

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2022

The regular meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2022, 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	
Judith West	

Visitors: Wally Booth, Barb Jackson, Virginia Pendergrass, Palmer Swanson

Review and Approval of Agenda

Chair Champion asked for a review of the agenda. There were no amendments to the agenda. **Member West made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from May 10, 2022, through May 27, 2022. There were minor updates made to the May 10 and May 27 minutes. **Member West made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes for May 10, May 16, May 17, May 26, and May 27, 2022, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

Absentee Board Meeting Schedule for 2022G

The absentee board meeting schedule for the 2022 General Election was reviewed by the Board. Chair Champion noted the regular meeting in October was moved to coincide with the absentee board meeting schedule. **Chair Champion made a motion to approve the absentee board meeting schedule for the 2022 General Election. The motion carried unanimously.**

One-stop Implementation Plan for 2022G

Chair Champion asked the director to present the guidelines for determining the one stop implementation plan. Director Storey discussed the options for even numbered years and provided the board members with early voting turnout data for the 2018 and 2020 General elections and the 2022 Primary. Member Watson felt the inflexible scheduling for weekday evening hours during low turnout was problematic. Member Warwick asked if the turnout numbers supported the suggested hours for the first two Saturdays. The director felt it was

warranted given the increased interest, contested races, and only having one site. Director Storey felt the numerous changes in early voting hours from previous mid-term elections made comparisons to previous turnout data difficult. Member West felt strongly that all three Saturdays should be open for making voting as accessible as possible to the public. Member Warwick was concerned with retaining one stop workers for long early voting hours. Member West felt the Board should not make decisions based on work schedule issues. Member Warwick asked the director if any negative feedback was received from the primary because of being closed on the first Saturday. The answer was no. Member Watson stated turnout was low on Saturday afternoons and suggested 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Discussion continued amongst the board. The director suggested that if voters did not show up for the proposed hours, the data would be available for the board to decide for future mid-terms. Chair Champion called for a motion to approve the proposed one stop implementation plan. Member Watson asked to amend the proposed plan to make all three Saturdays close at the same time. **Member Warwick made a motion to amend the one stop implementation plan to change the first two Saturdays to close at 3 p.m. rather than 4 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Champion made a motion to approve the one stop implementation plan as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Director Storey provided the board with updates regarding the *Disability Rights NC v NC State Board of Elections* ruling that allows an absentee voter who needs assistance voting due to a disability to get assistance from any person of their choice. The ruling applies to all aspects of the absentee voting process including requesting a ballot, marking a ballot, and returning a ballot.

The state conference will be August 30 and 31 and held virtually in the Election Center training room. The director will register board and staff members. Director Storey will also attend a national recertification class and conference on August 19 – 23.

BOARD AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Champion discussed the calendar for the remainder of 2022. Chair Champion indicated she may not be available for the August 11th board meeting. Ms. Jackson asked about volunteering for the Multi-partisan Assistance Team (MAT). The director invited Ms. Jackson to meet with Deputy Director Owen at the conclusion of the meeting. Member Warwick praised Deputy Director Owen's MAT team training and education. Mr. Swanson stated feedback received from early voting workers indicated it was long and stressful and voiced concerns workers would continue. The director indicated the minimal feedback received dealt with hours on Election Day and rudeness of voters. Chair Champion and Member West suggested training for workers that addresses how to handle irate, rude, or disgruntled voters. Having members of the board who were experienced in that field, the director indicated an interest in having input for that training. Observer protocol and cell phone usage were also brought up. The director indicated those are covered in precinct training each election. There were no further comments.

On a motion by Member West, the meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be at 10 a.m. on August 11, 2022, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Champion
Sara G. Champion, Chair

Wendy Warwick
Wendy Warwick, Member

Lee McMinn
Lee McMinn, Secretary

Sandra E. Watson
Sandra E. Watson, Member

Judith West
Judith West, Member

Approved by Board on: 8-11-2022