

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

75 Stamp Act Drive NE · Building H
PO Box 2 · Bolivia · NC · 28422
www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections

Phone: 910-253-2620
Fax: 910-253-2618
elections@brunswickcountync.gov

Board Meeting Agenda **January 17, 2024 · 6:00 pm · Regular Meeting**

This meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Chambers of the David R. Sandifer Building, 30 Government Center Drive NE, Bolivia, NC, 28422.

Members of the public may observe the meeting in-person or via live video feed online using [Zoom](#). You will need to have Zoom installed on your computer or mobile device prior to joining the webinar; no registration or passcode is required.

- 1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a. November 6, 2023 – Absentee Meeting (page 2)
 - b. November 7, 2023 – Election Day Meeting (page 5)
 - c. November 9, 2023 – Sample Audit Meeting (page 7)
 - d. November 16, 2023 – Pre- Canvass Meeting (page 9)
 - e. November 17, 2023 – Canvass Meeting (page 13)
 - f. November 28, 2023 – Special Meeting (page 16)
 - g. December 4, 2023 – Special Meeting (page 19)
- 4. Public Comments**
 - a. Any individual or group who wishes to address the board may make a request to be on the agenda to the Board of Elections Staff. Public comments should be limited to three to five minutes.
 - b. A public comment portal allows those not in attendance during a board meeting to address the board. Any comments received by the start of a board meeting will be read aloud during the public comment period. [Public Comment Portal Link](#)
- 5. Director's Report (page 21)**
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. Judge Carry-Over for WB01 Waccamaw (page 26)
- 7. New Business**
 - a. Appointment of Early Voting Officials (page 27)
 - b. Appointment of Multipartisan Assistance Team (page 34)
 - c. Consideration of Polling Place change for NB05 Woodburn (page 35)
 - d. Annual Reevaluation of Out of Precinct Polling Locations (page 37)
 - e. Consideration of Off-Site Voter ID Making Policy (page 39)
- 8. Adjourn**

The next board meeting is an absentee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 4:00 pm in the Commissioners Chambers of the David R. Sandifer Administration Building.

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Meeting Minutes · Absentee Meeting · November 6, 2023 · 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward E. Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, Member Paula Clarity, Member Randy Pelton, and Member Timothy Randall

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, Assistant Computer Technician Ed Ovsenik, and Absentee Assistant Christy Souter

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Julie Paladino and Susan Heitmuller

Meeting Opening

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Randall made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the minutes of the October 31 Absentee meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Absentee Ballots

Ms. Rushton presented two absentee ballot pending board decision, 47 civilian, and 5 overseas and 3 Affidavit Review Pending (properly executed Photo ID Exception Form, with one being an electronically returned visually impaired ballot).

There is one ballot recommended for disapproval due to missing witness signature.

Mr. Johnson verified the seal number on the vDrive seal as 37471506.

Two ballots are pending board decision; upon opening the return envelopes, the ballot envelopes were discovered as unsealed. Staff followed procedures outlined in Numbered Memo 2021-03; when the ballot is inside the executed ballot envelope which is not sealed BUT the ballot envelope is received in a sealed return envelope, this anomaly is not a deficiency. Staff is instructed to re-seal the return envelope with a notation of “sealed in a return envelope” and the county board should open the return envelope and address the ballot at its next meeting.

One ballot was properly executed with an acceptable copy of the voter's ID. One ballot appeared to be missing a copy of the photo ID and staff researched if it was acceptable to open the ballot envelope to determine if the voter submitted the copy of the photo ID within the envelope.

Mr. Smith made a motion to inspect the ballot envelope to determine if the voter included ID. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lewis opened the envelope and determined the voter's copy of Photo ID was submitted in the envelope.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve the two ballots that were pending before the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. LaVere presented 47 civilian ballots for approval. Each board member reviewed two ballots to confirm they were properly executed. Mr. Randall made a motion to approve 47 civilian ballots. The motion carried unanimously.

There are three ballots returned with a properly executed Photo ID Exception Form. Per Numbered memo 2020-25, these ballots should be approved by the board if the board does not unanimously conclude that the exception form is false. One of these ballots was duplicated by the bipartisan team because it was submitted electronically as a visually impaired ballot. Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve three ballots with an executed Photo ID Exception Form. The motion carried unanimously.

The bipartisan team opened the approved ballots and removed ballots to be scanned.

There is one ballot recommended for disapproval as it is missing a witness signature. The ballot has been spoiled a re-issued to the voter. Mr. Smith made a motion to disapprove the ballot missing a witness signature. The motion carried unanimously.

The overseas ballots were duplicated by the bi-partisan team prior to the meeting and reviewed by the board. Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve five overseas ballot that was duplicated. The motion carried unanimously.

There were two ballots that were discovered to be CIV mismatch when opened; these ballots need to be spoiled and re-issued. Ms. Clarity made a motion to disapprove the two ballots with CIV mismatch. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson verified the beginning count of the Central Scan was 45 ballots from the previous meeting. After scanning was complete, Mr. Johnson announced that 55 ballots were scanned today with no overvotes. Ms. LaVere confirmed that was the number of ballots approved.

The ballots were placed in a bin and sealed, with seals signed by Mr. Smith and Mr. Randall. The secure vDrive was placed in a storage container and sealed. The following vote count and seal numbers were logged and will be confirmed at the start of the next meeting.

- Ballot count: 100 total
- Ballot bin: 2617073 and 2616998
- vDrive storage container: 37471599

The board signed an audit sheet confirming the number of ballots scanned today and seal numbers.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Election Day Meeting · November 7, 2023 · 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward E. Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, Member Paula Clarity, Member Randy Pelton, and Member Timothy Randall

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, and Assistant Computer Technician Ed Ovsenik

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Christy Souter, Julie Paladino

Meeting Opening

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Absentee Ballots

Mr. Johnson verified the seal from the vDrive storage container as 37471592.

Mr. Johnson opened the central scanner.

Ms. Rushton presented 2 civilian ballots pending board decision; voters have indicated that photo ID documentation is inside the ballot envelope. Mr. Randall made a motion to approve the ballots pending the review the Photo ID documentation inside. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed one accepted cure ballot. Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the accepted cure ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

Five civilian absentee ballots are recommended for approval. Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve five absentee ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

One military ballot received electronically was duplicated prior to the meeting by the bipartisan duplication team. Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the military ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

The bipartisan duplication team will need to duplicate a ballot that was damaged and unable to be read by the tabulator.

Mr. Johnson announced the total number of ballots scanned as 244 ballots scanned; matching what was scanned at the close of the November 6 meeting. Approved ballots were removed from the envelopes and scanned into the Verity scanner.

