

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

**Monitor Name:** George Elam in person

**Date & Time:** March 14, 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; Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist; Neggy Fox, Deputy Director; Shannon Cole, Voter Registration Specialist; and Joyce Kanavel (back temporarily)

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

**Observers:**

8 observers as follows: 3 Democrats, 2 Republicans, 1 LWVAB, 2 unknown. No virtual observers.

**Agenda Items**

**I.** Agenda for this meeting approved by acclamation

**II. Minutes** – Minutes from March 8 were approved 5/0

**III. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan**

- The sample audit Monday found no discrepancies.
- The state chose an Early Voting location and an Election Day precinct for a hand count. The count matched the machine count.
- Corrine mentioned SB 747 has been stayed by a three judge panel. The decision may be appealed, but for now Board remains as is.
- The county had a meeting of all Department heads for a budget meeting. This may have been a seasonal staff meeting to encourage working together. Victoria Chaired.
- Both unaffiliated candidates have now met the requirements to file. Some signatures still need to be verified.
- Tomorrow: the 15th. Canvass will start at 11am. Board and staff will meet at 10:30 for a group picture.
- For same day registrations, if a voter doesn't respond to a post card for verification, a letter will be sent. If there is no response then the ballot cast will not count.
- Also tomorrow the manual audit and Early Voting audit will be presented. The spread sheet handed out was well liked and will be expanded in the future.

- Corrine said they need to review and approve the 2nd. primary plan either today or tomorrow. The Board also needs to approve the Early Voting schedule today or tomorrow at the latest.
- AK interjected the Election Day meeting would start at 6 pm instead of 2pm. They should be able to get everything done in less time due to fewer ballots expected. Also only one supplemental abstract meeting is necessary. On Election Day a 9am meeting may be needed in case provisionals with ID exceptions need review giving voters time to cure.
- Jake moved to approve draft calendar for 2nd. Primary. Passed 5-0
- Corrine said at this meeting we will go over the Early Voting implementation plan, then go on to 314 provisional ballots and then supplemental Absentee ballots.
- Mr. Aceto stated he would be absent for the May 7 meeting due to a Dr. appt.

#### **IV. Early Voting Implementation Plan for the 2nd Primary (G.S. § 163-277.6) – Neggy Fox**

Neggy presented the proposed Early Voting plan for the 2nd primary.

- She explained that she proposed the hours that correspond to business hours of 8-5. If the hours were extended to 8-6 pm, uniform dates and times would be mandated by statute. Meaning all days would be from 8-6 pm.
- She presented data to show that extra hour had very few voters.
- She also proposes using one voting site at 59 Woodfin. If another site were to be used , uniform hours of 8-7:30 would be required.
- Mr. Aceto made a motion to approve the proposed plan but asked that it be tabled until Neggy provides the extra hour data tomorrow.

#### **V. Provisional Ballots (GS § 163-82.4(f)) – Shannon Cole**

- Corrine explained provisional ballots are a Federally required voting method researched afterward to be sure every valid ballot counts.
- Some provisional ballots will be partially approved due to voter being at wrong precinct or voting the wrong ballot style. Those approved will be duplicated on the proper ballot style.
- Shannon presented two provisional ballots for review. Jake and Mary Anne looked at these. One was approved for duplication. One was disapproved due to incomplete information filled in. The voter did not think the law was valid. 5-0 votes on both.
- Next 4 provisional ballots were presented with partial valid votes due to wrong precinct or wrong party ballot. Two teams : Aceto and Stein & Shults and Braine.
- The number of partial valid ballots changed three times due to ballots being found to be deficient for various reasons.
- Next Shannon presented 147 provisionals pre-approved by staff. The number here was also changed.

- Next Shannon presented 183 provisionals which staff recommended not to be approved. Once again the numbers changed. Some of these voted for NO LABELS candidate. There isn't one.
- Some persons were not registered but will be added to the registered voter list for the general election. Some wrote in cartoon names or other things that could not count for a valid vote. Some persons did not understand why they could not choose a certain ballot style even if they were not registered for that style. So they got provisional ballots.
- Mr. Aceto stated he did not understand the confusion that some voters had. Various suppositions were offered but none verified at this time.

The final count:

25 partial  
 105 fully approved  
 184 disapproved  
 314 total

- Joyce added 314 on 3-14 Pi day
- Maryanne made a motion to approve the count. Passed 5-0

**VI. Supplemental UOCAVA Absentee Ballot Review (GS § 163-231(b)(2))  
 – Justin Tate**

- Justin presented 4 UOCAVA absentee ballots for review. Motion to approve was passed 5-0
- Staff presented 3 Absentee ballots with required cure.
- Jake's motion to approve passed 5-0
- Jake took the Oath certifying all Absentee ballots as per 163-231 (b). Justin gave the Oath. Justin then notarized the documents.
- Bria presented three copies of the supplemental abstract to the Board.
- Board approved 5-0

**VI. Next Meeting:** Friday, March 15 at 11:00 AM  
**Location:** 59 Woodfin Place

### Comparison of Early Voting Site and Hour Requirements for Even-Year and Odd-Year Elections

Requirement	Even-Numbered Year Elections	Odd-Numbered Year Elections
All early voting sites must be open every weekday during the early voting period from 8am-7:30pm.	Yes	No – the county board of elections office (or in lieu of site) must be open during its normal business hours, at a minimum. If there are additional early voting locations, they do not have to be open 8am-7:30pm on weekdays, but those additional sites do have to be open for the same hours and on the same days as all the other additional early voting sites. For example, the county board of elections office could be open its normal business hours (for example, 8am-5pm), and the North Library and South Library locations could be open from 1pm-7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays (assuming those are the only two additional early voting sites in the county).
If any early voting site is open, all early voting sites must be open.	Yes	No – if the county board of elections office (or its alternate) is open, none of the additional early voting sites are required to be open. However, if one additional early voting site is open, all additional sites must be open for the same days and hours.
If any early voting site is open on a Saturday, then all early voting sites must be open for the same number of hours on that Saturday.	Yes, and all early voting sites must be open from 8am-3pm on the last Saturday before Election Day.	Yes, and all early voting sites must be open from 8am-3pm on the last Saturday before Election Day.

