

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ABSENTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2020

The scheduled absentee meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 5 pm on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712 and via Zoom electronic meeting.

Present

Board Members:

Staff Members:

Chair: Sara Champion
Secretary: Lee McMinn
David Morrow
Pam Dashiell
Michael Wainwright*

Director: Jeff Storey
Deputy Director: Laura Owen
Deputy Director: Bria Bailey

* Remotely via Zoom

Visitors: None

Review and approval of absentee ballots

Chair Champion reminded the board to call out the CIV number and not the voter name to protect voter privacy when reviewing the absentee envelopes. **Secretary McMinn made the motion to approve 31 civilian absentee applications. The motion unanimously passed. Mr. Morrow made the motion to approve 1 military absentee application. The motion unanimously passed.**

Consideration of request

Chair Champion presented questions to the board regarding an email received from Lynn Bernstein. The email asked if the board would consider making a motion to instruct the chief judges to post a copy of the end of night results tape on a precinct window to help reduce the risk from COVID-19. **Mr. Morrow made a motion to have the board consider the request. The motion unanimously passed.** After board discussion, Chair Champion formulated the response and replied to the sender.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

2nd Primary

Director Storey updated the board that early voting turnout was at 524 as of 3:30 pm with no issues to report. The director has secured AC Janitorial Service for sanitizing the precinct locations prior to Election Day. Canvass for the 2nd primary will be conducted in the large conference room to accommodate proper social distancing and keep staff and board member risk to a minimum. The director mentioned Sean Pumphrey, newly hired by the State Board of Elections, will be on site June 22nd and 23rd to observe our operations. Chair Champion and Director Storey clarified questions regarding the board schedule

Records request

The director updated the board on the records request for absentee data and that it should be completed shortly. The requestor had asked for board minutes, number of absentees approved / disapproved for the 2016 and 2018 elections.

General Election

Director Storey indicated 352 absentee requests have been received for the general election with 50% being new requests. Ballots must be available on September 4, 2020. Transylvania County typically averages around 800 absentee requests for presidential elections. The director indicated an early voting plan is due by the end of July and asked the board to set a date in July to consider one stop plans. The board agreed to meet Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 10 am.

The director mentioned COVID-19 may impact precinct locations for the general election, particularly Brevard #3, Boyd, and East Fork and that precinct locations should be confirmed before the end of August.

Legislative Updates

Chair Champion voiced concerns that photo id could be a factor in November based on the language in the legislative bill. The mentioned that extra workers would be needed if photo id is reimplemented.

Director Storey told the board absentee meetings will begin September 29, 2020.

Multi-partisan Assistance Teams are now recommended by the party and approved by the county board of elections.

Soil and Water Filing

Scott Galloway has filed for soil and water supervisor. The filing period is open until July 6, 2020.

Board Comments

Ms. Dashiell asked about the changes to absentee ballot requests. The director clarified that absentee requests can be emailed, faxed, mailed, or handed in-person by eligible individuals. Absentee ballots are received by mail.

Chair Champion asked the dates for the State Conference. The director stated it was August 3rd and 4th and an agenda has not been published yet.

On a motion by Michael Wainwright, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be at 5 pm on June 22, 2020, 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: AUGUST 6, 2020