

# DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

## DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### Minutes of Board Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

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#### Members present

Chairman Bill Brian

Secretary Dawn Baxton

Member Margaret Griffin

#### Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens

Deputy Director George McCue

Elections Administrator Deborah Hart

**County attorney present:** Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby

**Audience members present:** See attendance sheet

#### Introductory matters

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

The Board reviewed the agenda and proceeded without any changes.

The Board reviewed minutes from its last meeting on January 25, 2018. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the minutes. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

#### Director's report

Mr. Bowens provided updates on list maintenance, finance, legislation, and litigation. Mr. Bowens presented information and photos of the early voting site arranged on Duke University's campus, the Brodhead Center. Mr. Bowens also provided an update on projects and initiatives, including a new online mapping tool to locate the closest early voting site to a given address, and provide additional information about the site including the schedule, photos, etc.

## **New business**

### **Approval of budget request for fiscal year 2019**

Mr. Bowens provided information regarding the upcoming year's budget request. The request was approved, with suggested amendments, on a motion made by Ms. Griffin and seconded by Secretary Baxton, with 3-0 vote. During this discussion, the Board suggested that staff investigate the feasibility of installing a security camera at the entrance to the ballot rooms.

## **Public comment and questions; general discussion**

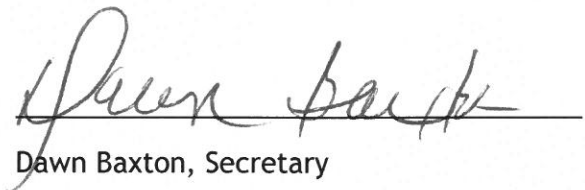
Audience member Susan Pochapsky raised the topic of respectful treatment of voters appearing to vote on Election Day who find they are not registered. Mr. Bowens explained the training and scripts that poll workers receive to respond to that situation, which always includes offering a person a provisional ballot. Chairman Brian suggested that specific cases should certainly be brought to the attention of the office if they arise, but also pointed out the negative impacts of unsubstantiated rumors about how elections are run.

Discussion also covered coordination of the state and federal government on election security.

## **Closed session; adjournment**

At approximately 6:00 p.m., Ms. Griffin moved for the Board to go into closed session for authorized purposes pursuant to 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 6:15 p.m.

Upon returning to open session at 6:30 p.m., Chairman Brian reported that the Board took no action requiring announcement in open session. The Board immediately adjourned.



Dawn Baxton, Secretary