



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Elections Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Board Members:

Dawn Y. Baxton, Chairwoman
David K. Boone, Member
James P. Weaver, Member
Pamela A. Oxendine, Member
Donald H. Beskind, Member

Board Members Present: Chairwoman Dawn Y. Baxton, Member James P. Weaver, Member Donald H. Beskind, and Member David K. Boone

Board Staff Present: Elections Director Derek Bowens, Deputy Director Brenda Baker, and Systems Specialist Julius Richards

Guests in Attendance: Senior Assistant County Attorney Bettyna Abney

Meeting Type: In-Person and Zoom

Meeting Opening

Chairwoman Baxton called the meeting to order at approximately 5:31 p.m. at the Durham County Board of Elections Warehouse (2445 S. Alston Ave, Durham, NC 27713) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Mr. Beskind moved to approve the agenda as submitted by staff. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0. Mrs. Oxendine was not present for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with minutes from the 8/22/2023, 9/12/2023, 9/19/2023, 9/26/2023, 10/3/2023, 10/10/2023, 10/16/2023, 10/17/2023, 10/19/2023, 10/24/2023, 11/6/2023, 11/7/2023, 11/13/2023, 11/16/2023, and 11/17/2023 meetings. Following review, Mr. Boone moved to approve the minutes as submitted by staff. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0. Mr. Boone moved to approve the minutes for the 10/09/2023 and 10/31/2023 meetings as submitted by staff. The motion carried, 3-1 with Chairwoman Baxton abstaining since she was not present for those meetings.

Director's Report

Mr. Bowens provided an update on List Maintenance, Finances, Legislation, Monthly Voter Outreach Events, the New Facility, Candidate Filing, Redistricting, FY24-25 Budget Preparations and the 2024 State Board of Elections Winter Conference.

Public Comment

One public comment was provided in the portal and addressed by Mr. Bowens.

New Business

- a. Preliminary Challenge Hearings: Leonardo Williams and Cassandra Stokes
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- Mr. Bowens, Mrs. Abney, and Ms. Jacqueline Wagstaff were sworn in by Chairwoman Baxton preceding the presentation of evidence for each of the challenges. Both preliminary challenge hearings were decided as follows.
 - i. Ms. Wagstaff submitted a residency challenge against Ms. Cassandra Stokes, where she argued that Ms. Stokes voted in Durham County for the past several elections under an address where she no longer resides. Ms. Wagstaff affirmed that her challenge of Ms. Stokes was related to her not being a resident of Durham County for several months. Following discussion and evaluation of the evidence presented, Mr. Boone moved that the Board dismiss the challenge due to lack of jurisdiction and the Board’s inability under State Board of Elections Numbered Memorandum 2018-07 to hear a challenge alleging a registered voter is no longer a resident in Durham County. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.
 - ii. Ms. Wagstaff submitted a residency challenge against Mr. Leonardo Williams, where she argued that Mr. Williams did not live in the jurisdiction in which he held office as a City Council Member. Following discussion and evaluation of the evidence presented, Mr. Beskind moved to dismiss the challenge due to lack of probable cause. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

b. Adoption of 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule

- Mr. Bowens provided the Board with the 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule. Following review, Dr. Weaver moved to adopt the meeting schedule as presented. The motion carried, unanimously, 4-0.

General Discussion

There was no general discussion.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Boone. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

s/David K. Boone
Secretary