



# DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

## DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### Minutes of Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 5:00 P.M.

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#### **Members Present**

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

#### **Staff Present**

Derek Bowens, Elections Director  
Brenda Baker, Deputy Director  
Alan Resley, Absentee Coordinator  
James Graves, Elections Systems Specialist  
David Beuttel, Elections Logistics Manager  
Rebecca Troedsson, Elections Specialist  
Daniel Lassiter, Elections Manager

**County Officials Present:** N/A

**Audience Members Present:** See attendance log.

#### **Meeting opening**

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order at 5:10 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. Baxton moved to approve the agenda and all approved, 5-0.

#### **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, Mr. Irby moved to approve a total of 1367 civilian and military/overseas absentee applications and ballots received by mail per the recommendation of staff. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Mr. Irby 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, 5-0.
- Following review of duplicated military/overseas ballots consistent with Board policy (BOE-001), Ms. Baxton moved to approve 141 duplicated military/overseas ballots. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Staff opened and scanned all approved absentee-by-mail ballots.
- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a review of all Pending/Held Absentee Ballots. Following review, Mr. Gray made moved to reject 7 ballots with a status of Witness Information Incomplete and instructed staff to spoil and reissue those ballots. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. One pending ballot was in question due to an address provided by the witness as 'NRL", a one-stop location. After discussion, Ms. Oxendine moved to accept the ballot. The motion failed, 1-4. The Board directed staff to contact the voter with a cure certification and to follow-up with the Site Coordinator at the One-Stop site to use a full address if they are going to serve as a witness.
- Nineteen pending unauthorized ballots from voters who confirmed the return of their ballot was accepted on a motion made by Mr. Irby. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. Five pending unauthorized returned ballots from voters who were contacted but did not return phone calls were accepted on a motion made by Mr. Gray. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. During staff review of updating the status for the 24 approved unauthorized returns, it was found that one voter voted early. Following discussion, Mr. Irby moved to rescind the approval of Vincent Ryan's ballot due to voting early. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Mr. Bowens presented the board with a review of One-Stop voting applications. After discussion, Ms. Oxendine moved to approve 18,305 One-Stop applications. The motion was approved by all 5-0.

## **General Discussion**

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with updates on One-Stop voting.

**Adjournment**

The Board adjourned at approximately 7:38 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Irby. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.

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

Michael H. Gray, Secretary