

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
PROVISIONAL/ABSENTEE MEETING MINUTES
November 8, 2021

The scheduled meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 10 AM on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Present

Board Members:	Staff Members:
Chair: Sara Champion	Director: Jeff Storey
Secretary: Lee McMinn	Deputy Director: Laura Owen
Sandra Watson	Deputy Director: Julie Dennis
Wendy Warwick	

Visitors: Judith West

Review and Approval of Agenda

Chair Champion asked for review of the agenda. Member Warwick asked for discussion of a question regarding political party mailings to be added to the agenda. There was discussion on the relevancy of the topic to this board. Chair Champion was favorable to adding it to the agenda so that it was included in the minutes. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to modify the agenda to add discussion of party mailings. The motion carried unanimously.**

Review and Count of Provisional Ballots

Deputy Director Owen provided the board with 15 Provisional ballot applications. Reasons with 2 incorrect precinct, 2 jurisdiction disputes, 1 previously removed, 1 unrecognized address (GIS), and 1 unreported move were recommended for approval. Reasons with 1 jurisdiction dispute, 5 no record of registration, and 1 voter already voted were not recommended for approval with research and explanations provided. Deputy Director Owen presented the research to the board for each category. The board held discussions over each category before determining the disposition of the ballot applications. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to approve the 7 provisional applications as presented by staff. The motion unanimously passed.** The Board processed the 7 provisional ballots. There were 7 approved, 7 not approved, and 1 pending upon receipt of supporting documentation for a total of 15.

Supplemental Absentee Ballots

Deputy Director Owen presented the board with the attached list of supplemental absentee applications to consider and approve. There were 18 CIV, and 1 MIL absentee ballots received by the deadline with proper postmarks. **Chair Champion made the motion to approve 18 civilian absentee applications, and 1 military application. The motion unanimously carried.**

Political Party Mailings

Member Warwick informed the board the Republican party had performed a mass mailing recently and received a large amount of returned mail. The question was raised if election staff could use this data. The director answered no because it isn't an official mailing from the election's office. It also brings up several questions as to the data source for the addresses, how current was the data. Member Warwick asked what the office procedure was for dealing with official returned mail. Deputy Director Owen explained that returned official mail prompts a second mailing if a forwarding address is provided (from the post office) to confirm voter status. Returned mail without a forwarding address is flagged in the system and handled during the list maintenance process.

Chair Champion asked what generates a mailing. Deputy Director Owen stated a new or updated voter registration generates a card that is mailed. There is also a procedure in place called the NCOA (National Change of Address) mailing which is performed on voter registrations that have a different mailing address than the originally filed address.

Ms. West asked if the board was taking action on a list provided by the political party and whether staff were researching the addresses on the list. Chair Champion responded no, the board is not taking action on this issue nor are staff resources being utilized. The board is simply addressing the questions raised by Member Warwick. Chair Champion recognized there is public concern with registration books but emphasized there is official processes in place to remove voters.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

The director provided the board with an overview of the canvassing process for tomorrow's meeting where voter history, ballot and vote reconciliations will be presented before certifying the election results.

The director informed the board that staff will update voter registrations to reflect the newly redistricted US House, NC Senate, and NC House seats before candidate filing begins in December. Transylvania County changed from District 48 to District 50 for NC Senate, from District 113 to District 119 for NC House, and from District 11 to District 14 for US House.

Board and Public Comments

Chair Champion asked the director how the sample audit went. Director Storey specified that the Brevard #1 precinct and early voting location were randomly selected by the State Board of Elections for the Brevard Mayor contest. There were no discrepancies between the machine count and hand to eye count. The bi-partisan team tallied 210 ballots in Brevard #1 and 1,413 ballots for early voting. 8 ballots from early voting were not part of the sample audit as they were exclusive to the Board of Alderman contest.

Member Warwick asked about the risk limiting audit. The director indicated it will happen next week and will be open to the public. The director explained in detail the expected process to perform the audit. The State Board has authorized local election staff to conduct the pilot rather than contracting bi-partisan teams. Director Storey indicated that he, and Deputy Directors Owen & Dennis, along with John Noce from the State Board of Elections will be the participants.

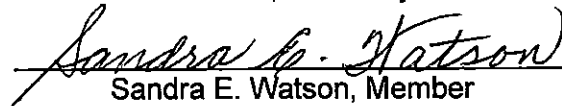
There were no further comments.

On a motion by Secretary McMinn, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be at 11 AM on November 9, 2021, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712 to canvass the Municipal Election.

Respectfully submitted,



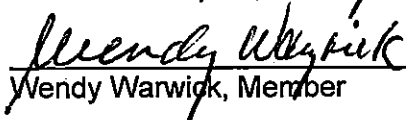
Lee McMinn, Secretary



Sandra E. Watson, Member



Sara G. Champion, Chair



Wendy Warwick, Member

vacant

Approved by Board on: 12/9/2021