

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

J. Eric Elliott
CHAIR

Linda J. Sutton
SECRETARY

Jerry D. Jordan
MEMBER



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- MAY 8, 2007

Present: J. Eric Elliott, Chair
Linda J. Sutton, Secretary
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections
Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Guest: Daintry O'Brien, Executive Director, KidsVoting

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 P.M.

Approval of Minutes- April 10, 2007

The Board recommended one minor correction to the minutes for April 10, 2007. Mr. Jordan moved to approve the minutes with the correction and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Elliott opened the public comment session. First to speak was Patti Nichols, 408 Drayton Park Dr., Kernersville, N.C. Ms. Nichols stated she is the Chief Judge at Precinct 065 in Kernersville. She stated she thought it was the job of the Chief Judge to recruit precinct officials for his/her precinct. She stated she was concerned about new workers just showing up at the precinct. The Board explained that state law dictates that there should be two Democrats and one Republican. The Board also explained that there must be at least 3 precinct officials at a precinct in order for it to open. Ms. Nichols stated that Mr. Coffman did a great job in the training prior to the election.

Jonathan Fritz, 182 C Clayton St., Winston-Salem, N.C., discussed his experience on election day (November 7, 2006). He asked the Board and Staff about plans for future training. He stated he enjoyed working the polls.

Rosa Rice, 827 Woodcote Dr., Winston-Salem, N.C., stated she had been asked to be a Chief Judge. She asked the Board and Staff what she needed to do in regards to signing up as Chief Judge. Ms. Price also inquired about the training that would be available for Chief Judges. The Board and Staff explained that she needed to contact her party headquarters to make sure she was on the list of precinct officials that will be recommended in August.

Sandra McCutchan, 2715 Cardiff Court, Winston-Salem, N.C. stated she wanted to work in the previous election but was never placed at a precinct. The Board explained there may not have been a need for precinct workers in her home precinct. The Board recommended that Ms. McCutchan contact her party headquarters to let them know she wants to work.

Presentation on KidsVote by Daintry O'Brien

Ms. Daintry presented the Board and Staff with information regarding the KidsVote program. She stated KidsVote is a national organization and there are 21 counties in North Carolina currently participating in the program. She stated there are 2 parts to KidsVote. One part involves children going with their parents on election day to vote. There is a separate voting location set up for the children to cast their votes, set up outside the voting enclosure. Volunteers run the KidsVote at the precincts so no precinct officials are involved. KidsVote results are reported to the media along with the Election results. The program is designed to provide voter education to children from K-12 in schools and this helps to focus on decision making skills. The goal of the program is to have 18 year old adolescents to vote and to promote democracy.

The Board discussed the KidsVote program and agrees it is a beneficial program. The Board discussed getting a group of volunteers together to get the program started.

Ms. Sutton moved to form a committee to implement the KidsVoting program. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation by Rob Coffman on Plans for Pollworker Recognition

Mr. Coffman stated he is considering a lapel pin and certificate to recognize the pollworkers for their years of service, as well as public recognition during the training sessions for the upcoming election. He stated he wanted the pollworkers to realize we appreciate their service.

Discussion of Plans for Pollworker Training and Recruitment

Mr. Coffman and the Board discussed pollworker training. Mr. Coffman stated his goal is to have a technical oriented person at each precinct. He stated he would like to see two parts to the precinct structure. One part would be the political party structure to protect party interest and the second part would involve the technology of voting. He stated the chief judge should be in charge of the overall operation of the precinct and another person would oversee the technological aspects, including the voting equipment. The technology individuals could move into chief judge positions as the positions come available. Mr. Coffman stated he is looking at corporations as a possible source for tech people as well as county employees.

Mr. Coffman stated he will offer training at more varied times to make training more convenient. He stated techs would receive more intense training on equipment but would also attend precinct training.

Mr. Coffman stated the State Board of Elections has created a curriculum for pollworkers for use at the community colleges. He stated this is a more in depth training and requires tuition payment. He states he is looking at ways to offset the tuition costs. Currently, Forsyth Technical Community College is not offering the class.

E-Pollbook Update- Showings Discussed

The Board and Staff discussed e-pollbooks. Mr. Elliott stated he attended a demonstration of e-pollbooks. Mr. Coffman explained how they are used. He stated the voter data would be available on a computer device and the pollworker can pull up information on any voter in Forsyth County. This is very helpful since a voter may not be at the correct precinct and the pollworker can give him or her the correct information on where to go vote. E-pollbooks would eliminate most provisional ballots. The voter history can be uploaded at the Board of Elections office which would eliminate manual scanning.

Wellness Check Review

Mr. Coffman stated there has been no official report from the State Board of Elections regarding the outcome of the Wellness Check.

Other Business

Mr. Elliott presented the Board with a proposed resolution naming the meeting room the Cooper-Cardwell Room. He asked the Board Members to review the resolution. Ms. Sutton moved to approve the resolution and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Coffman stated there was a voter who is listed as a felony and is scheduled to be removed from the voter records. He stated the individual requesting a hearing with the Board regarding his removal.

He will be scheduled for a hearing before the Board at the August board meeting.

Mr. Coffman stated he posted the Deputy Director position on the internal job listing. He stated the position will be posted publicly next week.

Adjournment

Ms. Sutton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

S:/ J. Eric Elliott, Chair

S:/ Linda J. Sutton, Secretary

S:/ Jerry D. Jordan, Member