

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

Monitor Names:

Aiden Carson, Elaine Elam, George Elam, Cheryl Williams

Date & Time: August 24, 2026, 3:30 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

Glenda Weinert, Chairman (R), Mary Ann Braine, Secretary (R), Courtney Blossman (R), Jake Quinn(D), Sally Stein (D).

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending:

Corinne Duncan, Director; Gabrielle Corey, Elections Administrative Coordinator; Neggy Fox, Deputy Director; Rachel Wonderlich, Elections Coordinator (Recruitment); Ryan Oliver, Elections Technical Specialist

Location of Meeting: 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville NC

Observers: 16 total including, 8 Democrats, 3 Republicans, 4 LWVAB and 1 unknown; 2 online.

I. Approval of Agenda – passed 5/0

II. Minutes (G.S. § 143-318.10) Minutes for July 14 were passed 5/0

III. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan

- Mike Arcoda has been hired as a new team member and has been here for 2 weeks. The team is now fully staffed.
- The conference in Greensboro was well attended.
- Ms. Stein noted the security issues that were discussed at the conference in plenary and breakout sessions regarding the upcoming election: possibilities of drones dropping leaflets, bomb threats, violence, firearms among others. She noted we have not had these things here but should be aware of the possible threats. At the federal level there has been talk of ICE or FBI agents coming to voting sites. She asked Corinne to expand on our readiness and protocol for bomb threats. She feels responsible to the county to ensure safe elections
- Ms. Duncan said elections security is a big part of their thing. The county takes an All Hazards Approach. There is an internal emergency plan for each phase of the election, and Elections Services collaborates with Emergency Management and other county entities.

There are regular meetings with a September briefing and an October tabletop exercise. Helene showed the importance of knowing who you need to talk to. There is a meeting in the aftermath to review what happened.

- Dr. Weinert noted that Buncombe County has been concerned with safety for a long time and has considered a wide range of threats.
- The Early Voting plan was approved by the SBOE. With the passage of HB834 the period for processing provisional ballots has been extended to 5 days instead of 3.
- Poll worker information sessions have been well attended. The next one will be at 5:30 on September 1. On August 27 Ms. Duncan will hold a general information session.
- There have been an unusually large number of registrations to process – 1500-2000 per week. Many are from people already registered in response to publicity about the importance of registration.
- Registration removals of ineligible voters have been ongoing on a weekly basis and will go to daily as the election nears. List maintenance also is conducted biannually on odd numbered years in conjunction with the NCOA, National Change of Address, collaboration with the post office.
- Dr. Weinert asked about a list of deceased voters. Ms. Duncan said we have not received any list. The county has finished its part of the repair project. The state will handle the next phase by sending out post cards
- Regarding the Registration Repair Project, Mr. Quinn said he wants to make sure any registration removals are done here via the regular process and not done by the SBOE. Ms. Duncan said she believes that part will be turned over to the counties.
- Absentee Ballots have been created and will be sent out starting 9/4. There have been about 1600 requests so far. The deadline for Absentee Ballot requests is 10/20.
- Early Voting palm cards have been created, and Ms. Duncan is working on a Need to Know document for the website.
- Sample Ballots are now available via the Voter Search tool.
- Ms. Stein asked about the idea she heard at the conference plenary session that there are 16,000 felons on the voter rolls. Ms. Duncan said she was unaware of any on the BC rolls.

IV. Voting Location Changes (G.S. § 163-128) – Ryan Oliver

- Mr. Oliver said that the Abiding Savior Church will not be an Election Day polling location and the site will be moved in-precinct to AC Reynolds High School.
- A motion to approve the move passed 5/0

V. MAT Appointments (08 NCAC 16.0103 C, 08 NCAC 16.0102) – Rachel Wonderlich

- There are about 800 poll workers.
- The list of 12 Republican and 12 Democratic MAT nominees was handed out to the Board members for their approval.
- All 24 were approved, the motion passing 5/0.

VI. Early Voting Poll Worker Appointments (G.S. § 163-166.35) – Rachel Wonderlich

- There has been good cooperation from the parties in finding potential poll workers.
- 410 people have filled out the online form, but they already have many workers recommended by the parties, and historically 25% of the online applicants don't follow through.
- They have worked to try to get a balance between Ds and Rs.
- They are recommending 43 unaffiliated, 21 Republicans, and 34 Democrats as poll workers.
- It is harder to get chief judges because it's a big job with many responsibilities.
- They have tried to balance veterans with newcomers.
- They are recommending 130 Democrats and 36 Republicans for the chief judge slots.
- Rachel passed out as list of their recommendations to the Board for their approval.
- Rachel received compliments from several members for her clear presentation and the readable format of the report.
- There was discussion about the imbalance of chief judges by party. It was understood that they did the best they could to achieve balance.
- The Board approved poll worker appointments 5/0.

VII. Board Schedule Update (G.S. § 163.230.1 (f)) – Gabrielle Corey

- All schedule changes were required by the changes introduced by HB834.

- The modifications were approved 5/0.

VIII. Voter Challenges Hearing (G.S. § 163-86) – Neggy Fox

- The preliminary hearing was held previously. The challenges were made by Thomas Neuhauser, who has made previous challenges.
- This is the full hearing, where each name is announced with an opportunity for any witnesses present to object to the removal of any name.
- 41 voters were challenged as deceased.
- 40 of the challenges were split across two bi-partisan teams for review.
- Those 40 were found to be successful challenges. The 41st voter's name, Mary Moore Shipman, was found to have several discrepancies with the person listed on the Death Certificate, including a different middle name, different Social Security Number, and different date of birth. That challenge was denied 5/0.
- The other 40 challenges were sustained 5/0.
- Mr. Neuhauser spoke and expressed his thanks to the Board. This will be his last challenge as he is moving out of the county.
- Board members thanked him for his work and Mr. Quinn asked for details of how he went about his research.

A member of the public asked to speak and he expressed his concerns about the potential for election interference by ICE or other arms of the Federal Government. Dr. Weinert and others assured him that they are working to make sure we are prepared.

IX. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday September 15 at 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin St.

The Board adjourned at 5:09 pm.