

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Meeting Minutes · Regular Meeting · March 18, 2025 · 2:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward 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, and Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, and Registration Clerk Cathy Newland

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.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Randall made a motion to approve minutes from the meeting on February 18, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There was one public comment submitted through the online portal that was included in the agenda packet.

Director's Report

February voter registration statistics were provided in the agenda packet.

District Luncheon March 21

Election Boards Association of NC (EBANC), in conjunction with the North Carolina Association of Directors of Elections (NCADE) and the State Board of Elections (NCSBE), is hosting a district luncheon on March 21 in New Bern.

NCADE Conference

All staff will be attending the NCADE conference next week in Durham.

2025 NC State Board of Elections Summer Conference

The 2025 Summer Conference will be held at the Wilmington Convention Center on Monday and Tuesday, July 28th and 29th. In accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-82.24, every member of a county board of elections is required to attend one training conference conducted by the

State Board during their first six months after the member's initial appointment and at least once again during the first two years of the member's service.

Municipal Jurisdiction Changes

H2Go and Northwest now have residency districts for candidates/office holders

Staff Passes State Certification Exam

Ryan Childress and Cathy Newland recently passed their state certification exam. They will be recognized at the state conference in August as Certified North Carolina Elections Administrators.

April Board Meeting

The April regular meeting is currently scheduled for April 22 and Ms. LaVere will not be available. Ms. LaVere recommends moving the meeting to April 29 at 6 PM.

SB382 Updates

There is ongoing litigation regarding board appointments and Ms. LaVere will update the board as the case progresses. Changes regarding absentee ballots and provisional ballots are expected to be implemented.

Ms. LaVere also provided updates about requesting additional full-time staff and lobbying for office space needs.

There was also discussion about growth in the county and how it will affect future needs of voters with precincts, voting locations and early voting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

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