Requirement	Even-Numbered Year Elections	Odd-Numbered Year Elections
If any early voting site is open on a Sunday, then all early voting sites must be open for the same number of hours on that Sunday.	Yes	Yes
If the county board of elections office is open only regular business hours, the uniform dates and hours requirements do not apply to that location. If the BOE is open beyond regular business hours, the uniform dates and hours requirements do apply to that location.	Yes  (Caveat: Even if the BOE office is only open regular business hours, it must also be open from 8am-3pm on the last Saturday before Election Day.)	No – even if the county board of elections office is open beyond regular business hours, the additional early voting sites do not have to be open those same hours, as long as the additional sites are open on the same days and hours as the other additional sites. For example, the county board of elections office could be open from 8am-8pm on a Friday, but both the North Library and South Library additional sites could be open from 1PM-5PM on that Friday (assuming those are the only two additional early voting sites in the county).

Frequently Asked Questions About early voting Flexibility:

**Q: My in lieu of site is in another building. When is it required to be open?**

A: Any in lieu of site, regardless of its location, must be open at least regular business hours during weekdays. It may be open beyond regular business hours. If the county board office or in lieu of site is open on the weekend, it must be open the same number of hours as all the other early voting sites on that weekend day.

**Q: Are we required to open our county board office or in lieu of site on the weekend if our other early voting sites are open on the weekend?**

A: No, but if the county board office or lieu of site is open any weekdays beyond regular business hours and/or any weekend hours, it is required to be open on the weekend for the same number of hours as all other early voting sites. And, the county board office or in lieu of site must be open on the last Saturday before Election Day regardless of whether it is open beyond regular business hours and/or any weekend hours. County boards are encouraged to be mindful of expected turnout and historical use of early voting early voting in their counties.

**Q: What does it mean that the county board must be “unanimous”?**

A: Unanimity requires an affirmative vote of all appointed county board members. If, due to a vacancy, your board only has fewer than five appointed members, all appointed members must vote affirmatively to adopt a plan.



# BUNCOMBE COUNTY ELECTION SERVICES

## 2024 Second Primary Proposed Implementation Plan

### Proposed Site & Times:

- Board of Elections Office - 59 Woodfin Pl, Asheville 28801

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday 4/25	Friday 4/26	Saturday 4/27
				8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	Closed
Sunday 4/28	Monday 4/29	Tuesday 4/30	Wednesday 5/1	Thursday 5/2	Friday 5/3	Saturday 5/4
Closed	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	Closed
Sunday 5/5	Monday 5/6	Tuesday 5/7	Wednesday 5/8	Thursday 5/9	Friday 5/10	Saturday 5/11
Closed	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 3:00pm

Current Mandate:

If CBE office is open only regular business hours, the uniform dates and hours requirements do not apply to that location.

Must be open 8am to 3pm on last Saturday.

## Second Primary Comparison 2020



- One site was opened – Elections Warehouse
- Hours of Operations – Monday thru Friday, 8am-6pm
- US House of Representatives District 11 (REP)

2020 (EV=1,424)				Thursday 6/4	Friday 6/5	Saturday 6/6
				Daily Voters 63	Daily Voters 97	Closed
Sunday 6/7	Monday 6/8	Tuesday 6/9	Wednesday 6/10	Thursday 6/11	Friday 6/12	Saturday 6/13
Closed	Daily Voters 116	Daily Voters 98	Daily Voters 88	Daily Voters 110	Daily Voters 84	Closed
Sunday 6/14	Monday 6/15	Tuesday 6/16	Wednesday 6/17	Thursday 6/18	Friday 6/19	Saturday 6/20
Closed	Daily Voters 77	Daily Voters 87	Daily Voters 129	Daily Voters 121	Daily Voters 222	Daily Voters 132

**Total Turnout**  
**8.60% (10,276 out of 119,424)**



## Second Primary Comparison 2016



- One site was opened – Buncombe County Administrative Building
- Hours of Operations – Monday thru Friday, 10am – 6pm
- US House of Representatives District 10 (REP)
- US House of Representatives District 11 (DEM)
- NC Supreme Court Associate Justice

2016 (EV=1,715)				Thursday 5/26	Friday 5/27	Saturday 5/28
				Daily Voters 137	Daily Voters 157	Closed
Sunday 5/29	Monday 5/30	Tuesday 5/31	Wednesday 6/1	Thursday 6/2	Friday 6/3	Saturday 6/4
Closed	Closed	Daily Voters 194	Daily Voters 222	Daily Voters 321	Daily Voters 388	Daily Voters 296

**Total Turnout  
11.18% (21,054 out of 188,400)**