

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Meeting Minutes · Pre-Canvass Meeting · March 14, 2024 · 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward E. Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, Member Randy Pelton, and Member Timothy M. 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, Absentee Assistant Christy Souter, and Absentee Assistant Camdyn Johnson

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Julie Paladino, Gwen Causey, Myrtle Stevenson, Patricia Vandergrift, Spring Harkins

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.

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

Consideration of Supplemental Absentee Ballots

There are 79 ballots to be considered.

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

Ms. LaVere presented supplemental absentee ballots recommended for consideration:

Ballots recommended for approval

- 20 Civilian ballots
 - One of these is a Bald Head Island ballot that will be opened separately to ensure both sheets were returned.
- Four Affidavit Review Pending Civilian ballots that were returned with a properly executed Photo ID Exception Form

Board members each reviewed at least two ballots.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the 24 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballots requiring board review

- Six Civilian ballots with an Accepted Cure
 - One of these is a Bald Head Island ballot that will be opened separately to ensure both sheets were returned.
 - One was originally signed by a POA, which is not permitted.

The board reviewed each of these ballots.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the six Civilian and two Overseas ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

- One Civilian ballot where the voter indicated their photo ID documentation is inside the ballot envelope.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the ballot, pending verification of the ID information inside the envelope. Motion carried unanimously. Photo ID documentation was reviewed and determined to be acceptable.

Ballots recommended for disapproval – 46

- Two ballots were received on election day with witness information incomplete. Voters were contacted to inform them of option to vote in person before polls close
- 44 Civilian ballots received after the deadline, which was Tuesday, March 5, at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to disapprove 46 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

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

One ballot was duplicated by the bipartisan team.

Mr. Johnson announced that 33 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 will be sealed with approved provisional ballots later in the meeting. The following vote count was logged.

- Ballot count: 33

Consideration of Provisional Ballots

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

Provisional ballots being considered today: 498

Vote Count	Provisional Voting Reason	# Ballots
APPROVED	ID Not Provided (Exception Form Properly Executed, No finding of falsity)	13
	ID Not Provided (No Exception Form, Provided Acceptable Photo ID to BOE)	7
	Incorrect Party (Administrative/Poll Worker Error)	5
	Incorrect Precinct	217
	No Record of Registration	3
	Previously Removed	2
	Unreported Move	6
	Voter Already Voted (UNA voter changed mind after initial check-in)	9
	TOTAL APPROVED	262

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve 262 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

NOT APPROVED	Incorrect Party	139
	No Record of Registration	89
	Previously Removed	3
	Voter Already Voted	1
	TOTAL NOT APPROVED	232

Mr. Pelton made a motion to not approve 232 ballots as recommended by staff.

PENDING BOARD DECSISON	Incorrect Party	1
	Unreported Move	1
	Provisionals Placed in Tabulator	2
	TOTAL PENDING 3.14.2024	4

Mr. Smith made a motion to disapprove the ballot in which the voter voted the incorrect party based on what was on file for the voter (there was no recent documentation on file). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Randall made a motion to approve the Unreported Move ballot in the voter's precinct based on the new address, as signed on the provisional application. Motion carried unanimously.

Two curbside provisional ballots at SB04 Southport 1 were believed to have been inadvertently placed in the tabulator rather than being sealed in provisional envelopes. All information on the provisional voting application and envelopes indicate the ballots are eligible to be counted (once duplicated onto the correct ballot style, as they are out of precinct).

Mr. Randall made a motion to approve the two ballots as recommended by staff.

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

Approved ballots were opened and duplicated as necessary by the bipartisan team and scanned into the Verity Central Scan.

Consideration of Provisional Ballots Inserted Into Tabulator on Election Day

It is believed that two provisional ballots were inserted into the tabulator at SB04 Southport 1 on election day.

The election day ballot bin seal from SB04 was verified as 0492075.

The bipartisan team located the two provisional ballots marked with 'PROV' on the top of the ballot. The provisional ballots were tallied by the bipartisan team and the tally sheet was placed with the vdrive box.

SB04 election day ballots were sealed using seal 37471597.

The ballots were duplicated on to the correct ballot style by the bipartisan team and scanned into the Verity Central Scan.

The board adjudicated two overvotes.

Mr. Johnson announced that 265 ballots were scanned which was confirmed as the number of approved ballots.

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

Provisional and supplemental absentee ballot bin seals: 2617059 and 2617247

Vdrive seal for supplemental absentee, provisional, and manual tally sheet: 37471596

Adjournment

Mr. Lewis thanked the staff and bipartisan team for their excellent work.

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