



DURHAM COUNTY

Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Friday, October 23, 2020 5:00 P.M.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Derek Bowens, Elections Director
Brenda Baker, Deputy Director
Alan Resley, Absentee Coordinator
James Graves, Elections Systems Specialist
David Beuttel, Elections Logistics Manager
Rebecca Troedsson, Elections Specialist
Daniel Lassiter, Elections Manager

County Officials Present: N/A

Audience Members Present: See attendance log.

Meeting opening

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Ms. Baxton moved to approve the agenda and all approved, 4-0. Mr. Irby was not present for this meeting.

Public Comment and Questions

Comments and questions were made by members of the public via the public comment portal and in-person.

New Business

a. Review of Absentee-By-Mail Ballots

- Consistent with Numbered Memorandum 2020-25, Mr. Bowens requested that the Board agree to random spot checking of absentee ballot applications recommended for approval by staff in lieu of reviewing each individual envelope. The Board agreed unanimously to each review at least 50 randomly selected applications of absentee-by-mail ballots recommended for approval.
- After discussion and a random physical review of the absentee ballot applications, Ms. Baxton moved to approve a total of 5516 civilian and military/overseas absentee applications and ballots received by mail per the recommendation of staff. The total also included 102 accepted-cure ballots. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Ms. Baxton moved to authorize staff to open approved absentee-by-mail envelopes and begin the optical scanning process authorized under NCGS 163-234(3) and Numbered Memorandum 2020-25. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Following review of duplicated military/overseas ballots consistent with Board policy (BOE-001), Mr. Gray moved to approve 10 duplicated military/overseas ballots. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Staff opened and scanned all approved absentee-by-mail ballots.
- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a review of all Pending/Held Absentee Ballots. Following review, Ms. Oxendine made a motion to reject 30 ballots with a status of Witness Information Incomplete and instructed staff to reissue those ballots consistent with State guidance. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Following review of unauthorized returned ballots, the Board instructed staff to reach out to voters and provide an update at the next meeting on 10/27.
- Mr. Bowens explained a situation where voter Quinna Lawson received the absentee ballot and application for Clare Matti due to an internal staff labeling error. This error was identified when Mr. Lawson called the office to inquire the status of his wife's ballot. Mr. Bowens recommended that the Board spoil the ballot returned by Quinna Lawson and overnight a new ballot. Ms. Baxton moved to spoil the ballot of Clare Matti and to overnight a new ballot to Quinna Lawson. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with an update on a re-audit the staff performed after guidance was reissued from the State Board of Elections regarding Pending Cures and Witness Information Missing. During the re-audit, staff identified 56 applications and ballots that were previously approved by the Board. Mr. Bowens suggested that the Board rescind the 56 previously approved ballots and change the status for 35 of them to pending cure and 21 to witness information missing. Following review, Ms. Baxton made a motion to rescind the 56 applications and ballots, and instructed staff to overnight cure letters and reissued ballots via Fed Ex. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.
- Ms. Baxton made a motion to rescind 1 application that was found without a ballot. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.


- Mr. Bowens presented the board with a review of One-Stop voting applications. After discussion, Mr. Gray moved to approve 23,509 One-Stop applications. The motion was approved by all 4-0.

General Discussion

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with updates on One-Stop voting.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 9:17 p.m. on a motion made by Ms. Oxendine. The motion was approved by all, 4-0.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael H. Gray", written over a horizontal line.

Michael H. Gray Secretary