

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Meeting Minutes · Absentee Meeting · October 8, 2024 · 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Julie Paladino, Stefanie Ottolini, Myrtle Stevenson, Gwen Causey, Debra Prew-Delekto, and Pat Vandergrift

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 of Absentee Ballots

There are 833 ballots for the board's consideration.

Ballots recommended for approval:

2 Ballots to be Considered Together

- One civilian ballot is currently in **pending status** because it was discovered at the October 1 meeting that the CIV number on the ballot does not match the CIV number on the envelope.
- A second ballot issued to the same household was **pending cure** at the October 1 meeting, so it could not be considered in conjunction with the CIV mismatch.
- The pending cure ballot has now been cured and is recommended for approval.
- If the **pending cure** ballot is approved, once opened it should be reviewed for a CIV mismatch.
- If it has the CIV mismatch, then **both ballots** from the household should be approved.

Mr. Randall made a motion to approve the pending cure ballot to verify if it also has a CIV mismatch to correspond with the ballot placed in pending status at the previous meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the ballot that was placed in pending status at the last meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson confirmed the vDrive seal as 37471387 and the ballot count as 215; Ms. LaVere confirmed this as the seal number and ballot count from the October 1, 2024 meeting.

746 Ballots recommended for approval for board to spot check

- 698 Civilian ballots
- 3 Military ballot returned by mail
- 45 Affidavit review pending (returned with a properly executed Photo ID Exception Form)

Board members spot-checked at least two ballots from the ballots recommended for approval. Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

85 Ballots requiring Board review

37 Ballots recommended for approval

- 5 Accepted Cure
- 29 Overseas (received electronically, duplicated by bipartisan team prior to meeting)
- 3 Military (received electronically, duplicated by bipartisan team prior to meeting)

Board members reviewed the Accepted Cure, Overseas, and Military ballots that were duplicated ahead of the meeting by the bipartisan duplication team. Mr. Randall made a motion to approve ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

26 Pending Board Decision

25 Civilian ballots were received in a sealed return envelope, but the ballot envelope was unsealed. Numbered memo 2021-03 provides that when 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 are instructed to re-seal the return envelope with a notation of "sealed in return envelope" and the county board should open the return envelope and address the ballot at its next absentee meeting.

Anomalies: There were two CIV mismatch ballots belonging to the same household. Per directive of the state board, these can be approved. One voter indicated their Photo ID documentation was inside the ballot envelope. One envelope contained mail for another county's BOE; that voter will be contacted. 2 did not have valid ID, 2 no witness or notary. 21 were recommended to be approved.

One civilian ballot where the voter indicated that their photo ID documentation is inside the envelope. Numbered memo 2021-03 states "a voter may respond to a notification that their

ballot is missing photo ID documentation by stating it is in the ballot envelope. If this occurs, staff must defer the review of the photo ID documentation to the next absentee board meeting, when the county board can review the application and, if approved, open the ballot envelope and confirm photo ID compliance.”

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

22 Ballots recommended for disapproval

- 21 Civilian ballots with incomplete witness information. Ballots have been spoiled and new ballots issued.
- 1 Civilian ballot with incomplete assistant information.

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

One ballot, upon opening, was a CIV mismatch, but there was no corresponding ballot from another household that had arrived. The ballot will be moved into a pending status.

Information only: 29 Pending Cure ballots

Two ballots damaged upon opening were duplicated by the bipartisan team.

Ms. LaVerre provided a summary of approved ballots:

- 805 approved ballots
 - 770 Civilian
 - 29 Overseas
 - 6 Military

The board adjudicated overvotes as necessary.

After scanning was complete, Mr. Johnson announced that 805 ballots were scanned today with the total scanned as 1020.

Ms. Rushton confirmed that the number of ballots approved today was 805 with total to date of 1020.

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: 1020
- Ballot bin: 36069708 and 36069703
- vDrive storage container: 37471386

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.