Mr. Johnson announced that 9 ballots were scanned at today’s meeting. That was confirmed to be the number of ballots approved.

The ballots were placed in a bin and sealed, with seals signed by Ms. Clarity and Mr. Pelton. The secure vDrive was placed in a storage container and sealed. The following vote count and seal numbers were logged and will be confirmed at the start of the next meeting.

- Ballot count: 253 total
- Ballot bin: 2617214 and 2617215

Closing of Verity Central Scan and Verity Scans from One-Stop Locations

Mr. Johnson obtained results from Central Scan of absentee ballots. He also closed the Verity Scans from One-Stop and obtained those results.

Summary of Absentee and One-Stop Votes for Release at Close of Polls:

Absentee by Mail Summary

Absentee by Mail	Verity Central Scan Total	Executed Absentee Report
Civilian		238
Military		3
Overseas		12
Absentee TOTAL	253	253

One-Stop Summary

Location	Verity Scan Total (As reported)	Executed Absentee Report	Security Seal Number	Handle Seal Number
Bolivia	2,222	2,222	0491803	35059014
One-Stop TOTAL	2,222	2,222		

Precinct Results

When all precincts had reported, and tabulations were complete, the unofficial results of the 2023 municipal election were announced.

Adjournment

Mr. Pelton made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Sample Audit Meeting · November 9, 2023 · 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward E. Lewis, Member Paula Clarity, Member Randy Pelton, and Member Timothy Randall

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Assistant Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, and Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress

Bipartisan Sample Audit Members Present: Cindy Martishius, Carla Wisnewski, Debra Pyle, Mark Leeds, Sophia Harkins, Delores Durbas, Ronald Curley, and Sandra Batson

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Laverre explained that the sample audit count was required by law and is a process where bipartisan teams hand tally the top contest on the ballot for two voting locations. The results of the hand tally are then compared to the machine count. Today we are auditing Oak Island 2 (Dosher Hospital Contest) and Shallotte (Shallotte Alderman contest).

The seal numbers were verified, and the seals removed. The bipartisan teams tallied the ballots.

Ballot Summary

Election Day Precinct CB02 Shallotte: 378 ballots cast

Ballot Bin Seal	Total Ballots
0491904	378

This was a vote for three contest.

The sample audit produced results identical to the machine count results, as indicated below.

Candidate	Votes
Melodie Bryant	159
Karmen Custer	206
Carson Durham	161
Larry Harrelson	168

Edward Springer	32
Bobby Williamson	265
Write-Ins	6
Undervotes	134

Ballots were sealed in a bin with seal number 37471598.

Election Day Precinct SB07 Oak Island 2: 1091 ballots cast

Ballot Bin Seal	Total Ballots
0491951	1091

This was a vote for two contest.

The sample audit produced results identical to the machine count results, as indicated below.

Candidate	Votes
Angela L. Wadsworth	627
Charles A. Drew	655
Write-Ins	30
Undervotes	868

Ballots were sealed in a bin with seal number 37471564.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Pre-Canvass Meeting · November 16 · 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward E. Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, Member Paula Clarity, Member Randy Pelton, and Member Timothy Randall

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Melissa Chambers, Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, Assistant Computer Technician Ed Ovsenik, and Absentee Assistant Christy Souter

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Julie Paladino, Gwen Causey

Meeting Opening

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. LaVere clarified that any ballots approved, opened, and scanned today will not be tabulated until canvass meeting.

Consideration of Supplemental Absentee Ballots

Mr. Johnson opened the central scanner and ran a zero count report which board members signed.

Ms. Rushton presented supplemental absentee ballots recommended for consideration:

Ballots pending board decision – 7

Four ballots were received in a return envelope, but the ballot envelope was unsealed. Staff followed procedures outlined in Numbered Memo 2021-03; when the ballot is inside the executed ballot envelope which is not sealed BUT the ballot envelope is received in a sealed return envelope, this anomaly is not a deficiency. Staff is instructed to re-seal the return envelope with a notation of “sealed in a return envelope” and the county board should open the return envelope and address the ballot at its next meeting.

One ballot needed review of the postmark. It is also has a valid Photo ID exception form. Mr. Smith and Mr. Pelton discussed that the postmark appears to be November 6. Mr. Pelton made a motion to accept the postmark as timely. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Clarity made

a motion to accept the ballot with the Photo ID exception form. The motion carried unanimously.

One ballot needed review for timely postmark to determine eligibility; the ballot was returned without Photo ID documentation where the voter has indicated the copy of the ID is inside the sealed envelope. The board reviewed the postmark. Mr. Smith made a motion to disapprove the ballot as the postmark is not readable. Motion carried unanimously.

One ballot returned without the Photo ID documentation where the voter indicated the copy of their ID is inside the envelope. Ms. Clarity made a motion to open the envelope to review the Photo ID documentation. Motion carried unanimously. Photo ID documentation was reviewed and determined to be acceptable.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve six of the seven pending ballots. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballots Recommended for Approval – 46

One ballot is an accepted cure ballot; the voter returned a cure certification. The original copy of the photo ID was not readable. A second photo ID was provided. Ms. Clarity made a motion to accept the ID and approve the ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

There are 40 civilian absentee ballots that are recommended for approval that were postmarked appropriately and received in a timely manner. Each board member reviewed at least 2 ballots. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve 40 civilian ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

One overseas ballot was returned electronically and duplicated by the bipartisan team. Mr. Randall made a motion to approve the overseas ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

Four ballots were returned with properly executed Photo ID Exception forms. Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve ballots. Motion carried unanimously.

One ballot was damaged during opening. It was marked spoiled and will be duplicated by the bipartisan duplication team.

One envelope was found to be empty upon opening by the bipartisan team.

Three ballots were initially approved and upon opening discovered there is a CIV mismatch. The CIV number assigned to the ballot did not match the CIV number assigned to the return envelope. Numbered Memo 2021-03 covers the procedures for disapproving CIV mismatches and empty ballot envelopes. Mr. Smith made a motion to disapprove the CIV mismatch ballots. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to disapprove the envelope that contained no ballot. The motion carried unanimously.

Ballots recommended for disapproval – 6

Two ballots were received after election day with witness information incomplete. Four ballots were received after election day with no postmark. Ms. Clarity made a motion to disapprove six ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved ballots were removed from the envelopes and scanned into the Verity scanner.

One ballot was damaged and had to be duplicated by the bipartisan team.

Mr. Johnson announced that 48 ballots were scanned at today's meeting. That was confirmed to be the number of ballots approved.

The ballots were placed in a bin and sealed, with seals signed by Ms. Clarity and Mr. Pelton. The secure vDrive was placed in a storage container and sealed. The following vote count and seal numbers were logged and will be confirmed at the start of the next meeting.

