



DURHAM COUNTY

Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Friday, October 30, 2020 5:00 P.M.

Members Present

Phil Lehman, Chairman
Michael Gray, Secretary
Pamela Oxendine, Member
Gregory Irby, 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 5:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

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 4048 civilian and military/overseas absentee applications and ballots received by mail per the recommendation of staff. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- 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, 5-0.
- There were no duplicated ballots for review during this meeting.
- Staff opened and began scanning all approved absentee-by-mail ballots.
- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a review of all Accepted – Cured ballots; 65 were included in scanning.
- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with an update on a second 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 34 applications and ballots that were previously approved by the Board. Mr. Bowens suggested that the Board rescind the 34 previously approved ballots and change the status for 15 of them to pending cure and 19 to witness information missing. Following review, Mr. Irby moved to rescind the 34 applications and ballots, and instructed staff to overnight cure letters and reissued ballots via Fed Ex. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a review of all Pending/Held Absentee ballots. Following review, Mr. Irby moved to accept a ballot for Robert Hatcher who was in pending cure status for questionable witness information. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. Mr. Irby moved to accept 4 pending unauthorized returned ballots. The motion was approved by all, 5-0. Mr. Irby made a motion to approve 1 pending ballot for Ms. Ivey Barnette where the witness signature was in question. The motion passed by all, 5-0. Mr. Irby made a motion to reject 1 ballot for Ms. Claudia Tapia Centeno, where the witness information was in question and to reissue a ballot. The motion passed by all, 5-0. Ms. Baxton made a motion to accept 1 ballot for Vladimir Kary, who's envelope was torn when received. It was determined that the container envelope was not tampered with. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
- Mr. Bowens presented the board with a review of One-Stop voting applications. After discussion, Ms. Oxendine moved to approve 14,929 One-Stop applications. The motion was approved by all 5-0.

General Discussion

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

Recess

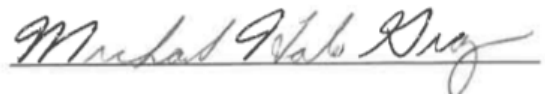
The Board recessed at approximately 10:29 p.m. due to a jamming issue with the DS850 and agreed to reconvene at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020 to continue optically scanning approved ballots on a motion made by Mr. Irby. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.

Return from Recess

The Board came out of recess at approximately 11:06 a.m. on October 31, 2020 and authorized staff to resume scanning of approved absentee-by-mail ballots. Chairman Lehman (D), Mr. Irby (R), and Mr. Gray (R) were present for the continuance of optical scanning.

Adjournment

Following completion of scanning, the Board adjourned at approximately 3:39 p.m. on October 30, 2020 on a motion made by Mr. Irby. The motion was approved by all present, 3-0 (Chairman Lehman (D), Mr. Irby (R), and Mr. Gray (R)).

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

Michael H. Gray, Secretary