

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 **May 20, 2025 · 2:00 pm · Regular Meeting**

This meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Chambers of the David R. Sandifer Building, 30 Government Center Drive NE, Bolivia, NC, 28422.

Members of the public may observe the meeting in-person or via live video feed online using [Zoom](#); no registration or passcode is required.

- 1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. April 29, 2025 – Regular Meeting
- 4. Public Comments**
 - a. [Public Comment Policy](#)
 - b. [Online Public Comment Portal](#)
- 5. Director's Report**
- 6. Old Business - none**
- 7. New Business - none**
- 8. Adjourn**

See board meeting schedules here: <https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/644/Board-Meetings>

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Meeting Minutes · Regular Meeting · April 29, 2025 · 6:00 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

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.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve minutes from the meeting on March 18, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Director's Report

March voter registration statistics were provided in the agenda packet.

Elections Board Appointment

On April 23, a three-judge panel issued a decision in Stein v. Berger. Barring any further court decision, the county board chairs will be appointed by the Governor in June.

Griffin protest updates

On April 11, 2025, the North Carolina Supreme Court issued a decision that narrows a previous Court of Appeals decision to only UOCAVA-No ID and UOCAVA-nonresidents (Brunswick has 1). Registration issues (DL/SSN) no longer part of this case.

Although the registration issue voters are spared from the election protest, the Court of Appeals has still ordered SBE to correct and update registration records missing necessary ID info. SBE staff are reviewing options and will have further guidance on that.

However, on April 22, 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit stopped this decision from going into effect. The stop is in place while the federal courts consider whether the North Carolina Supreme Court's decision complies with federal laws.

Updates on Budget and Space Needs

Budget

Following a meeting with administration, the required reduction to our department's expenditures was **\$125,000** from our budget request. Management agreed to a mid-year hire to manage outreach, education, and public records. Additionally, fully funding our budget request will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration as an increase in the tax rate. The County Manager's Office believes these initiatives are valuable and fully supports our communication with the Board in advocating for the proposed increase.

To meet the \$125,000 reduction, we made several adjustments, most notably removing five Verity Print workstations for ballot-on-demand printing at key Election Day locations, eliminating 15 Brother printers intended to replace phased-out OKI models, and shifting certain temporary staff duties to existing full-time staff during peak election periods.

Finance has placed the Verity Print and Brother printers on a list for possible year-end funding in the current fiscal year. Additionally, in the next fiscal year, they plan to cover the cost of a Hart upgrade. Although the cost was not included in our original budget request, this upgrade has been discussed over the last few years as a necessary expense once the state approved the latest version. Also, logo attire was initially removed to meet the budget reduction target but now re-added into the budget request at the recommendation of management.

Budget workshop scheduled for Monday, May 5.

Space Needs

Brunswick County Schools has purchased warehouse space in Shallotte (the old Summerhome Furniture Building) and the county will be leasing storage space. Once that lease is signed, there will be space for some retention storage for our department and another department will be vacating a cage at the on-campus warehouse for our use.

Development Services, currently located in Building I, will move to new HHS building. Once that happens, we will have nearby storage space in Building I.

Elections is no longer being considered for the new HHS building.

Board of Education Calendar

The school calendar for the 2025–2026 academic year was initially released without designating a teacher workday for the scheduled municipal and primary elections. Following a collaborative meeting, school officials gained a better understanding of our operational needs, and the

challenges associated with relocating polling places during lower-turnout elections. To support long-term planning and prevent future scheduling conflicts, our office provided the district with a 10-year calendar of upcoming elections.

Workload Relating to S382

Staff has been working through the logistics of meeting new deadlines for absentee and provisional voting. We should be prepared to bring a new board meeting schedule to you at the next meeting.

- Have someone from IT come over to pull files from poll books on election night. These would then be imported into SEIMS, meaning we get DMV results a day earlier.
- Have ballots sorted by reason and last name on Tuesday night.
- All hands on deck in a work space in the training room for research.
- Noelle will be trained to scan ballots in Verity Central Scan for absentee meetings – helps on election night.

Executive Order Update

On April 17 there was a hearing/consultation on a preliminary injunction. Currently there is no update or action needed by our office; most items in the executive order provide directives to federal agencies.

Brunswick County Job Fair

Ms. Chambers and Mr. Childress will be representing the board of elections at the Brunswick County Job Fair to be held on campus on May 9, from 10am – 1 pm in the cafeteria. They will be providing information on poll workers and the temporary position of an elections supply rover.

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.