- Ballot count: 48

Consideration of Provisional Ballots

Mr. Johnson opened the central scanner and ran a zero count report which board members signed.

Ms. Chambers explained the provisional processed and presented provisional ballots for consideration.

Provisional ballots being considered today: 231

- Recommended for approval – 78
 - ID Not provided (Exception Form Properly Executed) – 3
 - ID Not provided (No Exception Form, Provided Acceptable Photo ID to BOE - 1
 - Incorrect precinct – 69
 - No record of registration – 2
 - Previously removed – 3
- Recommended for partial approval – 10
 - Incorrect Precinct – 10
- Recommended not approving – 143
 - Incorrect Precinct – Not eligible for Contests on Ballot Received – 4
 - Jurisdiction dispute – No Ballot - 102
 - No record of registration – 36
 - Voter already voted - 1

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve 78 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith made a motion to partially approve 10 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to disapprove 143 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved ballots were opened and duplicated as necessary by the bipartisan team. One ballot that was partially approved was found to be the correct ballot style issued and thus needs to be fully counted. Approved ballots were scanned into the Verity Central Scan. Mr. Johnson announced that 88 ballots were scanned which was confirmed as the number of approved ballots.

The board adjudicated one ballot as necessary.

Ballot bin seals were initialed by Mr. Pelton and Mr. Randall.

Provisional and supplemental absentee ballot bin seals: 2617064 and 2617065

Vdrive seal for supplemental absentee and provisional: 37471516

Adjournment

Mr. Pelton thanked the staff and bipartisan team for excellent work.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Canvass Meeting · November 17, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward E. Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, Member Paula Clarity, Member Randy Pelton, and Member Timothy Randall

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Melissa Chambers, Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, Assistant Computer Technician Walter Norton, and Absentee Assistant Christy Souter

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Julie Paladino, Gwen Causey

Meeting Opening

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Supplemental Absentee Ballots

Two civilian ballots were not reviewed yesterday as staff were awaiting guidance from the state board of elections.

These two ballots have a postage sticker on them as addressed in a numbered memo that this type of sticker is usually affixed by the purchaser and not necessarily at the post office. The voters provided information that postage was purchased at a post office and provided copies of receipts that were presented to the board. The state guidance was that the board can consider if the ballot was mailed on or before election day.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to accept ballots for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson opened the central scanner and ran a zero-count report which board members signed.

Mr. Johnson read the seal number from the vdrive box as 37471516, which was confirmed as being placed during the Pre-Canvass meeting on November 16, 2023.

Approved ballots were opened by the bipartisan team and scanned in. Mr. Johnson announced two ballots scanned, as confirmed by Ms. Rushton as two ballots approved.

Consideration of Provisional Ballots

Ms. Chambers presented provisional ballots for consideration.

Provisional ballots being considered today: 7

- Recommended not approving – 4
 - ID Not Provided (No Exception Form) -4

These voters had until 5 PM on November 16, 2023 to return to the Board of Elections Office with an acceptable form of Photo ID; voters did not bring ID. Mr. Randall made a motion to not approve the four ballots. Motion carried unanimously.

- Pending Board Review – 3
 - Address Issue -1
 - ID Not Provided (Exception From completed with ‘Other’ category selected by the voter) - 2

One ballot had an address issue as there was some ambiguity of the correct naming of their street address. The most recent address provided by the voter does not have a ballot assigned. The valid address, previously assigned to the voter, does have a ballot assigned and is the ballot style received by the voter on election day. Ms. Clarity made a motion to accept the ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

Two pending ballots presented to the board involved voters without Photo ID and completed the ID Exception Form and completed the ‘other’ category under reasonable impediment. According to the state legal guidance the board is tasked with determining if the reason provided in the ‘other’ category is “an impediment that prevents the registered voter from presenting photographic identification.”

Both voters were given proper notice of the meeting, and the board offered a chance for voters to speak if they were present; neither was present.

One ballot the voter did not wish to show an acceptable form of ID and stated that what he showed should be enough, as it was issued by the government (Library of Congress user card). The ID he presented is not a form of acceptable ID. Ms. Clarity made a motion to not approve this ballot as this is not an impediment that prevented the voter from presenting acceptable photo ID. Motion carried unanimously.

One ballot the voter presented an out-of-state driver’s license, which was not an acceptable form of photo ID, if the voter has been registered for more than 90 days prior to the election. This voter has been registered for two years. Staff spoke with the voter and provided the voter information on acceptable identification and the voter indicated he would be prepared with acceptable ID for the next election. Mr. Randall made a motion to not approve the ballot as this is not an impediment that prevented the voter from presenting an acceptable photo ID. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson opened the central scanner for scanning of the approved provisional ballot.

The approved ballot was an out of precinct ballot and was duplicated onto the correct ballot style by the bipartisan duplication team; it was then scanned.

Presentation of Voter History Audit

Ms. LaVere spoke to voter history reconciliation. Three election day precincts had discrepancy in their numbers. In Belville 1, there was a poll worker error that caused a voter to be marked as voted, when he did not place a ballot in the tabulator (the voter's address needed to be updated). The voter then went to his correct precinct and voted. In Southport 2, there was a voter that checked in, received a ballot, and decided not to vote – witnesses attest the ballot was thrown away. Brunswick Forest has one less ballot cast than voter history. Audits were done of paper ballots; voter history and ballot count and no reconciliation were found. The staff's best guess is that a voter may have walked out with a ballot without casting the ballot.

Finalize Results

Mr. Johnson read in supplemental absentee ballots, provisional ballots from yesterday and today, then write-ins were processed, and results were finalized.

Some contests of interest that Ms. LaVere called attention to. There are two tie votes. Bald Head Island has a tie between Jerry Maggio and Virginia White each with 102 votes. Ocean Isle Beach Commissioner between David Green and Stephen Tuner with each receiving 219 votes. The contest for Southport Mayor is a difference of one vote. These contests, along with H2Go, would be eligible to request a recount. Candidates have until 5 PM on Monday to request a recount. Results of a tie cannot be determined until after the deadline for recount requests.

If recounts are requested, they will take place on November 28.

Documents were signed by the board.

Provisional and supplemental absentee ballot bin seals: 2617062 and 2617063

Adjournment

Ms. Clarity made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Special Meeting · November 28, 2023 · 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward E. Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, and Member Paula Clarity

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, Assistant County Attorney Bryan Batton

Bipartisan Team Present: Jacqueline Adair, Sandra Batson, Dolores Durbas, Cindy Martishius, Steve Mauck, Carla Wisniewski

Meeting Opening

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Determination of Winner for Tied Contests

Two contests had ties after results were finalized at canvass. For each tie contest, each candidate's name is printed on five slips of paper (10 slips for each contest). To determine the winner of each contest, the tied candidate's names will be placed in a hat, blindly shuffled by all board members present and Chair Edward Lewis will then draw the winner.

