

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.
CHAIRPERSON

Eric Elliott
SECRETARY

John Redding
MEMBER



Kathie Chastain Cooper
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- AUGUST 10, 2004

Present: Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair
Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary
Mr. John A. Redding, Member

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections
Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections
Ms. Pamela Craver, Administrative Assistant
Judy Speas, Absentees

Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes- August 3, 2004

The Board reviewed the minutes and made some minor corrections. Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes for August 3, 2004 with the corrections. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Absentees

There were 22 absentee ballots recommended for approval and 3 recommended for disapproval. CIV127, CIV166 and CIV158 were recommended for disapproval because the voters did not sign the absentee envelope and there were not witness signatures and addresses. Mr. Redding moved to disapprove the 3 absentees as recommended by staff. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Redding recommended having dark "X's" placed beside the lines where signatures are required. He asked the staff to check into this before absentee mailers are printed again.

Mr. Redding moved to approve the 22 absentees as recommended by staff. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Session

Joyce McCloy, 212 Evergreen Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C., presented the Board with a handout. Ms. McCloy asked if the Board was aware of Election Center Conference in Washington, DC, scheduled for August 25 through August 28, 2004 and were they aware that the event is being sponsored by Diebold, Sequoia and ES&S, all voting equipment vendors. Ms. McCloy wanted to know if the Board was aware these vendors were sponsoring parties, a dinner cruise and gifts for Election Officials. Ms. McCloy also spoke to the Board regarding the DRE equipment used during the Primary Election at the One-Stop location. She stated there are documented problems with those machines.

State House Representative, Larry Womble, addressed the Board regarding Winston-Salem State University as a One-Stop location for the General Election. He stated in an earlier Board meeting that the WSSU Anderson Center would be available for the General Election due to construction being delayed. He asked the Board to confirm the information and to use the facility if it is available. Mr. Womble stated he wanted to follow up on this issue. The Director stated she did confirm the construction delay and that she added it to the One-Stop Resolution that the Board would be voting on in today's meeting. Mr. Womble also stated Linda Sutton distributed letters to the Board and staff regarding where she and her associated would like to see One-Stop sites.

David Hiller with the NC Division of Independent Living addressed the Board regarding the "Get Out And Vote" campaign. He is interested in getting information on the accessibility of the precincts in Forsyth County. He stated he understands the State Board of Elections is working on getting photos of all the precincts online so disabled people can determine if they have accessibility at their assigned precinct and if not, they can determine a location to transfer to. Mr. Redding suggested that Mr. Hiller contact Mrs. Cooper regarding the accessibility issues because the staff conducted ADA assessments of each precinct.

Mr. Elliott discussed with Ms. McCloy, the information she had regarding the Election Center Conference. He suggested that Mrs. Cooper contact Don Wright at the SBOE.

Mr. Womble stated there are concerns about signs being posted at precincts regarding handicapped entrances. The staff and Board explained the steps being taken to provide signage for those precincts that need it. The staff also explained there is research being done on a type of door bell system for curbside voting.

One-Stop Voting for General Election

A) Adoption of Plan of Implementation- The Director gave the Board Members the proposed Plan of Implementation for One-Stop Voting sites for the General Election. After the Board reviewed the Plan of Implementation, Mr. Elliott moved to approve. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the plan is attached.

B) Voting Equipment Leasing- Mr. Redding stated he has reservations about the low bidder. Mr. Elliott stated he has reservations about the process by which the Board got to the point of the selection process.

Mr. Redding explained that due to broken machines and too few punch card machines available, it is necessary to lease voting equipment for the One-Stop locations during the General Election.

Mr. Elliott suggested going with the 2nd bidder, ES&S. Mrs. Cooper stated that there have been some concerns with the ES&S especially in Wake County.

Mr. Redding moved to have the Director negotiate with Advanced Voting Systems to get them to meet the lower 2 vendors' prices and bring the information before the Board at the next meeting. Mrs. Cardwell seconded the motion. After putting the motion to vote, all three Board Members were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Procedure For Appointment of Observers

Mrs. Cooper stated the deadline for the parties to submit their lists of observers is Thursday, August 12, at 10:00 AM. She stated that in the past, the Board has given her the authority to approve the list of observers and distribute them to the precinct officials. Mr. Elliott moved to place the authority of approving the observers with Mrs. Cooper. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Elliott stated he would like a list of the observers and a list of the officials working the polls for the 2nd Primary.

Change of Precinct

Mrs. Cooper stated when working on the redistricting for the 2004 elections, it was discovered that one block of 703 was showing as being in 601. After the staff researched maps, it was discovered that the 2000 census maps had incorrectly located that block different from what the BOE staff had instructed. In order to correct the error, the Director recommended the Board place the block back into the 703

precinct boundary. Mr. Redding moved to approve putting the block back into the 703 precinct boundary. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Copy of documentation is attached.

Programming and Ballot Counter Testing

Mrs. Cooper explained the Certification of the Voting Equipment memo from Betty James, Terry Cox and herself. She stated the programming has been completed and that most of the equipment had been tested. Mr. Elliott moved to acknowledge the Certification of the Voting Equipment. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy is attached.

Other Business

Mr. Womble stated a citizen called him concerning his voter registration. The citizen told Mr. Womble he registered to vote on July 12, 2004 and had not yet received his voter card and upon contacting the Board of Elections office, was told he was not registered to vote. The Director explained that the registration deadline for the Primary Election and the 2nd Primary was June 25, 2004, and that no applications are processed after the deadline until the 2nd Primary is completed. Mr. Womble, the Board and the staff discussed the benefits of posting voter registration deadline information in public places. Mrs. Cooper stated she would check with the Winston-Salem Journal about placed a registration deadline calendar in the paper before the registration deadline for the General Election.

Mr. Elliott discussed CHANGE and their request for a meeting with the Board Members to discuss the independent audit they did on the precincts during the Primary Election. Mr. Elliott was not sure if the Board Members could meet with the group. Mr. Redding suggested having the group talk with Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Dell regarding the precinct issues. Mr. Elliott suggested that Mrs. Cooper contact the group. Mr. Redding stated he would like Mrs. Cooper to explain to CHANGE that it is against the law to be in the voting enclosure if they are not voting. Mr. Elliott will let Mrs. Cooper know the name of the person to contact.

The Board and Staff discussed getting the Board members pictures to hang in the lobby area of the Board of Elections office. The Director stated that the digitals photos on file will not enlarge properly. She also stated the Board Members will need to provide their own pictures.

The Board agreed to meet on Election Day.

Adjournment

Mr. Redding moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Elliott seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35.

s/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s/ Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member