



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Elections Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
5:00 P.M.

Board Members:

Dawn Y. Baxton, Chairwoman
Gregory D. Irby, Secretary
Philip A. Lehman, Member
Pamela A. Oxendine, Member
David K. Boone, Member

Board Members Present: Chairwoman Dawn Y. Baxton, Secretary Gregory D. Irby, Member Philip A. Lehman, Member Pamela A. Oxendine, and Member David K. Boone

Board Staff Present: Elections Director Derek Bowens, Deputy Director Brenda Baker, Systems and Audit Manager Daniel Lassiter, Absentee Coordinator Alan Resley

County Staff Present: County Attorney Willie Darby

Guests in Attendance: See Attendance Sheet

Meeting Type: In-Person and Zoom

Meeting Opening

Chairwoman Baxton called the meeting to order at approximately 5:02 p.m. at the Board of Elections Warehouse (2445 S. Alston Ave, Durham, NC 27703) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Mr. Lehman moved to approve the agenda as submitted by staff. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the minutes from the September 14, 2021 Board meeting. Following review, Mr. Lehman moved to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Public Comment

No comments or questions were provided in the public chat function or through the online submission portal.

Old Business

a. Felony Challenge Hearing – Mr. Sivarus Williams-Jones

- Mr. Bowens provided the Board with correspondence regarding the hearing for Mr. Sivarus Williams-Jones. Following review and discussion, Chairwoman Baxton surveyed the room and asked if Mr. Williams-Jones was present. There was no response. Following further discussion, Mr. Lehman moved to sustain the challenge against Mr. Williams-Jones for failure to appear as required by statute. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Chairwoman Baxton requested that staff send Mr. Williams-Jones the results of the hearing so that he is aware of his registration status and that Mr. Darby prepare an order reflecting the results of the hearing.
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New Business

a. Review of Absentee-By-Mail Ballots

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with 95 Civilian and 2230 One-Stop absentee ballots and applications for review. Following discussion and physical review, Mr. Irby moved to approve a total of 2325 absentee ballots and applications per the recommendation of staff. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.
- Mr. Bowens presented the board with 15 military/overseas ballots. Following review of duplicated military/overseas ballots consistent with Board policy, Mr. Irby moved to approve 15 duplicated military/overseas ballots. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.
- Mr. Bowens presented the board with a review of 8 absentee ballots and applications that were designated as Witness Information Incomplete. Mr. Irby moved to disapprove the 8 ballots that were missing witness information. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.
- Following the motions for the 8 Witness Information Incomplete ballots, the approved Absentee counts for the September 28, 2021 meeting was CIV 95, OVR 15 and One-Stop 2230 for a total of 2340.
- Mr. Lehman moved to allow staff to scan all approved absentee ballots as preparatory steps prior to the count on Election Day in accordance with NCGS 163-234 (2) and (3). The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

General Discussion

Mr. Bowens provided the Board with an update on Early Voting. He also mentioned that, as of Wednesday, September 22, 2021, staff learned that DPS was not aware of the October 5, 2021 Primary Election. Numerous emails were sent to DPS staff with information regarding the upcoming Municipal Election Schedule. Board of Elections staff were told that the emails were eventually found in their spam folder. DPS informed BOE staff that all schools are on lockdown and we will need to provide a worker at the entrance door to allow voters into the building. DPS is short on custodial workers, but they will work on figuring out who will open schools on Election Day. Also, if there is a lockdown at a school due to a threat, voting will be shut down. Mrs. Oxendine requested contact information for the School Board Members.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 6:24 p.m. on a motion made by Mrs. Oxendine. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

s/Gregory D. Irby
Member