



DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 5:00 P.M.

Members Present

Phil Lehman, Chairman
Michael Gray, Secretary
Pamela Oxendine, Member
Dawn Baxton, Member

Staff Present

Derek Bowens, Elections Director
Brenda Baker, Deputy Director
Alan Resley, Absentee Coordinator
Daniel Lassiter, Elections Manager
Deborah Hart, Senior Elections Administrator

County Officials Present: N/A

Audience Members Present: See attendance log.

Meeting opening

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Ms. Oxendine moved to approve the agenda and all approved, 4-0. Mr. Irby was not present during this meeting.

Public Comment and Questions

Comments and questions were made by members of the public via the public comment portal and in-person.

New Business

a. Review of Absentee-By-Mail Ballots

- Consistent with Numbered Memorandum 2020-25, Mr. Bowens requested that the Board agree to random spot checking of absentee ballot applications recommended for approval by staff in lieu of reviewing each individual envelope. The Board agreed unanimously to each review at least 50 randomly selected applications of absentee-by-mail ballots recommended for approval.
- After discussion and a random physical review of the absentee ballot applications, Ms. Baxton moved to approve a total of 1,548 civilian and military/overseas absentee applications and ballots received by mail per the recommendation of staff. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Mr. Gray moved to authorize staff to open approved absentee-by-mail envelopes and begin the optical scanning process authorized under NCGS 163-234(3) and Numbered Memorandum 2020-25. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Following review of duplicated military/overseas ballots consistent with Board policy (BOE-001), Ms. Baxton moved to approve 100 duplicated military/overseas ballots. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Mr. Bowens explained a situation where voter Clare Matti received the absentee ballot and application for Wayne Moore due to an internal staff labeling error. This error was identified when Mr. Moore returned his reissued ballot, since he indicated he did not receive the first one, and staff was unable to log it as accepted in the Statewide Elections Information Management System (SEIMS). Mr. Bowens recommended that the Board spoil the ballot returned by Clare Matti and accept the reissued ballot submitted by Wayne Moore. Mr. Bowens informed the Board that staff would send a new ballot to Clare Matti to address the internal administrative error and reach out to the State Board of Elections as to whether the spoiled ballot would need to be challenged before votes are retracted. Mr. Gray moved to spoil the ballot of Clare Matti and accept the reissued ballot of Wayne Moore and await further guidance from the State Board of Elections. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. The ballot submitted by Clare Matti was previously approved and scanned at the October 6, 2020 Board meeting.
- Mr. Bowens informed the Board that the ballot of Leonard Davidson would need to be challenged on Election Day due to a deceased voter notification received via an internal audit of records. The ballot was previously approved and scanned at the September 29, 2020 Board meeting.
- Staff opened and scanned all approved absentee-by-mail ballots.

b. Approval of 2020 General Election Machine Logic and Accuracy Testing

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a report and certification of all voting systems that are eligible to be used during the 2020 General Election following successful logic and accuracy testing. Following review, Ms. Oxendine moved to certify the machines eligible for use during the 2020 General Election. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.

Mr. Bowens provided the Board with an update on the status of Board Meeting Minutes, Chief Judge and Judge substitutes, and One-Stop Voting Preparation.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 7:12 p.m. on a motion made by Ms. Oxendine. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael H. Gray", written over a horizontal line.

Michael H. Gray
Secretary