

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Meeting Minutes · Canvass Meeting · March 15, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.

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

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.

Consideration and Tabulation of Supplemental Absentee Ballots

There were no additional absentee ballots for approval by the board.

Consideration and Tabulation of Provisional Ballots

Ms. Chambers presented provisional ballots for consideration.

Provisional ballots being considered today: 22

Remaining Pending to be considered 3.15.2024		
APPROVED	ID Not Provided (No Exception Form) – Returned ID to BOE in time	1
NOT APPROVED	ID Not Provided (No Exception Form)	21

These voters had until 5 PM on March 14, 2024 to return to the Board of Elections Office with an acceptable form of Photo ID; one voter brought acceptable ID and 21 did not. Mr. Randall made a motion to not approve the one ballot and disapprove 21 ballots, as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Johnson read the seal number from the vdrive box as 37471596, which was confirmed as being placed during the Pre-Canvass meeting on March 14, 2024.

The ballot box seals from the meeting on March 14 were confirmed as 2617247 and 2617259. The ballot box was opened, and the additional approved ballot was placed in the ballot box.

Mr. Johnson will work to tabulate and update results while Ms. LaVere updates the board on Sample Audit and Voter History.

Sample Audit Count and Voter History Audit

Sample Audit

The sample audit was conducted on March 7. Two bipartisan teams hand tallied the presidential contest for the Cooperative Extension early voting location and the CB06 Mosquito 1 election day polling place. The hand-to-eye count produced the same results as the machine count.

Voter History

Voter history is currently off by two in the SB04 Southport 1 election day precinct. During the pre-canvass meeting on March 14, the board identified two provisional curbside ballots that were inserted into the tabulator. These two ballots were tallied and will be manually removed from the election day totals. Once these votes are removed, the voter history for SB04 Southport 1 will match.

Finalize Results

Mr. Johnson read in supplemental absentee ballots, provisional ballots from yesterday and today, and manual edits of hand-tallied ballots from SB04 were removed from election day results, and results were finalized.

Documents were signed by the board.

Provisional ballot bin seals: 2617052 and 2617051

Consideration of Early Voting for the Second Primary Election

There has been a request for a second primary for two statewide contests.

- State Auditor (REP): Jack Clark and Dave Boliek
- Lieutenant Governor (REP): Hal Weatherman and Jim O’Niell.

Early voting plans are due to the State Board of Elections on Monday, March 18.

County boards are not required to use the same early voting plan for the second primary as they did for the first primary. However, the uniform site and hour requirements for even-numbered year elections remain in place for the second primary. This means, at a minimum, the county board office or in lieu of site must be open for early voting during regular business hours on weekdays during the early voting period, as well as from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the last Saturday of early voting. If the county board office is open only regular business hours, the uniform dates and hours requirements do not apply to that location. If the county board office or in lieu of site is open beyond regular business hours, the uniform dates and hours requirements described below apply to that location.

It is the recommendation of the staff to hold early voting at the Board of Elections Office Training Room, 75 Stamp Act Dr NE, Building H, Bolivia NC, 28422 during regular business hours (Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm) beginning Thursday, April 25 – Friday May 10 and Saturday, May 11 from 8 am – 3 pm.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Early Voting Schedule for the Second Primary as recommended by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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