calendar Update

AK - presented a calendar update January 12 meeting moved to the 19th.

The August SBOE conference will be in Greensboro.

Motion to approve the changes passed 5/0.

IV. MAT Appointments

Justin presented two MAT appointments. Motion to approve.5-0

4 MAT TEAM members were in attendance.

V. Budget Update – Victoria

Victoria presented the update on the budget. Changes made by Corrine after last Commission meeting. The timeline for the next commission meeting is for February 12, followed by a County MGR meeting on the 29th, then final presentation on March 8th.

Changes made: equipment and building materials—20k,

Voting locations—15k, Quasi Judicial Proceedings—7k, School Board Redistricting Mailings—56k, Seasonal Staffing—264k. That totals 362k going back into the county contingency fund.

The proposed budget is now \$1,606,043.

VI. Early Voting Closure Policy Resolution -- Corrine Duncan

Corrine explained the EV closing policy resolution as previously discussed. Closures would follow the County closings when they overlap. When they do not overlap, the Board would have to be involved in the closings on an emergency basis.

Mr. Aceto requested the words PUBLIC OFFICES be used instead of county offices. Corrine said that would be included.

VII. Resolution for Counting Absentee Ballots – AK

AK - presented a resolution that Absentee Ballots be counted starting at 2 pm instead of 5 pm to get results out by 7:30 pm.

Mr. Aceto wants to make sure the resolution/publications is in compliance to the statutes.

Motion to approve the resolution passed 5/0.

VIII. Absentee Ballot Review – Justin Tate

Next was the Absentee ballot review. A UOCAVA resolution to allow staff to prescreen ballots approved 5/0.

Justin presented the Board with 39 total ballots: 2 military, 9 UOCAVA, 12 civilian with ID exemption forms, and 16 civilian ballots. All approved 5/0. These four categories used to improve efficiency as explained by Corrine. Also these categories will be on the status count board. In future if many ballots need to be reviewed, staff will be used form 4 bipartisan teams with board members.

IX. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 6 at 3:30

Location: 59 Woodfin Place