

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
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Board Meeting Agenda **November 20, 2024 · 9:00 am · Special Meeting**

This meeting will be held in the Board of Elections office at 75 Stamp Act Dr, Building H, 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. Recount of the Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court contest
4. Preliminary consideration of election protest (Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.)
5. Adjourn

The recount is expected to take several days. We are planning to count daily from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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Date: 11/20/2024

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Board of Elections Office

Agenda Item: Recount of the Southport Mayor contest

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

[2024-08 Statewide Recount](#)

Summary:

The canvassed results for the Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court contest are:

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Jefferson G. Griffin | 64,410 |
|----------------------|--------|

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Allison Riggs | 41,457 |
|---------------|--------|

Every ballot included in the canvass total will be scanned by bipartisan teams under the supervision of the board. The procedures outlined in Numbered Memo 2024-08 Statewide Recount will be followed.

**Attendees: Please note that photographing or videotaping individual ballots is not permitted.*

Attachments:

Recount Procedures

Recount Procedures

Taken from Numbered Memo 2024-08

Preliminary Procedures

1. The bipartisan team of officials shall take an oath.
2. The board of elections shall announce the name of each precinct, early voting site, or absentee group to be tallied before beginning the recount process for that precinct unit.
3. The county board of elections shall make a record of the number of the tamper-evident seal, protective counter, or other device, if any, before opening any of the voting equipment. The bipartisan team shall examine the electronic voting equipment to determine that any other tamper evident seals are intact and match the log maintained by the board of elections. The team shall note on the Recount Audit Sheet any irregularities or evidence of possible tampering with the device.
4. The bipartisan teams together shall complete an audit sheet to record the following:
 - Machine serial number
 - Precinct/unit name or code
 - Voter history count
 - Bipartisan team name
 - Date and time of beginning and end of recount
5. A member of the bipartisan team shall open the sealed ballot container for the voting site. This shall be done in full view of elections officials and observers.
6. A member of the bipartisan team shall remove ballots from the sealed ballot container and place ballots on table.
7. A member of the bipartisan team may use an air spray can or give the ballots a gentle shake to remove any residue from the ballots.
8. The team shall open the ballot box and inspect all compartments to ensure the bin is empty.
9. A member of the bipartisan team shall open the polls on the voting equipment and print a zero tape.
10. Once the zero tape prints, the bipartisan team shall inspect the tape and confirm that there are no results on the tape. The team shall sign the zero tape.
11. The tabulator observer shall take the stack of ballots that have been placed on the table and hand a ballot to the tabulator attendant one at a time (unless using a high-speed tabulator, in which case ballots can be processed in stacks by grouping).

Counting Procedures

1. The tabulator attendant shall feed the ballots into the tabulator.
2. If after trying to insert the ballot by other orientations (i.e., front top, front bottom, back top, back bottom) a ballot cannot be tabulated, the ballot should be fed into the emergency bin on the tabulator (high-speed tabulators will automatically separate such ballots). Before the ballot is placed into the emergency bin, the ballot attendant shall announce: "Damaged Ballot." An overvoted ballot is not a damaged ballot. Ballots with overvotes can be tabulated by machine and should be accepted by the tabulator after it provides a warning message.
3. If any individual ballot is marked as a provisional ballot and is found in the tabulator for a precinct or early voting site, the ballot shall not be fed into the tabulator, but instead shall be placed into the emergency bin. Before the ballot is placed into the emergency bin, the ballot attendant shall announce: "Provisional Ballot."
4. The bipartisan team will continue to tabulate ballots removed from the ballot container and have them fed into the tabulator throughout the counting process.
5. The counting process will be conducted in two-hour intervals. After one hour, the team members shall reverse roles.
6. At the end of each counting period, the ballot box will be opened by the tabulator attendant and the ballots will be bundled and sealed. The number of ballots sealed in the ballot container shall be recorded.
7. At the start of each counting period, at the one-hour role switch, and at the end of each counting period, a bipartisan team member shall record the number of ballots on the public count of each machine and the number of ballots that have been removed from the ballot container.
8. Once all ballots have been removed from the ballot container, the tabulator attendant shall open the emergency bin and remove any damaged ballots or provisional ballots that were required to be entered into the bin. Each ballot type shall be handled as follows:
 - a. Damaged ballots: Examine "kicked out" ballots to determine the reason and show to board members for their determination as to voter intent. All ballots that were rejected for tabulation purposes by the machine shall be recounted by hand by a bipartisan team of four, with two officials (one from each of the two parties in the State with the largest number of registered voters) to relay the results of each ballot with one person reading the ballot and the other official observing the ballot and the person reading the results of the ballot, and two officials (one from each of the two parties in the State with the largest number of registered voters) recording the tally of votes for each candidate on paper while stating aloud after each choice is read on the fifth tally for a particular candidate, the word "tally."
 - b. Provisional ballots: place ballot in envelope marked "retrieved provisional."
9. Finally, the bipartisan team shall review a report showing the number of reported ballots cast per precinct or site and verify that this is the total number of ballots tabulated for that site in the recount.

Tabulation

1. Close the polls: Once the bipartisan teams have completed their work, a member of the county board of elections or a county board staff member shall place the optical scan tabulator into postelection mode and generate a results tape for the reporting unit.
2. Once the tape prints, the bipartisan team members shall sign the results tape.
3. In the presence of at least two members of the county board, a county board staff member shall compare the contest results on the results tape to the canvassed results in the results tabulation software for any contest that is being recounted.
4. If the results of any contest being recounted have changed from the Canvass results for that contest, CBE staff shall edit the results of the recounted contest manually within the EMS to accommodate such changes, for all precincts/reporting groups in which such edits are necessary.
5. The county board shall print a block style canvass report and create a results (ASCII, CSV, etc.) file.
6. Import the results file from the vendor's tabulation software module (ASCII, CSV etc.) into Election Reporting under the "Canvass Recount" menu. Contests that are eligible for a recount will be enabled.
7. The county board of elections must compare the results on the results tabulation software report to the totals in Election Reporting.

Wrap Up.

1. Replace all the voted ballots in the security containers in which they were stored and reseal the container.
2. The container shall be labeled with the precinct name and the bipartisan team members shall sign the seal.
3. Have board members sign a seal to be placed on the ballot boxes/containers after results are obtained.

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Date: 11/20/2024

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Board of Elections Office

Agenda Item: Preliminary Consideration of Election Protest (4:00 p.m.)

Applicable Statutes and/or Rules:

- Applicable statutes and rules are available at [Article 15A](#) of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes and [Chapter 02](#) of Title 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code.
- [Election Protest Procedures Guide \(PDF\)](#) published by the NC State Board of Elections

Summary:

Jefferson Griffin filed an election protest on November 19, 2024. During today's preliminary consideration, the board will determine (1) whether the protest has substantially complied with the form requirement, and (2) whether the protest establishes probable cause.

Board Action:

The board will take action to dismiss the protest or schedule a hearing.