

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Thursday, March 23, 5:00 p.m.

Members present

Chairman Bill Brian

Secretary Dawn Baxton

Staff present

Chief of Staff Kate Cosner

Deputy Director Sam Gedman

Deputy Director George McCue

Deputy Director Daniel Lassiter

County attorney present: Senior Assistant County Attorney Marie Inserra

Court reporter present: Garrett Reporting

Audience members present: See attendance sheet

Chairman Brian called the meeting to order, confirming a quorum was present. Chairman Brian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed minutes from its last meeting on March 9, 2017. Secretary Baxton moved to approve the minutes. Chairman Brian seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

The Board moved to preliminary consideration of voter registration challenges filed by Robert Appleby. During discussion, Chairman Brian proposed that in the future similar voter registration challenges be consolidated to be heard together on a periodic basis. Secretary Baxton asked if the County Board of Elections had received returned mail from its mailings notifying the challenged voters. Staff responded that some, but not all, cases the mailing had been returned undeliverable, although in all cases a returned piece of mail sent by the challenger had been submitted. Secretary Baxton moved to find probable cause for all of the voter challenges before the board, directing staff to schedule a hearing for the challenges for the meeting following the next. Chairman Brian seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Staff provided the Board with an update on voter registration statistics. Chairman Brian asked that this information be provided to the county political party chairs.

Ms. Cosner provided an update regarding information from the State Board of Elections. She provided an update from the State Board of Elections regarding board member appointments and related litigation. She noted no new information on a possibility that all municipal

primaries in the state could be moved from October to September 2017. Finally, she furnished a list that the State Board of Elections had provided that day of administrative rules had been repealed. Chairman Brian asked staff to review the repealed rules in case there were any effects.

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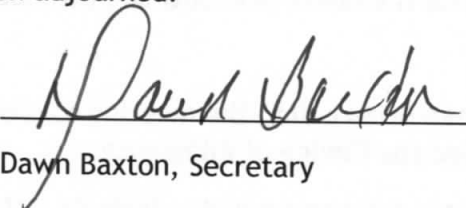
Ms. Cosner provided a staff update. She noted a relocation of staff within rooms at the Board of Elections' office. Staff had viewed exhibitions of voting equipment by vendors either certified by the State Board of Elections or seeking certification. She also noted that the office would be hosting a meeting of District 6 of the North Carolina Association of Directors of Election on June 28, 2017. Finally, she provided an update on a planned project relating to address assignments at college campuses.

The Board discussed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established between the Board of Elections and Durham County administration several years prior. Ms. Inserra communicated plans to revise the MOU to clarify which entity has the power to classify employees, and to also update citations to law and caselaw.

The Board entertained public comment, including a questions about voting equipment and feedback from pollworkers.

Secretary Baxton moved to move into closed session for authorized purposes pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 143-318.11(a)(3) and (a)(6). Chairman Brian seconded the motion. The Board began its closed session at approximately 5:45 p.m.

At approximately 6:10 p.m. the Board returned to open session. The Board announced it had taken no action necessary to be announced and then adjourned.


Dawn Baxton, Secretary