

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.
CHAIR

Eric Elliott
SECRETARY

John A. Redding
MEMBER



Kathie Chastain Cooper
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- JULY 19, 2005

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
Mrs. Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Minutes- June 21, 2005

Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes for June 21, 2005. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Items 2-5

The board has not been appointed for the 2005-2007 term so items 2-5 on the agenda were not completed.

Set Time for August 16, 2005 Meeting to Appoint Precinct Officials

The Director explained to the Board that Precinct Officials cannot be appointed until the State Board of Elections members are appointed and the Forsyth County Board of Elections members are appointed. She asked the Board Members to consider meeting on this date regardless of whether Precinct Officials will be appointed so that the Winston-Salem Primary ballot can be approved.

The Director explained that the current Precinct Officials and the current Board Members would remain in place until the new appointments are made.

The Board agreed to meet on August 16, 2005 at 4:00 PM to approve the Winston-Salem Primary ballot. Mr. Elliott stated he would like to include a Public Comment session for this Board Meeting.

Public Comment Session

There were no speakers for the public session.

2005 Municipal Elections

The Board and Director discussed testing optical scan voting systems for the Fall Elections. The Director stated that she thinks that there are only two optical scan systems certified by the State Board of Elections for use in precincts. One is the Sequoia Optech III PE and the other is the Diebold Accuvote. There are two other systems but she is not certain if they have State certification for precinct use. Those systems are the ES&S M100 and Advanced Absentee System. Mr. Elliott requested that Mrs. Cooper obtain information on these optical scan systems.

Mrs. Cooper stated that Sequoia has a new counter for their optical scan system that is not yet certified by the State Board of Elections so we cannot test it until it is certified. She also stated that the Accuvote has not changed and is certified by the State Board of Elections. She suggested testing the Accuvote in the Primary Election and testing the Optech III PE in the General Election if it is certified by then.

The Board and Director discussed the EAC guidelines for the certification of voting equipment.

The Board and Director discussed Senate Bill 223. Mr. Elliott is concerned with Section IV of this bill. If approved, he thinks that it would not allow the Forsyth County Board of Elections to choose which voting system to purchase. It would only allow the Board of Elections to make a recommendation to the County Commissioners as to the type of voting system they want, but could leave the decision of vendor to the Commissioners. Mr. Elliott wants to make certain he is interpreting the bill correctly. Mrs. Cooper will call the State Board of Elections for clarification. Mr. Elliott stated that Board members should contact state legislators especially Senator Ham Horton to see if he can have the section removed.

Mr. Elliott requested that the Director get a list from the State Board of Elections of optical scan systems that can be used for in precincts. The Director stated she has requested this list several times and has not received a good answer. She is now waiting for the State Deputy Director to get back in the office as she is the one that handles voting equipment certification.

Mr. Elliott suggested that Mrs. Cooper call vendors to see which ones would be willing to have their optical scan equipment tested in the fall elections. Mrs. Cooper stated she has already called several vendors and is waiting for them to call her back. She had talked to Diebold and they would be able to have their optical scan system tested at no charge to us except for the cost of the ballot cards.

Closing of Some Precincts for 2005 General Election

The Board and Staff discussed the possibility of closing some of the precincts for the General Election. Many of the municipalities will have unopposed candidates. The Director wants to know if the board is willing to close some of these precincts. This would reduce the cost of the election for the Municipalities. Mr. Redding is concerned about having voters go to another precinct for this election. He does not want to hinder a citizen's ability to vote. Mrs. Dell suggested opening a central precinct in each Municipality, such as Clemmons Civic Center, so that everyone will be familiar with the

location. Mr. Redding suggested that if we get a call from the town requesting the consolidation of precincts that the Board would consider doing so. The Board will discuss at a future meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Elliott stated there is a ruling from the State that requires making even draft minutes available to the public prior to Board approval. He indicated that we will provide a draft copy of the minutes if someone requests it but that the minutes will not be posted on our home page until after the Board has approved and signed them.

Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:55.

S:/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

S:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member