Bald Head Island Council:

Scott Thomas received 106 votes. Jerry Maggio and Virginia (Ginnie) White are tied with 102 votes each for the second seat. The winner drawn was Virginia (Ginne) White.

Ocean Isle Beach Commissioner:

Mike Wade received 309 votes; Mark Holland received 298 votes. David Green and Stephen Turner are tied with 219 votes each for the third seat. The winner drawn was David Green.

Certificates of Elections will be issued for the two winners.

Preliminary Consideration of Election Protest

Nathan Youngs filed an election protest for the contest of Sandy Creek Mayor on November 21, 2023. The board will determine (1) whether the protest has substantially complied with form requirement, and (2) whether the protest establishes probable cause.

The board discussed the form and its contents. Mr. Smith made a motion to find the protest and substantially complied with the form requirement and find probable cause. Motion carried unanimously.

The board will schedule a protest hearing and give proper notice once the date and time are decided.

Consideration of One Provisional Ballot

Our office was contacted about a provisional ballot cast by Michael James Smith. The voter stated he was previously voted and could not figure out why he was not registered and why his vote had not counted.

It was discovered that a registration form for Michael Alexander Smith was attached to the record of Michael James Smith. Both Voters have the same date of birth, but all other information on the voter record was updated to reflect the information provided by Michael Alexander Smith.

Because the canvass is being reopened to conduct a recount for Southport Mayor, staff recommends that the provisional ballot cast by Michael James Smith be approved and the ballot added to the vote count prior to the recount being conducted.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the provisional ballot. Motion carried unanimously. The board opened the approved provisional ballot.

Mr. Johnson opened the central scanner and ran a zeros tape for the board signature. The ballot was scanned, and the result was read in. The ballot will then be added to those that will be recounted.

Recount of Southport Mayor's Contest

The amended canvassed results:

Rich Alt:	841
Joe Pat Hatem:	839
Mike Barbee:	93
Write-In (Miscellaneous)	1

Every ballot included in the amended canvass total was scanned by bipartisan teams under the supervision of the board. This includes early voting, election day and absentee by mail ballots. The procedures outlined in Numbered memo 2021-31 were followed.

Two precinct scanners and the central scan were opened, and zero tapes were run. Zeros tapes were signed by the bipartisan teams.

Election Day ballots from Southport 1 and Southport 2 were brought in and seals placed on Election Day were verified by the bipartisan team. Ballots were scanned into two Verity Scan tabulators.

A bipartisan team verified seals on bins containing absentee by mail and provisional ballots and scanned them into the central scanner.

Ballots Recounted	
Early Voting	2,222
Absentee	303
Provisional	90
Southport 1	910
Southport 2	663
	4,217

Ballots were resealed into secure containers.

	Original seals placed	Seals to secure at meal break	Seal placed at Recount
Absentee 10.17.2023	2616995 2616994		2616950 2616949
Absentee 10.24.2023	2617013 2617235		2616945 2616944
Absentee 10.31.2023	2617073 2616998		2616942 2616941
Absentee 11.06.2023	2617211 2617240		2617068 2616933
Absentee 11.07.2023	2617215 2617214		2616935 2616934
Absentee/Provisional 11.16.2023	2617065 2617064		2617069 2617070
Absentee/Provisional 11.17.2023	2617063 2617062		2617067 2617066
Early Voting	2616927 2616926	Scanned: 2617213/2617212 Unscanned: 2616948/2616947	2616930 2616929
Election Day SB04 Southport 1	491936	37471566	37471570
Election Day SB05 Southport 2	491942		37471569 37471565

After the recount was complete the results remained unchanged from the amended canvass totals.

Adjournment

Ms. Clarity made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting Minutes · Special Meeting · December 4, 2023 · 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward E. Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, and Member Paula Clarity

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, Assistant County Attorney Bryan Batton

Meeting Opening

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Protest Hearing

The board heard the protest filed by Nate Youngs.

Mr. Youngs was sworn in before providing testimony.

Mr. Youngs offered testimony that the candidate in question, Mel Miller, did not disclose at the time of candidate filing that she has a felony conviction.

Mr. Youngs offered a copy of the records search from the Department of Corrections website, and it is labeled as Exhibit 1 and entered as evidence.

Mr. Youngs offered testimony of how he came to know of the felony conviction and the population of Sandy Creek. He offered that when he learned of her filing for candidacy, he also learned that she had not signed up for the mandatory compliance training. He then began to question her eligibility.

Sara LaVere was sworn in by the board. Ms. LaVere reviewed the candidate filing process and the notice of candidacy filed. She further clarified that once a felon's rights are restored and they re-register to vote, they can file for candidacy and hold office (this office does not bar previous felony convictions from holding the office). Ms. LaVere brought this matter to the attention to the State Board of Elections prior to the election and they have sent the matter to their investigations division as a matter of falsely signing the notice of candidacy form, rather than an election protest matter.

Mr. Batton clarified that the question is, if the violation of election law, misconduct, or irregularity occurred, is it sufficiently serious enough to cast doubt on the result of the election? Is the irregularity that occurred her falsifying the form?

Mr. Lewis noted that the first question is whether the form is false. The second question is does the falsity cast doubt on the outcome of the election.

Ms. LaVere offered the results: Mel Miller had 30 votes and Glen Marshall had 24 votes. Mr. Marshall was a write-in candidate.

Mel Miller was not present for the hearing.

The board deliberated the evidence presented.

Mr. Smith made a motion finding that there was substantial evidence that a violation of election law, irregularity or misconduct did occur by Mel Miller falsifying the Notice of Candidacy Form. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Batton offered clarity to the next question, if she had not falsified the form, would that have made a difference to the outcome of the election. Mr. Batton provided background that the board finds if there is substantial evidence to find the irregularity was sufficiently serious to cast doubt on the outcome of the election, they could refer the matter to the state board of elections as prescribed by law.

Mr. Smith noted that although the form was filled out falsely, he doubts that simply the form being wrong would have made a difference in the outcome of the election. He does not believe enough people see the Notice of Candidacy to alter the outcome of the election.

Mr. Lewis noted that he finds it inappropriate to fill out the form incorrectly; if the board votes to dismiss, the state will continue their investigation into the falsity of the form. Mr. Lewis agreed with Mr. Smith that not enough people would have seen the form to gain that knowledge.

