

# BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Linda J. Sutton**  
CHAIR

**Frank M. Dickerson**  
SECRETARY

**Jerry D. Jordan**  
MEMBER



**Robert H. Coffman**  
Director of Elections

**Lamar Joyner**  
Deputy Director

## FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – November 9, 2010

Present: Linda J. Sutton, Chair  
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary  
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections  
Lamar Joyner, Deputy Director  
Judy Speas, Senior Office Assistant

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### Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:50 AM in the Second Floor Conference Room.

### Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes for November 2, 2010. Ms. Sutton requested any corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Absentee Ballots

The Staff recommended 267 supplemental absentee ballots for approval and 6 for disapproval. Absentee mailed ballots are allowed to be approved if postmarked by the day of the election and received by three days after the election. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the recommendation of absentee ballots by staff. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Coffman proceeded to process the supplemental absentee ballot vote total on the ballot scanner with the Board members present.

### Hand/Eye Audit

Mr. Dickerson moved that the Board of Elections staff conduct the required hand/eye audit with the Board in attendance in the adjoining storage room. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Coffman explained the procedure for the audit which is required by the State Board of Elections. The purpose is to compare the number of actual paper ballots against the reported vote total amount. The mailed absentee ballots (4,409 votes) and Precinct 101 – Bethania Moravian Church (699 votes) were randomly chosen by the State Board for the hand/eye audit after the General Election. The office chosen to be audited was the Instant Runoff Voting Court of Appeals Judge seat, column one. The ballots were removed from the sealed ballot boxes. Six tables with three employees each were assembled to complete the hand/eye audit. The teams marked each precinct reconciliation tally sheet with fence posting to record all votes.

### Approval of Provisional Ballots

Forsyth County Government Center, 201 North Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101-4120  
336-703-2800 • Fax: 336-727-2893  
www.fcvotes.com

Of the 653 provisional ballots voted in the 2010 General Election, 331 were recommended for approval, 87 recommended for partial approval and 235 recommended for disapproval by election staff. Mr. Coffman distributed a statistical report that explained several reasons for disapproval and partial approval to include incorrect precinct, identification not provided, previously removed voters, no record of registration, and unreported move. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the recommendation of provisional ballots by staff. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Coffman proceeded to process the provisional ballot vote total on the ballot scanner with the Board members present.

#### Other Business

Ms. Sutton requested that the Board members plan a special meeting to discuss the 2010 General Election Day problems. Ms. Sutton also requested that the Board be able to summarize all reported issues beforehand from a prepared in-house accounting.

Mr. Coffman stated that a recount had been requested by Jeff Polston, Republican nominee for Clerk of Superior Court. He explained that Mr. Polston qualified to demand the recount of the votes because he had received a difference within one percent of the total votes cast between himself and the prevailing candidate. The supplemental absentee and provisional votes would be included but were not expected to significantly change the percentage amount. The mandatory recount would include a manual count of all General Election paper ballots and the recollection of the Ivotronic machine data. It would involve hiring teams of numerous temporary employees. The recount would be planned for several days next week.

Mr. Polston, who attended the meeting, informed the Board that a formal election protest would also be filed regarding violations of election law that occurred during Election Day voting. He stated that the protest would involve instances of illegally registered voters and voters illegally voting after the 7:30 PM closing time. The Board discussed the state election law procedure for an election protest. The Board would first be required to meet after the protest is filed to determine whether the protest complies with the law and whether it establishes probable cause to believe that a violation occurred. The Board would either dismiss the protest or schedule a hearing if both requirements are met. Mr. Dickerson stated that the Board would consider all related testimony as there was only hearsay evidence at this point.

#### Adjournment

Ms. Sutton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dickerson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM.

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Linda J. Sutton, Chair

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Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

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Jerry D. Jordan, Member