

DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Thursday, July 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

Members present

Philip Lehman
Michael Gray
Luke Farley

Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens
Deputy Director George McCue
Training Specialist Erin Lewandowski

County attorney present: Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby

Audience members present: See attendance sheet

Meeting opening

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Gray moved to adopt the agenda as prepared by staff. This motion was seconded by Mr. Farley and passed 3-0.

Mr. Farley moved to approve the minutes for the following meetings as prepared by staff:

- 5/1/2018 (Closed session)
- 6/14/2018 (Regular meeting)
- 6/14/2018 (Closed session)

This motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Gray and passed 3-0.

Director's Report

Updates on list maintenance, finances, legislation, and litigation

Mr. Bowens provided updates on voter registration list maintenance, the department's finances, and developments in elections-related legislation and litigation in the State.

State Board Elections conference

Mr. Bowens also reminded Board Members of an upcoming State Elections Conference to be held in Winston-Salem August 5-7.

Precinct official website

Staff presented a preview of a dedicated website for precinct officials, currently under development.

New business

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board reviewed current law which required the election of a board member as chair and vice-chair of alternating parties between Democratic and Republican in July of each year. Pursuant to that law, it was necessary for the Board to elect a member affiliated with the Republican Party as Chair and Democratic Party as Vice-Chair. The Board made clear that this vote for a new Chair would be effective July 17, 2018.

Audience member Lavonia Allison voiced concerns about public knowledge about the process, recommending that media be invited to receive information and attend meetings.

Mr. Gray nominated Mr. Farley to serve as Chair. Mr. Lehman seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Farley nominated Mr. Lehman to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

The Board discussed and confirmed plans to wait to elect a new Secretary until the currently-vacant, fourth seat on the board was filled.

Staff thanked Mr. Lehman for his service as Chair and awarded him his engraved gavel.

Purchase of voting equipment

Representatives from voting system vendor Elections System & Software provided a demonstration of certified voting equipment to be considered for purchase.

Following this demonstration and discussion, the Board considered a motion to approve the purchase (most of this purchase had already been approved by the previous Board). The motion was made by Mr. Farley, seconded by Mr. Gray, and passed 3-0.

Public comment and questions


Dr. Allison made inquiries and comments about recent law changes requiring early voting to be conducted from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. She recommended that early voting be held open until 5:00 p.m. on the final Saturday.

Dr. Allison also inquired about demographics of the current pool of pollworkers being recruited for the November election.

General discussion; adjournment

Mr. Bowens noted that he would be out of the office from July 24 to August 6.

Vice-Chairman Gray moved to adjourn at approximately 6:20 p.m. Chairman Lehman seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.



Philip Lehman, Secretary