Mr. Smith made a motion that there is not sufficient evidence to cast doubt on the outcome of the election and the protest should be dismissed. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. LaVere clarified that Mel Miller's certificate election cannot be issued for five days.

Adjournment

Ms. Clarity made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Fax: 910-253-2618
elections@brunswickcountync.gov

Date: 1/17/2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Director's Report

Summary:

1. Statewide Tabletop Exercise planned for January 24
2. We launched a new website in December
3. Election Assistance Commission Local Leadership Council held annual meeting January 8-9
4. 2024 Primary Election updates
 - a. Absentee ballots begin going out January 19
 - b. First absentee meeting is Tuesday, January 30
 - c. Poll worker training underway
5. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget/Strategic Planning

Attachments:

1. December voter registration statistics
2. Departmental Goals and Objectives

2023 Brunswick County Voter Registration Statistics Monthly Report

	2023											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Registered Voters	124,357	124,851	125,499	125,871	126,346	127,004	127,584	128,206	128,978	129,627	130,176	130,709
Voter Registration Activity												
Voters Removed	4,366	307	281	440	418	337	457	483	399	385	371	260
New Registrations Processed	923	813	737	952	851	1,029	1,026	1,062	1,148	535	1,427	653
Registrations Processed w/ No Changes	267	240	199	208	194	165	182	300	380	548	525	164
Voter Registration Changes Processed	411	326	389	491	387	475	555	538	476	444	765	293
Total Monthly VR Transactions	5,967	1,686	1,606	2,091	1,850	2,006	2,220	2,383	2,403	1,912	3,088	1,370
Verification and Confirmation Mailings												
Verifications Mailed Out	6,012	1,042	1,034	1,522	1,495	1,586	1,445	1,367	9,896	1,316	1,556	1,663
NCOA Mailing	0	1,345	0	0	0	0	1,196	0	0	0	0	0
Verifications returned undeliverable	4,648	20	1,144	53	29	18	27	933	71	429	30	41
Voter Returned Confirmation Card Update	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	45	9	1
Confirmations Mailed Out	4,700	90	82	1,098	48	15	19	23	794	407	65	35
Party Breakdown												
Democratic	26,839	26,839	26,944	27,012	27,037	27,107	27,153	27,205	27,249	27,322	27,358	27,389
Republican	50,137	50,378	50,635	50,784	50,972	51,245	51,467	51,722	52,008	52,233	52,440	52,706
Libertarian	672	674	679	675	675	681	687	690	695	699	696	701
Green	9	10	12	14	15	16	17	17	17	18	18	18
No Labels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	19	36	49	55
Unaffiliated	46,700	46,950	47,229	47,386	47,647	47,955	48,260	48,567	48,990	49,319	49,615	49,840
Party Breakdown Percentage												
Democratic	21.58%	21.50%	21.47%	21.46%	21.40%	21.34%	21.28%	21.22%	21.13%	21.08%	21.02%	20.95%
Republican	40.32%	40.35%	40.35%	40.35%	40.34%	40.35%	40.34%	40.34%	40.32%	40.29%	40.28%	40.32%
Libertarian	0.54%	0.54%	0.54%	0.54%	0.53%	0.54%	0.54%	0.54%	0.54%	0.54%	0.53%	0.54%
Green	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
No Labels	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%
Unaffiliated	37.55%	37.60%	37.63%	37.65%	37.71%	37.76%	37.83%	37.88%	37.98%	38.05%	38.11%	38.13%
Gender												
Female	61,179	61,418	61,729	61,905	62,128	62,435	62,768	63,088	63,456	63,808	64,073	64,341
Male	52,801	53,026	53,329	53,512	53,718	54,022	54,240	54,483	54,828	55,110	55,335	55,549
Undesignated Gender	10,377	10,407	10,441	10,454	10,500	10,547	10,576	10,635	10,694	10,709	10,768	10,819
Race												
American Indian	366	367	368	367	366	368	368	372	373	377	380	382
Asian	459	459	469	470	476	481	490	494	495	496	505	506
Black	8,633	8,655	8,718	8,752	8,765	8,792	8,783	8,808	8,845	8,871	8,899	8,924
Multi-Racial	267	267	267	266	264	264	264	260	263	262	259	258
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	6	6	6	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
White	103,137	103,600	104,145	104,489	104,915	105,495	106,038	106,584	107,262	107,856	108,300	108,759
Other Race	1,741	1,762	1,800	1,823	1,855	1,890	1,941	1,976	2,016	2,057	2,084	2,128
Undesignated Race	9,748	9,735	9,726	9,698	9,696	9,705	9,691	9,703	9,715	9,699	9,740	9,743
Ethnicity												

Statistics for this report are generated using the NC State Board of Elections NVRA report.

Board of Elections

Sara LaVere, Director

75 Stamp Act Drive NE, Building H, PO Box 2,
Bolivia, NC, 28422, 910-253-2620

Department Summary

Finance will complete the Department Summary Section.

Department Purpose

The Brunswick County Board of Elections conducts all federal, state, county, municipal, and special elections in accordance with federal and state law and State Board of Elections policy. Our mission is to maintain the integrity of elections, ensure election results are accurate and include as many residents as possible. We do this by encouraging voter registration and making it easy for registered voters to cast a ballot for the candidates and issues of their choice.

Latest Major Accomplishments

- Successfully conducted the 2023 municipal election and two candidate filing cycles.
- Mobilized an unprecedented 38 Student Election Assistants in the 2023 municipal election, encompassing students from all four area high schools, marking a historic achievement.
- Presented comprehensive election insights to students in all four area high schools, solidifying our commitment to widespread civic education.
- Collaborated with local area schools to identify eligible students seeking volunteer opportunities; 4 high school interns contributed to our 2023 municipal election.
- Delivered seven election education seminars and organized an interactive Election Expo open house in 2023, fostering a deeper understanding of elections among Brunswick County residents.
- Conducted thorough outreach, visiting every county library and senior center to provide invaluable information and answer questions.
- Demonstrated unwavering commitment by disseminating election information and offering voter registration opportunities at numerous festivals and home shows across the county.

Goals and Objectives

Goal/Focus Area: Education

- Commissioner Objective 2
 - Conduct School Election Programs in each area high school whereby students will participate in a simulated election.
 - Finalize the I Voted sticker contest with area students and have the winning stickers available for distribution during the 2024 presidential election.
 - Continue to encourage the participation of students in the Student Election Assistant program.

GoalFocus Area: Excellent Government

- Commissioner Objective 2
 - Add two additional full-time positions to support the department in response to the continued growth in the county and complexity of election administration.

- Commissioner Objective 4
 - Implement a public records request tracking system to efficiently respond to requests.

