



DURHAM COUNTY
Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 5:00 p.m.

Members present

Chairman Bill Brian (By Telephone)

Secretary Dawn Baxton

Member Margaret Griffin

Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens

County attorney present: Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby

Audience members present: Susan Pochapsky

Introductory matters

Chairman Brian called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the October 17, 2017 Board meeting. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the agenda as presented. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Director's report

Mr. Bowens informed the Board that Absentee One-Stop Voting (Early Voting) is set to begin on Thursday, October 19, 2017.

New business

Review of absentee ballots

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with one absentee ballot that had been received prior to the meeting for approval. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the absentee ballot consistent with the recommendation of staff. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Preliminary consideration (John Everett Protests)

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with two election protests submitted by John Everett. Following discussion, Secretary Baxton moved to dismiss the protests due to a lack of probable cause to believe that a violation of the election law or irregularity or misconduct occurred. Ms. Griffin seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Upon the decision of the Board, Mr. Darby provided the Board with dismissal orders in triplicate for both protests. Mr. Darby informed the Board that he would notify the protestor of the Board's decision.

Public comment and questions

Susan Pochapsky inquired as to the order that prevents the protestor from filing lawsuits in court. Mr. Darby explained that the order was called a gate-keeper order and prevents the filing of frivolous protests which can increase court dockets.

General discussion; adjournment

There was no general discussion at the Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Secretary Baxton, and passing 3-0.

Dawn Baxton, Secretary