

# BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Linda J. Sutton**  
Chair

**Michael Flatow**  
Secretary

**Jonathan S. Dills**  
Member



**Robert H. Coffman**  
Director of Elections

**Lamar Joyner**  
Deputy Director

## FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

### Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was held in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room on September 12, 2012. The meeting convened at 9:10 AM, Chairman Linda Sutton presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Chairman Linda Sutton, Secretary Michael Flatow, Member Jonathan Dills

Staff Members in attendance: Director Robert Coffman, Deputy Director Lamar Joyner, Judy Speas

### Approval of Minutes

Chairman Sutton requested that the Board review the minutes of August 6, 2012. Secretary Flatow moved and Member Dills seconded the motion to approve the minutes of August 6, 2012. **Motion carried.**

### Wake Forest Verification Letter

Mr. Coffman explained a Wake Forest University request that would authorize students to use a self-generated school intranet identification letter as a verification of residency during Early Voting registration. The State Board of Elections explained in Memorandum 2012-20 that a school letter along with photo identification would be accepted to verify residency during Early Voting. Board members examined the WFU form letter. Member Dills suggested that the letter protocol be forwarded to all county universities and colleges as a resolution for residency verification. Mr. Coffman stated that an email notification would be sent to the other school contacts.

### Meeting Schedule

Mr. Coffman explained that the weekly Absentee Meetings are set up statutorily to begin on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Absentee ballots would be preprocessed and run through the tabulator at the meeting. The local political parties would be notified of the meetings. Chairman Sutton questioned whether the 2012 General Election ballot had been approved. Mr. Coffman confirmed that the State Board had approved the ballot and that absentee ballots were being mailed. It was agreed that the 41 ballot styles and a master sample ballot would be emailed to the Board members.

### Other Business

Chairman Sutton requested an update of the 2012 Board of Elections Wellness Check. Mr. Coffman stated that an online self evaluation of the Wellness Check had been completed and that the version would be emailed to the Board members. No site visits are expected from the State Board of Elections this year.

Chairman Sutton questioned whether any precinct locations needed the Title 2 disability funds. Mr. Coffman stated that all precincts were found to be handicapped accessible in the last appraisal.

Mr. Coffman explained that a rental lease for \$2500 had been obtained from Harper Hill Commons Shopping Center Property Management Company for the use of a vacant space as an Early Voting satellite location. Campaign literature and signs would be allowed.

Board members discussed the importance of their attendance during precinct official training. Mr. Coffman explained the website online tool for training registration and confirmed that the training schedule would be emailed.

Mr. Coffman explained the statute regarding voter registration and the absentee ballot process at nursing care facilities.

Chairman Sutton questioned pre-registration activity at the Winston-Salem Forsyth County school system. Mr. Coffman explained that voter registration forms were supplied to the school contacts. It was also noted that several Advanced Placement students would be employed as student assistant computer operators on Election Day.

Secretary Flatow questioned the budgeting process that would allow the Board of Elections to open a fifteenth Early Voting location. Mr. Coffman explained that the county manager had approved another \$23,000 for personnel costs. Board members discussed whether the State Board had authority to dictate the county expenses.

Secretary Flatow also questioned the later closing hours of Early Voting at the county library sites. Mr. Coffman explained that the Board of Elections would pay for the extra security personnel time. Any expense of extra hours for library staff members would not be paid. Member Dills stated that the Board of Elections was spending an inordinate amount of money for the Early Voting budget. Board members discussed the issue and agreed that the election process must move forward at this point.

Chairman Sutton introduced a guest, Debbie Gitlin, a Precinct 112 - Walkertown Library precinct official. Ms. Gitlin addressed the Board members regarding several issues that occurred at the 2012 Primary Election Kernersville Early Voting site; and, employment as a 2012 General Election Early Voting pollworker. Secretary Flatow suggested that a report of Early Voting and Election Day issues should always be sent to the Board members. Mr. Coffman stated that an incident report would be added to the Early Voting administrative function. Member Dills suggested that the Board members be given more information about the 2012 Primary Kernersville Early Voting situation and include it in the next meeting's agenda. Board members agreed to include the topic at the next meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

Chairman Sutton introduced discussion of a 2012 Primary Election Day issue at Precinct 405 - Sims Recreation Center. Many Winston-Salem State University students had been discouraged in the voting process by the Republican Judge, Jeffrey Polston. Chairman Sutton stated that several students left without being offered a provisional ballot. Chairman Sutton moved that Mr. Polston be removed as a precinct official at Sims Recreation Center and that a Democratic resident of the precinct was preferred as Chief Judge. Member Dills stated that he visited the precinct at midday and found no problems reported from any of the precinct officials. More information should also be presented about this issue in the next meeting's agenda. It would be fair to hear from all people directly involved before making a decision. After discussion, Secretary Flatow seconded the motion that Mr. Polston be removed as a precinct official at Precinct 405 - Sims Recreation Center. Board members agreed that he would be assigned as a judge at a different precinct.

**Motion carried with Member Dills dissenting.**

### **Closed Session**

Chairman Sutton recommended a motion for closed session by stating: I move that the Board go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Secretary Flatow seconded the motion. The **motion carried** and the Board went into closed session at 10:24 AM.

Chairman Sutton moved and Secretary Flatow seconded the motion to reconvene the meeting at 12:38 PM. **Motion carried.**

**Adjournment**

Chairman Sutton moved and Member Dills seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried** and the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 PM.

Approved:

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Linda J. Sutton, Chair

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Date

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Michael Flatow, Secretary

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan S. Dills, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attachments on File:** Wake Forest University intranet identification letter, State Board of Elections Memorandum 2012-20