Key Performance Measures

	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Target
Number of registered voters at the end of fiscal year	123,459	127,053	135,000	145,000
Number/type of elections held	2 elections: municipal and mid-term primary	1 election: Mid-term general	2 elections: Municipal and presidential primary	1 election: Presidential general
Number of precinct officials worked election day	Municipal 269 Primary 243	348	Municipal 293, Primary 350	375
Number of early voting workers	*	294	375	375
Hours of in person training for precinct officials	*	204 hours	368 hours	250 hours
Number of Student Election Assistants (SEA) applied/worked *Law permits two per precinct	Municipal: 10 applied, 1 worked Primary: 5 applied, 5 worked	General: 7 applied, 5 worked	Municipal: 45 applied, 38 worked Primary: Goal is 54 work	General: 54 work
Number of public speaking engagements	5	6	15	15
Number of outreach events/voter registration drives	*	5	35	30
Number of campaign finance committees open (highest number during year)	*	127	130	130
Number of campaign finance reports audited	*	330	450	400

Upcoming Opportunities and Challenges

- Due to the county's expanding population, we face ongoing difficulties in finding appropriate polling sites for both early voting and election day.
- There is an urgent need for additional space to enhance the efficiency of our election administration processes. Our current capacity is insufficient for organizing precinct supply cages, conducting voting machine testing, post-election audits and recounts, candidate filing, and poll worker training. Currently, we have 35 precinct supply cages, each taking up 11 square feet of floor space (expanding to 30 square feet when they are being prepared). Additionally, we face the task of providing enough workspace for numerous seasonal temporary employees and accommodating the expected hiring of two additional full-time staff members.

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Date: 1/17/2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Judge Carry-over for Precinct WB01 Waccamaw

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

[GS 163-41](#)

Summary:

Every other year in odd-numbered years, the county board of elections will appoint chief judges and judges for each precinct to serve a two-year term. No more than two judges can be of the same political party.

The chairman from each political party may recommend up to two people to serve as chief judge in each precinct. They may also submit up to two people to serve as judges of each precinct. Parties may submit voters not of their party for appointment.

Unaffiliated voters can be appointed if recommended by a party chair or if the party recommendations are insufficient and the board votes unanimously.

Appointment of voters that reside out of precinct must be by unanimous vote. Currently, only two workers reside in precinct; they are related, so they may not both work in WB01.

Appointed to serve in Waccamaw were Betty Hewett (REP) and chief judge and Carol Kerr (DEM) (WB05) as judge.

- The board could not come to a unanimous agreement as to the judge appointment for WB01 Waccamaw at its meeting in August, as required since both party recommendations were out of precinct. The matter was tabled pending legal advice from the state and precinct WB01 was closed for the municipal election.
- Upon conferring with legal staff at the state, because there was no appointment made, the previous judge carries over. Both names submitted by the parties in 2023 were previous judges in the last term. Thus, the board will decide which previous judge carries over for another term. The board is deciding which judge carries over and not making an appointment, as such, the vote need only be a majority.

Board Action:

Vote on which judge carries over to serve in Waccamaw

- John Cox (REP) (WB06)
- Robert Dunn (UNA) (WB06)

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Date: 1/17/2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Appointment of Early Voting Officials

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

[SL 2023-10](#)

Summary:

Effective January 1, 2024, for each primary and election, county boards of election shall appoint precinct officials for each early voting site, other than the county board office.

- County boards shall work to ensure, if at all possible, that the chief judge and judges working at any site at the same time do not all belong to the same political party.
- Political parties were provided notice and were required to submit any names for consideration by January 10, 2024.
- Staff recommends all election day chief judges and judges be appointed. Staff further recommends that those being trained to serve in specialty roles be appointed.
- Staff recommendations were provided to parties on January 5, 2024.

Attachments:

Recommended early voting officials

Board Action:

Staff recommends the board approve the appointment of early voting officials as listed in the attachment.

Early Voting Recommended Officials

Last Name	First Name	Party
Adair	Jacqueline	DEM
Allen	Mark	DEM
Arvidson	Alicia	DEM
Barna	Gail	DEM
Beal	Janet	DEM
Bell	Margie	DEM
Benton	Teresa	DEM
Bond	Stuart	DEM
Bowman	Michella	DEM
Brooks	Alma	DEM
Brooks	Barbara	DEM
Brown	Barry	DEM
Brown	S Renee	DEM
Brown	Corine C. Brown	DEM
Bryan	Deborah	DEM
Craun	Vicky	DEM
Davis	David	DEM
Dearry	Allen	DEM
Duncan	Susanne	DEM
Duncan	Pamela (Pam)	DEM
Durbas	Dolores	DEM
Evans	Cindy	DEM
Fairfield-Artman	Patricia	DEM
Faust	Christine (Chris)	DEM
Fenzl	Susan	DEM
Fortini	Barbara	DEM
Fulton	Cheryl	DEM
Gaillard	Knight	DEM
Gamba-Vitalo	Christina	DEM
Geise	Donna	DEM
Goldman	Martha	DEM
Gulas	Charles	DEM
Harkins	Spring	DEM
Hedgepeth	Carolyn	DEM
Hilger	Brenda	DEM
Johnson	Martha	DEM
Johnson	Paulette	DEM
Kerr	Carol	DEM
Kitchings	Kathleen	DEM
Kuka	Sallyjune	DEM
Landsman	Robin	DEM
Leeds	Mark	DEM
Leonard	Pam	DEM

Early Voting Recommended Officials

Lipnick	Barry	DEM
MacDaniel	Colleen	DEM
MacDaniel	Edward	DEM
Mackey	Libby	DEM
Maher	Marie	DEM
Martinelli	Julia	DEM
Martins	Paul	DEM
Martins	Sharon	DEM
Mathews	Jayne	DEM
Mathis	Kathryn	DEM
Matton	Lisa	DEM
McCarthy	Gina	DEM
McLarty	Gracie	DEM
McMillan	Jere	DEM
Miller	John	DEM
Mitchell	Mary	DEM
Monaldo	Sheri	DEM
Moyer	David (Dave)	DEM
Muldoon	Anne	DEM
Noll	Sandra	DEM
O'Connor	Tom	DEM
Peloquin	Ed	DEM
Plock	Sheila	DEM
Prew-Delekto	Debra	DEM
Ragan	Kathleen	DEM
Rogers	Regina	DEM
Sabol	Lisa	DEM
Sampson	Robert	DEM
Schirick	Susan	DEM
Sebak	Denise E. (Nisey)	DEM
Shirey	Dorene	DEM
Simpson	Johnnie	DEM
Smith	Nancy	DEM
Smith	Edward	DEM
Stuber	Beth	DEM
Tyler	Page	DEM
Warren	Deloris	DEM
Weitzel	Gary	DEM
Charbonneau	Arlette "Artie"	DEM
Gannon	Jim	LIB
Agnello	Jean	REP
Apicella	Marie	REP
Applegate	Michael	REP
Baker	Beth	REP

