



# DURHAM COUNTY

## Board of Elections

### DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

#### Minutes of Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 10:00 A.M.

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#### **Members present**

Phil Lehman, Chairman  
Michael Gray, Secretary  
Pamela Oxendine, Member  
Dawn Baxton, Member  
Gregory Irby, Member

#### **Staff present**

Derek Bowens, Elections Director  
Brenda Baker, Deputy Director  
Daniel Lassiter, Elections Manager  
Eric Brown, Elections Systems Specialist  
Rebecca Troedsson, Elections Specialist  
Erin Lewandowski, Elections Training Specialist

**County officials present:** Willie Darby, County Attorney

**Audience members present:** See attendance sheet

#### **Meeting opening**

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board meeting was held at 201 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701 in Room 126.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Chairman Lehman moved to approve the agenda and all approved, 5-0.

## New Business

### a. Voter Challenge Hearings

Per NCGS 163-89 and challenges issued by the Board on Election Day, the Board conducted formal challenge hearing for five voters. A summary of the hearings and action taken by the Board are as follows:

- Following the hearing and discussion on Ms. Kelly Hunsucker's absentee application and ballot, Mr. Irby made a motion to accept the ballot to be fully counted due to Ms. Hunsucker curing the deficiency on her Same-Day Registration application consistent with the timeframe established by statute. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Following the hearing and discussion on Mr. Leandre Blakeney's application and ballot, Ms. Baxton made a motion to accept the ballot as a partial count due to the voter receiving the incorrect ballot style. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Following the hearing and discussion on Mr. Adam Mahjoub's absentee application and ballot, Ms. Oxendine made a motion to accept the ballot as a partial count due to the voter receiving the incorrect ballot style. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Following the hearing and discussion on Ms. Ebony Browder's absentee application and ballot, Ms. Oxendine made a motion to accept the ballot as a partial count due to the voter receiving the incorrect ballot style. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Following the hearing and discussion on Ms. Sebin Jeon's absentee ballot and application, Mr. Irby made a motion to accept the ballot to be fully counted. Although the voter was issued the incorrect absentee application, the voter ended up receiving the correct ballot style based on the affirmed residence address. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.

A recording of each hearing is on file with the Durham County Board of Elections. Chairman Lehman executed orders to be mailed to each voter informing them of the Board's decisions.

### b. Counting of Approved Supplemental Absentee Ballots

- After review of the supplemental absentee ballot applications, Mr. Irby moved to approve 2 applications and ballots per the recommendation of staff. The motion was approved by all and passed unanimously, 5-0.
- Staff began counting approved supplemental absentee ballots following authorization by the Board.

### c. Counting of Approved Provisional Ballots

- Following review and discussion on provisional ballots applications, Ms. Oxendine presented a motion to approve 756 provisional ballot applications and to not approve 512 provisional ballot applications as recommended by staff. The motion was approved by all and passed unanimously, 5-0.
- Staff began counting approved provisional ballots consistent with NCGS 163-182.2(a)(4).

d. Canvass of the 2020 Primary Election

- The Board executed all required documentation prior to reviewing the consolidated results for certification. After the review of Canvass documents, Chairman Lehman moved to approve the certification of the March 3, 2020 Primary Election. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.

**Public Comments and Questions**

Public comments and questions were made by one member of the public.

**General Discussion**

During general discussion Mr. Bowens recommended that the Board conduct all future meetings telephonically due the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Following discussion, Mr. Irby made a motion to approve telephonic Board meetings until further notice. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. Mr. Bowens informed the Board and the public that information needed to access the Board of Elections meetings would be provided well in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

**Adjournment**

The Board adjourned at approximately 5:41 p.m. on a motion made by Ms. Baxton. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.



Michael H. Gray  
Secretary