



# DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

## DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### Minutes of Board Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:00 A.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  
Daniel Lassiter, Elections Manager  
James Graves, Elections Systems Specialist  
Alan Resley, Absentee Coordinator  
Erin Lewandowski, Training and Compliance Specialist  
Casey Horvitz, Training and Compliance Manager  
David Beuttel, Logistics Manager  
Rebecca Troedsson, Elections Specialist  
Kaylyn Williams, Elections Specialist

**County Officials Present:** N/A

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

#### **Meeting opening**

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.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.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with minutes from the 10/20, 10/23, 10/27, 10/30, 11/02 and 11/03 Board meetings. Following review, Mr. Irby suggested an amendment to all previously approved minutes to read that the Board agreed unanimously to each review “at least 50 randomly selected Absentee-by-mail applications” instead of “50 randomly selected batches.” Mr. Irby moved to approve the minutes with that amendment. 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. Sample Audit Count (Precincts 41 and 55-11)
  - Mr. Gray made a motion for staff to conduct the sample audit count. The motion was approved by all and passed unanimously, 5-0. The sample audit count was conducted for Precincts 41 and 55-11.
- b. Review of Supplemental Absentee-by-Mail Ballot Applications
  - After discussion and a random physical review of the absentee ballot applications, Mr. Irby moved to approve a total of 2275 civilian and military/overseas absentee applications and ballots received by mail per the recommendation of staff. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
  - Ms. Baxton 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), Mrs. Oxendine moved to approve 125 duplicated military/overseas ballots. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
  - Mr. Bowens presented three Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots to the Board. Ms. Baxton moved to approve the three ballots and applications. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
  - Mr. Bowens presented the board with a review of One-Stop voting applications. After discussion, Mr. Gray moved to approve 12 One-Stop applications. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
  - Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a review of all Pending/Held Absentee ballots. Following review, Mr. Irby moved to disapprove 24 absentee ballot applications with a status of witness information incomplete. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. Two applications in pending status had torn envelopes and after review, Ms. Baxton moved separately to approve each application. Each motion was approved by all, 5-0. One UOCAVA application in pending status was disapproved for untimely submission. Mr. Gray moved to disapprove the application. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. Ms. Baxton moved to approve one Absentee-by-Mail application with an unclear postmark. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. Ms. Baxton moved to reject eight applications, without a postmark, received after Election Day. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. Ms. Baxton

moved to reject two UOCAVA applications, one of which was blank and the other untimely. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.

c. Review of Provisional Ballot Applications

- Following review and discussion on provisional ballot applications, Ms. Baxton moved to approve 408 provisional ballot applications and to not approve 838 applications as recommended by staff. The motion was approved by all and passed unanimously, 5-0. Ms. Baxton moved to disapprove two provisional applications that were in a pending status due to the voters' having absentee history. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.

d. Counting of Approved Supplemental Absentee and Provisional Ballots


- Staff began counting approved provisional ballots consistent with NCGS 163-182.2(a)(4).
- Staff began counting approved supplemental absentee ballots following authorization by the Board.

**General Discussion**

There was no general discussion.

**Adjournment**

The Board adjourned at approximately 8:33 p.m. on a motion made by Mrs. Oxendine. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.



Michael H. Gray, Secretary