Early Voting Recommended Officials

Balducci	Jane	REP
Batson	Sandy	REP
Breitenbach	Jennifer	REP
Bruce	Cheryl	REP
Burkett	Richard	REP
Chidester	Carleton	REP
Copeland	Geri-Lynn	REP
Cox III	John T	REP
Cruz	Michelle	REP
Curley	Ronald	REP
Daley	Kevin	REP
Davin	Patricia (Pat)	REP
Dubas	Madeline	REP
Dyer	Donald	REP
Ferraioli	Janet	REP
Foertsch	Pam	REP
Fullem	Catherine M	REP
Gallagher	William	REP
George	Sharon	REP
Gibbs	Rose	REP
Gilbert	Linda	REP
Gutknecht	Edward	REP
Hall	Lynn	REP
Hall	Michael	REP
Hausch	Linda	REP
Iverson	Jerry	REP
Johnson	Melinda	REP
Kaczvinsky	Joseph	REP
Karr	Rita	REP
Kiel	Amanda	REP
Kitchen	Ray	REP
Kraiza	Pamela	REP
Kreiss	Arthur	REP
Long	Doris	REP
Lovley	Debra	REP
Lowrimore	Joyce	REP
Malott	Teresa "Terri"	REP
Martishius	Cindy	REP
Mauck	Steve	REP
May	Larry	REP
McClellan	Chuck	REP
Miller	William	REP
O'Connor	Mary Grace	REP
Orman	Roger	REP

Early Voting Recommended Officials

Ottolini	Stefanie	REP
Pane	Nancy	REP
Pongonis	Mary	REP
Pridgen	Susan	REP
Pulawski	Mary	REP
Pyle	Debra	REP
Pyle	Gary	REP
Schuster	Andrea	REP
Snyder	Ruth	REP
Sullivan	Barbara	REP
Sutter	Carol	REP
Thranhardt	Carol	REP
Toohey	Lisa	REP
Ublacker	Bonnie	REP
Verlangieri	Margaret (Peggy)	REP
Walsh	Timothy	REP
Watkins	Debbie	REP
December	Renee	UNA
Adamio	Michael	UNA
Alderfer	Dolores	UNA
Alfano	Lisa	UNA
Ashley	Abigail	UNA
Barber	Mary Lou	UNA
Blankenhorn	Kathleen	UNA
Blankenhorn	Kenneth	UNA
Bokelman	Elizabeth	UNA
Bonifant	MaryAnn	UNA
Boyce	Debra (Deb)	UNA
Brandes	Richard	UNA
Brown	Rachel	UNA
Brown Jr	Jarvis	UNA
Bullion	Teresa	UNA
Campbell	Kenneth	UNA
Carbone	Charlene	UNA
Casemyr	Cynthia	UNA
Cole	MaryEllen	UNA
Considine	Claudia	UNA
Cook	Joseph	UNA
Corto	Thomas	UNA
DAbbondanza	Jeannette	UNA
D'Ambrosio	Hilde	UNA
Dunn	Kaaren	UNA
Dunn	Robert	UNA
Easton	Karen	UNA

Early Voting Recommended Officials

Farr	Mary Lou	UNA
Gill	Debra	UNA
Guertin	Elizabeth	UNA
Gustafson	Kathlyn	UNA
Hawkins	Kathleen	UNA
Hixon	Rebecca	UNA
Hixon	Stan	UNA
Holuk-Maginley	Elaine	UNA
Huber	Marlene	UNA
Hughes	Gayle	UNA
Julian	Philip	UNA
Keeler	Thomas	UNA
Kent	Kenneth	UNA
King	Cindy	UNA
Kirby	Teena	UNA
Kitter	Marsha	UNA
Knox	MJ	UNA
Lee	Franklyn	UNA
Lively	Marlene	UNA
Love	Shirley	UNA
Mason	Brenda Lee	UNA
Mason	Kevin	UNA
Mastrovich	Beverly	UNA
McCutchen	Dena	UNA
McDonald	Caitlin	UNA
McFarland	Sandy	UNA
Morris	Donna	UNA
Morrow-Ryan	Deborah	UNA
Noel	Rhonda	UNA
Oakes	Joseph	UNA
O'Hare	Kevin	UNA
Perlotto	Dawn	UNA
Petchel	Sharon	UNA
Portera	Karen	UNA
Raia	Susan	UNA
Randall	Lisa	UNA
Ritter	Deborah	UNA
Robertie	Fred	UNA
Sacksteder	Mary	UNA
Shaw	Pattie	UNA
Shulman	Martin	UNA
Sippel	Elizabeth	UNA
Smith	Karen	UNA
Sosnowski	Cynthia	UNA

Early Voting Recommended Officials

Spencer	Sandra	UNA
Straughan	Kathleen	UNA
Tavares	Alda	UNA
Thranhardt	Harry	UNA
Weber	Gregory	UNA
West	Andrea	UNA
Willard	Cindy	UNA
Wilson	Cheryl	UNA
Young	Lloyd	UNA

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Date: 1/17/2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Appointment of Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT) members

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

[08 NCAC 16](#), [GS 163-226.3](#)

Summary:

A Multipartisan Assistance Team, or MAT, is a team of voters who represent different political parties in each county who assist patients and residents in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and adult care homes ("facilities") with absentee voting. MATs can help voters in facilities with disabilities or who otherwise require assistance in requesting or casting a mail-in absentee ballot. The team provides a public service to these voters by giving them lawfully authorized, neutral assistance with absentee voting.

- MAT members may be recruited by county board directors and staff but must be appointed by the county board of elections.
- The team must be represented by *at least* two members.
- One team member should be a registered Democrat and another team member should be registered as a Republican.
- If a team consists of more than two members, the additional team members may be unaffiliated with a political party or be a member of another recognized political party (currently in NC the only other recognized party is Libertarian).
- If a county board of elections is unable to establish a 2-person team with both a Democratic and Republican team member, a person who is unaffiliated may serve, provided they are selected by a unanimous vote of the county board of elections.
- Currently, Melinda Johnson (REP), Julie Paladino (DEM) are approved MAT members; additional team members will be needed for 2024

Attachments:

None

Board Action:

Staff recommends the board approve the appointment of Patricia Vandergrift (REP), Myrtle Stevenson (DEM) and Sandra Batson (REP) as MAT members.