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Agenda Item: Director's Report 5.20.25

Summary:

- Legal updates
- Recognize Adrienne Rushton – Reached 10-year milestone as a county employee.
- Other updates as needed

Attachments:

1. April voter registration statistics

Brunswick County Voter Registration Statistics Monthly Report

	2025											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Registered Voters	136,908	137,034	137,451	137,894								
Voters Removed	6,951	534	304	744								
New Registrations Processed	942	684	712	759								
Registrations Processed w/ No Changes	254	726	302	538								
Voter Registration Changes Processed	447	370	420	544								
Total Monthly VR Transactions	8,594	2,314	1,738	2,585								
Verifications Mailed Out	10,182	1,165	1,789	1,741								
NCOA Mailing	0	0	1,378	0								
Verifications returned undeliverable	9,351	511	44	1,025								
Voter Returned Confirmation Card Update	5	316	66	22								
Confirmations Mailed Out	9,234	535	119	102								
Democratic	27,065	27,006	27,028	27,093								
Republican	56,320	56,402	56,578	56,721								
Libertarian	692	687	683	687								
Green	35	34	34	34								
No Labels	329	336	335	332								
Constitution	4	5	5	5								
Justice For All	8	8	7	7								
We The People	14	16	16	16								
Unaffiliated	52,441	52,540	52,765	52,999								
Democratic	19.77%	19.71%	19.66%	19.65%								
Republican	41.14%	41.16%	41.16%	41.13%								
Libertarian	0.51%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%								
Green	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%								
No Labels	0.24%	0.25%	0.24%	0.24%								
Constitution	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%								
Justice For All	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%								
We The People	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%								
Unaffiliated	38.30%	38.34%	38.39%	38.43%								
Female	66,934	67,034	67,257	67,471								
Male	57,851	57,925	58,112	58,313								
Undesignated Gender	12,123	12,075	12,082	12,110								
American Indian	396	398	396	400								
Asian	568	572	576	585								
Black	8,896	8,918	8,926	8,957								
Multi-Racial	249	249	247	247								
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	12	12	13	14								
White	113,517	113,636	114,047	114,287								
Other Race	2,563	2,598	2,629	2,662								
Undesignated Race	10,707	10,651	10,617	10,742								
Hispanic	2,380	2,407	2,435	2,452								
Not Hispanic	73,723	73,683	73,823	73,903								
Undesignated	60,805	60,944	61,193	61,539								

Legal Updates

Shared by Paul Cox, General Counsel,
during the SBOE Huddle May 14, 2025

Griffin Protest – Conclusion

- The state courts agreed with Griffin's protests on UOCAVA-photo ID and UOCAVA voters who have never lived in NC. Would require cure for photo ID and removing votes from UOCAVA who never lived in NC.
- The federal court disagreed, saying this violated the Constitution.
- In the end, the federal court agreed with the conclusion of the State Board in December: it violates due process to change the rules of an election after the election has taken place.
- Result: The election is certified and no cure process required. SBE is considering efforts to address registrations lacking SSN/DL.

Future Actions as a Result of Litigation

During the state huddle, Paul Cox shared two things:

- Moving forward, UOCAVA voters are going to be required to show photo ID like other voters. Only applies to state contest.
 - If UOCAVA voter sends ballot back but doesn't cure photo ID - we would have to count federal contests.
- Regarding the "never resident" UOCAVA voters, the statute is invalid for state elections only. So, the "never resident" voters are eligible to register and vote in federal contests, not state and local.

Board Appointment Litigation

- Superior court held that the shift in appointments from Governor to Auditor violated the state constitution.
- The NC Court of Appeals has stayed (i.e., halted) that decision and let the law go forward.
- **The Governor has appealed the stay to the Supreme Court of NC.** No specific timeline for decision.
- Meanwhile, Auditor appointments have occurred at the State Board and will occur for CBE chairs on June 24.

Board Appointments

- For CBE appointments, the state parties are currently gathering nominations from county parties. The state parties send their nominations to SBE.
- Nominees must fill out an application form, so SBE can ensure they meet the qualifications.
- SBE will make appointments of the 4 regular CBE members (2 Ds and 2 Rs) on June 24, the same day the Auditor selects each CBE chair.

State Board Members and Executive Director

- On May 7, state board members were sworn in and elected a chair and secretary.
 - Francis X. De Luca (Rep) – Chair
 - Stacy “Four” Eggers IV (Rep) – Secretary
 - Robert Rucho (Rep)
 - Jeff Carmon (Dem)
 - Siobhan O’Duffy Millen (Dem)
- State Board appointed Sam Hayes as the state agency’s executive director, beginning May 15.

Same-day Registration Litigation

- 2 cases were filed in federal court in late 2023 challenging SDR changes from SB 747: Voto Latino and DNC.
- The court issued a preliminary injunction, which led to the "cure" process in NM 2023-05 for undeliverable address verification mailings for SDR voters.
- SBE and the parties have settled those cases, requiring the process in that numbered memo to continue in effect.
- A separate case about these SDR changes, Democracy NC, is still proceeding.