



DURHAM COUNTY

Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Thursday, August 10, 2017, 5:00 p.m.

Members present

Chairman Bill Brian

Secretary Dawn Baxton

Member Margaret Griffin

Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens

Deputy Director Samuel Gedman

Deputy Director George McCue

County attorneys present

Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby

Senior Assistant County Attorney Marie Inserra

Audience members present: See attendance sheet

Introductory matters

Chairman Brian called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board approved the meeting agenda on a motion made by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Secretary Baxton, and passing 3-0.

The Board reviewed minutes from its last meeting on July 27, 2017. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the minutes. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Director's report

Mr. Bowens provided updates on voter registration list maintenance, legislation, and litigation. Included among updates:

- A federal judge panel had given the North Carolina General Assembly a September 1 deadline to produce new maps for state legislative districts.
- State Board Executive Director Kim Strach had exercised new authority to move the canvass of the 2017 October municipal election. The date for that canvass is now scheduled for Monday, October 16.

Ms. Griffin moved to accept the Director's report. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Old business: Memorandum of Understanding with Durham County administration

Mr. Bowens noted that he had plans to meet with Human Resources Director Kathy Everett-Perry and County Attorney Lowell Siler before the next meeting of the Board of Elections.

New business

Recognition of Ms. Inserra

The Board passed an honorary resolution to honor the service of Ms. Inserra, who was moving from the County Attorney's office to a different position in Durham County government.

Early voting schedule

Mr. Bowens reviewed proposed early voting plans for the October and November 2017 elections presented at the last meeting, along with public comment the office had collected since that time.

Chairman Brian inquired about budgetary concerns with including four sites in the plans.

Following discussion, Secretary Baxton moved to adopt a plan that included four voting sites. Ms. Griffin seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Following further discussion, Ms. Griffin moved to choose the following four sites: (1) The Board of Elections office, (2) South Regional Library, (3) North Regional Library, and (4) the North Carolina Central Law School. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Following further discussion, Ms. Griffin moved to adopt a plan (as already voted upon with regard to selection of sites) with voting hours as reflected in "Option 2" presented by staff, but with the modification of Sunday hours running from noon to 4:00 p.m. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. Prior to taking that final vote, the Board did receive additional public comment from audience members Dr. Allison and Ms. Pochapsky. After taking the final vote, the Board signed a resolution reflecting the action.

Public comment and questions; general discussion

The Board offered the opportunity for the public to ask questions. Dr. Allison made an announcement regarding a community event.

Mr. Bowens provided details on the office's preparation for the 2017 municipal elections.

Closed session

Ms. Griffin moved for the Board to go into closed session for authorized purposes pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 143-318.11(a)(3) relating to potential litigation and 143-318.11 (a)(1) and (a)(6) to discuss personnel matters. Secretary Baxton seconded that motion, which passed 3-0. The Board began its closed session at 5:55 p.m.

Adjournment

The Board returned to open session at 7:20 p.m. and announced that it had instructed staff on certain matters. Ms. Griffin moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Secretary Baxton and passed 3-0.



Dawn Baxton, Secretary