



DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2020 1:00 P.M.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Derek Bowens, Elections Director
Brenda Baker, Deputy Director
Alan Resley, Absentee Coordinator
Rebecca Troedsson, Elections Specialist
Erin Lewandowski, Training Specialist
Casey Horvitz, Training Manager
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 1:08 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, 4-0. Mrs. Oxendine was not present for 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, Mr. Irby moved to approve a total of 1847 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. 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, 4-0.
- Following review of duplicated military/overseas ballots consistent with Board policy (BOE-001), Ms. Baxton moved to approve 253 duplicated military/overseas ballots. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Staff opened and scanned all approved absentee-by-mail ballots.
- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a review of all Accepted – Cured ballots; 26 were included in scanning.
- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a review of all Pending/Held Absentee ballots. Following review, Mr. Irby moved to approve 27 absentee ballot applications returned in-person by a nursing home facility staff member. The motion was approved by all, 4-0. Mr. Irby moved to accept 15 additional unauthorized returned ballots. The motion was approved by all, 4-0. Mr. Irby moved to accept 1 ballot where staff could not determine whether the witness signature was acceptable. The motion was approved by all, 4-0. Mr. Gray moved to accept 1 ballot where staff could not determine whether all witness information was acceptable. The motion was approved by all, 4-0. Ms. Baxton moved to accept 1 ballot from a Husband and Wife, where the wife signed both ballots. The wife's ballot was accepted, and the Husband's was rejected. The motion was approved by all, 4-0. Mr. Irby moved to accept 1 ballot where the voter signed below the certification line. The motion was approved by all, 4-0. Mr. Irby moved to reject 7 ballots in a Witness Information Missing status. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Mr. Bowens presented the board with a review of One-Stop voting applications. After discussion, Ms. Oxendine moved to approve 12,321 One-Stop applications. The motion was approved by all 4-0.

b. Approval of 2020 General Election Certified Lists


- After review of the absentee certified lists, Ms. Baxton moved to approve the lists. The motion was approved by all, 4-0. In total the Board approved 164,404 absentee ballots to be counted on Election Day.

General Discussion

Mr. Bowens provided the Board with an update on preparations for Election Day.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 8:24 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Irby. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.

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

Michael H. Gray, Secretary