

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2019

The scheduled meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order at 9:00 am on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Present

Board Members:

Sara Champion, Chair
Lee McMinn, Secretary
David P. Morrow
Pam Dashiell
Michael Wainwright

Staff:

Jeff Storey, Director
Bria Bailey, Deputy Director

Visitors: Julia Kennerly

Resolution on One Stop plan for 2019 Municipal

Director Storey presented the resolution to the board providing flexibility to the early voting schedule in the event of legislative changes to one stop dates. The resolution states One Stop will be open the last available Saturday during the early voting period. The board reviewed data on previous early voting turnout and unanimously agreed the One Stop Implementation Plan for the 2019 Municipal will be office hours 8:30 am to 5 pm with the last available Saturday 8:30 am to 1 pm. **Chair Champion moved to approve the resolution and One Stop Implementation Plan as presented. David P. Morrow seconded. The motion was unanimously carried.**

Appointment of precinct officials

The party chairs' remaining recommendations for precinct officials were distributed to the board. The director informed the board there is still need for a Republican Judge in TC1. There was discussion of moving the democrat judge up to Chief Judge. The director indicated he would need to confirm that Wanda Singleton would be willing to accept that responsibility. The board decided to pursue all available options for TC1 and meet again on Monday August 12 at 10 am. **Chair Champion moved to appoint the precinct officials presented in Cathey's Creek, Cedar Mountain, Dunn's Rock, Little River and TC7. Ms. Dashiell seconded. The motion unanimously carried.** The director will work with party chairs for the continued need in TC1.

Resolution regarding certification of equipment

Director Storey presented the draft resolution to the board regarding the State Board certification of voting equipment. Modifications were made to the wording to clearly state the Transylvania County Board of Election's concerns with the certification process and to advocate that certification requirements not be changed to require hand marked ballots only.

Chair Champion moved to approve the resolution with modifications. Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

Board and Public Comment

Secretary McMinn asked for clarification on the voter registration form regarding residency requirements. The front of the form asks the voter is they have lived there for 30 days while the back indicates you must live at your residence at least 30 days prior to Election Day. Mr. McMinn wondered if that causes confusion since incoming college students may believe they have to wait 30 days to register. The students were told they can register if they wish to claim residency on campus since they will meet the 30 days requirements by Election Day. The board did not feel further action was warranted.

In public comments, Julia Kennerly asked where early voting would take place in the Municipal Election with six precincts open for eligible voters within the municipalities. Chair Champion and Director Storey stated it would take place in the Board of Elections' lobby. Brevard #1, Brevard #2, Brevard #3, Brevard #4, Pisgah Forest, and Rosman Eastatooe precinct polling locations will be open on Election Day.

On a motion by Chair Champion, seconded by Ms. Dashiell, the meeting was adjourned at 09:58 am. The next scheduled meeting will be at 10:00 am on August 12, 2019, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee McMinn, Secretary



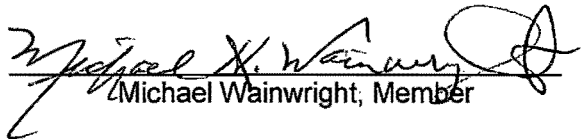
Sara G. Champion, Chair



David P. Morrow, Member



Pam Dashiell, Member



Michael Wainwright, Member

Approved by Board on: 9/5/2019

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Transylvania County Election Center

DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS
Jeff Storey
828-884-3114
Fax: 828-884-8682

150 South Gaston Street
Brevard, NC 28712

RESOLUTION

Concerning 2019 Municipal Election One Stop Plans

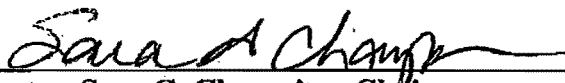
COUNTY OF TRANSYLVANIA

On August 1, 2019, the Transylvania County Board of Elections met at 150 S. Gaston St. Brevard, North Carolina, and adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Transylvania County Board of Elections that:

The Transylvania County Board of Elections will offer One-Stop Early voting, for the 2019 Municipal Elections, in the Board of Elections office only. The hours will be regular office hours 8:30 am – 5:00 pm each weekday and 8:30 am to 1:00 pm the last available Saturday during the early voting period as by North Carolina General Statute.

If General Statute requires Board of Elections to offer more hours than indicated above, the Transylvania County Board of Elections will offer the minimum required by the law.



Sara G. Champion, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Elections

Transylvania County Election Center

RESOLUTION

Concerning Certification of New Equipment

COUNTY OF TRANSYLVANIA

On August 7, 2019, the Transylvania County Board of Elections met at 150 S. Gaston St. Brevard, North Carolina, and adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Transylvania County Board of Elections that:

The Transylvania County Board of Elections unanimously recommends the certification requirements for obtaining new voting equipment **NOT** be changed.

Transylvania County is transitioning to paper ballots based on the decertification of DREs effective December 2019. Having the certification requirements changed in the midst of this transition would pose several difficulties and would increase the cost to the counties to acquire approved equipment to administer the election.

The Election Assistance Commission has certified the equipment nationally with several states using the vendor products in question. Local election officials are knowledgeable, skilled and ready to address security concerns.

Public fears advocating using strictly hand marked ballots do not account for the strenuous logic and accuracy testing done at the county level in North Carolina nor the audits conducted after each Election Day prior to canvass. It would be a false assumption to deem all election officials in our state as non-technical. There are professionals in our field with backgrounds in information technology in addition to election administration. No machine can be considered impenetrable, and vulnerabilities exist for any given system. The key is to minimize the risks involved to an acceptable level. The benefit of using the devices seeking certification outweigh the perceived risks.

Touchscreen devices eliminate the possibility of confusion over voter intent. The output of the selections on a generated paper ballot is verified by the voter before inserting into the tabulator. Rigorous operational and physical security safeguards are in place to minimize risk when installing the coding from the vendor. Extensive logic and accuracy testing addresses concerns regarding the possibility of compromised coding. Each machine is tested individually and in a mock election prior to being approved for use. Equipment is physically sealed and unopened until Election Day. Chain of custody requirements dictate the reporting of any physically compromised machine and seals are verified before, during, and after transport.

Ballot marking devices allow ADA voters to enjoy the same level of participation as non-visually impaired voters. It also reduces the need for wasteful pre-printed paper ballots which becomes costly in low turnout elections.

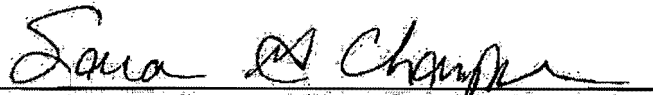
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The alternative would be to spend additional funding for ballot on demand equipment creating another monetary burden on the counties.

In summary, a county should **NOT** be limited to hand marked paper ballot systems. Counties should have the option to move forward with any of the systems currently under consideration if they meet the certification program without modification. Each county should be able to select the equipment best suited to provide a fair, accurate election for its voters.

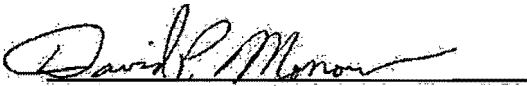


Sara G. Champion, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Elections

ATTEST:



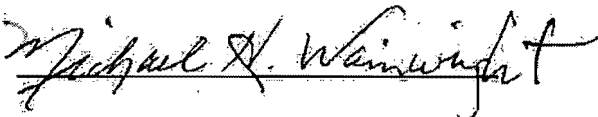
Lee McMinn, Secretary



David P. Morrow, Member



Pamela B. Dashiell, Member



Michael H. Wainwright, Member