

Board of Elections Wilson County, NC

Minutes of Meeting 20 August 2024

The Wilson County Board of Elections met on August 20, 2024, at the Board of Elections office at 112 Douglas Street, Wilson NC 27894.

Members Present: Chairman Chip Futrell, Wayland Parker, Wanda Davis, Pete Hall, and George Leach

1. Call to Order. A quorum from the board was present. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Futrell at 10:06 am.

2. Approval of the Agenda. The following agenda was proposed: Determination of a Quorum, Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, Approval of the Minutes, Further Discussion of Ideas from July 23 Meeting (Personnel and Processes), Discussion of the Fall Calendar and Appointment of Judges for Satellite Sites for Early Voting. Mr. Pete Hall made a motion to approve the agenda as proposed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the 23 July 2024 Board of Elections meeting were reviewed. Mr. Pete Hall made a motion that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of the Fall Calendar. All meeting dates are purposed to be held at 5:00 pm. The following dates were purposed:

- o October 1, absentee ballot meeting
- o October 8, absentee ballot meeting
- o October 15, absentee ballot meeting
- o October 17, one-stop/early voting in-person begins
- o October 22, absentee ballot meeting; deadline for resolution if board wishes to count votes on election day prior to 5:00 p.m.
- o October 29, absentee ballot meeting; last day to request an absentee ballot
- o November 2, last day for one-stop/early voting in-person
- o November 4, absentee ballot meeting
- o November 5 (Election Day), absentee ballot meeting
- o November 15, Canvass

Regarding the potentially large volume of absentee ballots, Mr. Pete Hall made a motion that these ballots be opened and scanned weekly in accordance with the purposed calendar. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Regarding the 22 October deadline for a resolution if the board elects to count votes on election day prior to 5:00 pm, the board will assess the need to address that question at a later date based on the need considering the expected volume of absentee ballots to be counted.

5. Appointment of Judges for Satellite Sites for Early Voting. A slate of experienced judges was provided for the three early voting sites in Wilson County.

Place 1 – Wilson County Board of Election: Carroll Gaissert, Patricia Haskin, JoAnn Hickman

Place 2 – Lida Blalock Meeting Room – Rosa Lucas, Vincent Murrain, Carolyn Elmore

Place 3 – Wilson County Office – Ada Harris, Janet Frazier, Janet Dinzell

Ms Wanda Davis made a motion to approve these judge appointments as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Chairman mentioned that he would be out of country 14-30 September and that the Secretary of the Board would be available to administer the Oath of Office for the Judges.

6. Further Discussion of Ideas from the 23 July Meeting (Personnel and Processes). The Chairman asked the Director to provide an update on her activities since our 23 July meeting. Regarding personnel – The need to adequately resource the office with personnel was recognized and the need was immediate. An attempt was made to see if a former experienced employee would be interested in returning. That individual was not interested. As an interim measure, two temporary employees were hired to staff the office for the upcoming election. The Deputy Director position is vacant. Mixed views on the utility of advertising and hiring for this position going into this election – hiring and training vs on the job training. The Director indicates she believes has sufficient personnel to get through this election. The Director indicates she has been in direct contact with the County Manager who has been very supportive and encouraging to identify needs for resourcing (budget). Communication Support from Stephen Mann (spelling?) has been encouraging and very responsive. Leveraging ideas from other counties has been useful, especially Wake County. The Director ^{sent} some dates for training:

- Tuesday, September 17th @ 5:30 p.m. (Chief Judges & Judges)
- Wednesday, September 18th @ 5:30 p.m. (Chief Judges & Judges)
- Monday, September 23rd @ 5:30 p.m. (Poll Workers)
- Tuesday, September 24th @ 5:30 p.m. (Poll Workers)
- Thursday, September 26th @ 5:00 p.m. (Poll Workers)

EVID Laptop Training - Monday October 14th @ 5:30 p.m.

7. Closed Session. Mr. George Leach made a motion for the board to enter into a closed session. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. At 11:18 am the board entered into closed session. At 11:26 am the board came out of closed session.

8. Adjournment. Three information handouts were provided by the Director to the members of the board: A List of Precinct Chief Judges and Judges; Wilson County Chief Judges Contact Numbers, and Wilson County Government Travel Policy. Mr. Pete Hall made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am. These minutes were recorded by Wayland E. Parker