



# DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

## DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### Minutes of Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

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#### Members present

Chairman Luke Farley  
Vice Chairman and Secretary Philip Lehman  
Member Michael Gray

#### Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens  
Deputy Director Sam Gedman  
Election Manager George McCue  
Training Specialist Erin Lewandowski  
Election Administrator Rose Wolf

**County attorney present:** Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby

**Audience members present:** See attendance sheets

#### Meeting opening

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

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

Mr. Lehman moved to approve the minutes for the July 5 meeting as prepared by staff. This motion was seconded by Mr. Gray and passed 3-0.

#### Public comment; one-stop early voting schedule

The Board provided the opportunity for audience members to provide public comment on the subject necessitating the need for this special meeting, the one-stop early voting schedule for the November 2018 election.

Audience member Lavonia Allison raised a question on what purpose public comment would serve if the Board had not yet discussed any proposals. Chairman Farley responded that the Board wished to take public comment into consideration before considering a vote on any proposed plan. Mr. Lehman suggested that Mr. Bowens provide context and a summary of the proposed plans.

Mr. Bowens provided a summary and noted that the proposed plans had been made public as part of the notice of this meeting. The public had also been provided an opportunity to make written comment about the early voting schedule. Written comments received had been furnished to the Board.

Audience members had been provided the opportunity to check a box on the meeting sign-in sheet to indicate that they wished to make public comment during the meeting. Chairman Farley noted that he would call all names on the list to ensure everyone had an opportunity to speak if desired.

The Board provided the opportunity to make public comment to audience members, with a 2-minute time limit. Following that opportunity, the Board called on individual audience members who volunteered to make public comment but had not signed up by the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Lehman moved to adopt the "Option 1" schedule as presented by staff. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-1 on the motion (Chairman Farley voting no), which meant it failed because this type of vote required a unanimous Board decision.

Mr. Lehman and Mr. Gray offered their input during further discussion. Mr. Gray encouraged all of the people who spoke in favor of more early voting to consider signing up to serve as an election worker to help meet the needs of the expanded early voting schedule.

Mr. Lehman again moved to adopt Option 1. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. The vote was again 2-1 (Chairman Farley voting no).

Following input and further discussion, Chairman Farley moved to adopt the "Option 2" schedule as presented by staff. The motion received no second, and received a 1-2 vote (Mr. Lehman and Mr. Gray voting no).

Because the Board could not reach unanimity, it was made clear that Board members could petition the State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement to adopt a schedule.

#### **Closed session; adjournment**

The Board determined there was no other matters up for discussion for this meeting other than going into closed session to discuss attorney-client matters. A motion to go into closed session was made by Mr. Lehman, seconded by Mr. Gray, and passed 3-0.

The Board met in closed session from approximately 6:05 p.m. until 6:20 p.m. Upon returning to open session, the Board immediately adjourned on a motion from Mr. Lehman, which was seconded by Mr. Gray and passed 3-0.



Philip Lehman, Secretary