



DURHAM COUNTY
Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Friday, October 13, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Members present

Chairman Bill Brian

Secretary Dawn Baxton

Member Margaret Griffin

Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens

Chief of Staff Kate Cosner

Deputy Director Daniel Lassiter

GIS/Information Specialist Rebekah Webb

Sample Audit Count Team

County attorney present: N/A

Audience members present: Susan Pochapsky, Susan Weaver, Maureen Kurtz and Allen Resley

Introductory matters

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

The Board reviewed agenda for the October 13, 2017 Board meeting. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the agenda as presented. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

New business

2017 Primary Election Sample Audit Count

Mr. Bowens informed the Board that the State Board of Elections selected the Durham mayoral race in precinct 3 and 7 for the sample audit count in Durham County. Mr. Bowens introduced all members of the sample audit count team. Ms. Griffin moved that the Board approve the

start of the sample audit count following the conclusion of new business. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

New business

Counting of Supplemental Absentee Ballots

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with 29 supplemental absentee ballots recommended for approval and 22 recommended for disapproval due to deficiencies. Member Griffin moved to approve the 29 supplemental absentee ballots and reject the 22 deficient absentee ballots in accordance with the recommendation of staff. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Chairman Brian suggested staff place language on the absentee ballot instructions encouraging voters to ensure their ballots are postmarked prior to return to the Board of Elections. All Board members were in agreement with this suggestion.

During this portion of new business, Mr. Bowens also informed the Board that two ballots from precinct 34-1 needed to be counted due to the polls being closed on the M100 prior to the insertion of two timely voted curbside ballot. Ms. Griffin moved that the two Election Day curbside ballots be counted. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Counting of Provisional Ballots

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the list of provisional ballots received for the 2017 Municipal Primary Election. Mr. Bowens recommended that 177 of the ballots be approved, 135 ballots not be approved and 4 remain in pending status.

Following discussion on the provisional ballots, Chairman Brian moved to approve the recommendation of staff, but adding the 4 ballots in pending status to approved contingent on statutory deficiencies being cured. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

After review of the provisional and absentee ballots, and under the supervision of the Board, staff begin to count approved absentee ballots, provisional ballots and the two curbside ballots from 34-1. Following the count, the Board signed the results tapes for the approved absentee and curbside ballots. The Board decided to wait until Monday, prior to the canvass, to sign the provisional results tapes to allow staff to conduct research.

Public comment and questions; general discussion

Mr. Bowens responded to questions from audience members related to the events that were to occur during the canvass on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 11:00 AM.

General discussion; adjournment

No general discussion required.

The Board adjourned on at 4:45 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Secretary Baxton, and passing 3-0.

Dawn Baxton, Secretary