

## TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2022

The regular meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

#### Present

##### Board Members:

Chair: Sara Champion

Secretary: Lee McMinn  
Sandra Watson  
Wendy Warwick  
Judith West

##### Staff Members:

Director: Jeff Storey

Deputy Director: Laura Owen  
Deputy Director: Julie Dennis

Visitors: Sam Edney, Bernie Groseclose, Barb Jackson, Herschel Johnson, Palmer Swanson

#### Review and Approval of Agenda

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

#### Precinct Official Appointments

Director Storey presented the board with additional Election Day precinct recommendations from the local political parties and for recent vacancies due to health reasons. The director informed the board through coordination with Professor Kale at Brevard College, there were 11 students interested in serving on Election Day. The professor and Director Storey are working out the details. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to approve the recommended precinct officials as presented for Brevard #3, