

DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

Members present

Chairman Bill Brian (Telephone)

Secretary Dawn Baxton

Member Margaret Griffin

Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens

Deputy Director George McCue

Deputy Director Samuel Gedman

County attorney present: Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby

Audience members present: Philip Lehman, Susan Pochapsky (LWV), Michael Gray, and Susan Weaver (Democracy NC)

Introductory matters

Chairman Brian called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the January 25, 2018 Board meeting. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the agenda as presented. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

The Board reviewed the minutes presented by staff for the January 16, 2018 Board meeting. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the minutes presented by staff, as amended. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

New business

Absentee One-Stop Voting Plan (1st and 2nd Primaries)

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with two proposals, along with supporting documentation, regarding Absentee One-Stop Voting for the 2018 Primary and potential Second Primary. Mr. Bowens also noted that over 190 community members provided comments on the 2018 Primary

and Second Primary Absentee One-Stop Voting periods and that the data was heavily utilized for proposal development.

Following discussion, Ms. Griffin moved to approve the proposed plans, which included sites at the following locations: (1) The Board of Elections office (Only site for potential Second Primary), (2) South Regional Library, (3) East Regional Library, (4) North Regional Library, (5) Duke University, and (6) North Carolina Central Law School. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. A copy of the approved plans will be attached to these minutes.

Mr. Bowens informed the Board that he would continue working with Duke University to find a facility on the western campus that is more easily accessible for members of the public.

Resolution to Adopt a Time for Counting Absentee Ballots

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a resolution to change the time for counting absentee ballots for the 2018 Primary Election to 2:00 PM on May 8, 2018. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the resolution as presented by staff. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Closed Session

Ms. Griffin moved to go into closed session for authorized purposes pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 143-318.11(a)(1) and (a)(6) to discuss personnel matters. Secretary Baxton seconded that motion, which passed 3-0. The Board began closed session at approximately 5:11 PM.

Upon returning to open session at 5:20 p.m., Chairman Brian reported that the Board gave instructions to staff.

Director's report

Mr. Bowens provided the Board with legislative/litigation updates related to the status of Cooper vs. Berger/Moore, the NC Democratic Party vs. NC State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement, and redistricting (federal and state). Mr. Bowens also reminded the Board that the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement would be hosting its joint winter conference, with the UNC School of Government, from January 29th through January 30th.

Public Comments


Mr. Bowens responded to questions from Susan Pochapsky and Susan Weaver related to Absentee One-Stop Voting and other administrative matters.

General discussion

There was no general discussion during the designated period.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 5:32 p.m.



Dawn Baxton, Secretary