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Date: 1/17/2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Relocation of polling place for NB05 Woodburn to Navassa Community Center

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

[GS 163-128](#)

Summary:

The polling place for NB05 is currently located at The Brunswick Center at Leland. Parking at this facility, while previously adequate, is not ideal. The room used for the voting enclosure is not immediately adjacent to the entrance and voters must walk through a hallway.

Additionally, we have been notified that due to construction at the adjacent property by the Town of Leland, most of the parking at this facility is inaccessible and access to the parking lot is now limited.

The Navassa Community Center is located within precinct boundaries and is approximately 2 miles from the Brunswick Center at Leland. It meets all accessibility requirements and has enough space to accommodate the voters of the precinct. This facility has been previously used as an early voting location.

Any voter affected by relocation will receive notification by mail at least 30 days prior to the election.

Staff recommends that the board approve the resolution.

Attachments:

Resolution

Board Action:

Vote on the resolution

RESOLUTION OF THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO RELOCATE THE POLLING PLACE FOR PRECINCT NB05 WOODBURN TO NAVASSA COMMUNITY CENTER

WHEREAS, G. S. § 163-128 authorizes the Brunswick County Board of Elections the authority from time to time, by resolution, to establish, alter, discontinue, or create such new election precincts or voting places as it may deem expedient; and

WHEREAS, the current polling place for Precinct NB05 Woodburn, is no longer amenable for use due to parking limitations; and

WHEREAS, Navassa Community Center is a publicly funded building that was used successfully and within standards of the law as an early voting location for the General Election in November 2018; and

WHEREAS, Navassa Community Center has sufficient parking and has space to accommodate the voters of NB05 Woodburn precinct; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Brunswick County Board of Elections has decided to relocate the polling place for precinct NB05 Woodburn from The Brunswick Center at Leland to Navassa Community Center 338 Main St, Navassa, NC 28451, for all future elections.

Adopted this the 17th day of January 2024.

Edward Lewis, Chair

Stuart Smith, Secretary

Paula Clarity, Member

Randy Pelton, Member

Timothy Randall, Member

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

75 Stamp Act Drive NE · Building H
PO Box 2 · Bolivia · NC · 28422
www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections

Phone: 910-253-2620
Fax: 910-253-2618
elections@brunswickcountync.gov

Date: 1/17/2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Reevaluation of out of precinct polling locations

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

[GS 163-130.1](#)

Summary:

We currently use three polling places that are not within the boundaries of the precinct, as there are no amenable facilities within the precinct boundaries.

- Precinct SB04 – Southport 1, The Brunswick Center at Southport
- Precinct CB04 – Secession 2, Holden Beach EOC Building
- Precinct WB02 – Hickman's Crossroads, Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School

Statute requires that any polling places outside of precinct boundaries are reviewed annually and approved by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections.

These facilities continue to meet all legal and compliance requirements and remain the best facilities for the voters of these precincts.

Staff recommends that the board approve the resolution.

Attachments:

Resolution

Board Action:

Vote on the resolution

**RESOLUTION OF THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
CONCERNING ANNUAL REEVALUATION OF
POLLING PLACES OUTSIDE PRECINCT BOUNDARIES**

WHEREAS, G. S. § 163-128 authorizes the Brunswick County Board of Elections the authority from time to time, by resolution, to establish, alter, discontinue, or create such new election precincts or voting places as it may deem expedient; and

WHEREAS, G. S. § 163-130.1 authorizes the Brunswick County Board of Elections to establish a voting place that is located outside that precinct by unanimous vote of all its members; and

WHEREAS, G. S. § 163-130.1 requires any voting places located outside of the precinct to be reevaluated annually; and

WHEREAS, the below listed precincts do not have facilities that are adequate to serve as polling places within the precinct boundaries:

- Southport 1 (Precinct SB04)
- Secession 2 (Precinct CB04)
- Hickman’s Crossroads (Precinct WB02)

WHEREAS, the below listed alternatives were used successfully and within standards of the law for the most recent election in November 2023;

- Southport 1 (Precinct SB04)
 - The Brunswick Center at Southport, 1513 N Howe Street, Southport, NC 28461
- Secession 2 (Precinct CB04)
 - Holden Beach EOC Building, 1044 Sabbath Home Road, Supply, NC 28462
- Hickman’s Crossroads (Precinct WB02)
 - Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School, 250 Pea Landing Rd NW, Ash, NC 28420

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Brunswick County Board of Elections, by unanimous vote, has decided to continue to use the aforementioned alternative polling places for all elections held in 2024:

Adopted this the 17th day of January 2024.

Edward Lewis, Chair

Stuart Smith, Secretary

Paula Clarity, Member

Randy Pelton, Member

Timothy Randall, Member
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BRUNSWICK COUNTY

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Date: 1/17/2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Commissioners' Chambers

Agenda Item: Off-Site Voter ID Making Policy

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

[G.S. 163-82.8A](#), [Numbered Memo 2023-02](#)

Summary:

G.S. 163-82.8A requires that voter ID-making services are provided at the county board of elections office during regular business hours. Voter ID-making services may also be offered off-site.

- A documented policy should be developed to ensure consistency in offering Voter ID-making services outside of normal business hours.
- It is recommended that off-site services be offered only at county facilities or county or government sponsored events.
- The board of elections has spare equipment to ensure that ID-making services are available during business hours at the Board of Elections office and any off-site event that may be scheduled.
- Voter ID-making must be conducted by staff with access to SEIMS (state software).
- Voters cannot register to vote and receive a voter Photo ID at the same time (outside of same day registration during early voting).

Attachments:

Policy draft

Board Action:

Staff recommends the board consider approving drafted policy to ensure consistency if offering services off-site.

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
OFF-SITE VOTER ID MAKING POLICY**

G.S. 163-82.8A requires that voter ID-making services are provided at the county board of elections office during regular business hours. Voter ID-making services may also be offered off-site at any time. Staff members of the Brunswick County Board of Elections shall conduct Voter ID-making services outside of the Board of Elections office, subject to the following rules and procedures:

1. To ensure fairness and impartiality, voter ID-making services shall only be conducted at Brunswick County-sponsored events/and or facilities and/or Board of Elections-specific functions. Such activities must be exclusive from other non-county organizations and/or events.
2. Events and functions involving voter ID-making services shall not conflict with the election schedule, day-to-day operations, elections preparations, and staffing capacity.
3. Only Board of Elections staff shall organize such activities and at least two (2) staff members must be available to conduct the ID-making services.
4. Elections staff shall only use Board of Elections equipment and a secure or county network, for the voter ID-making process.

Adopted this 17th day of January 2024

Edward E. Lewis, Chair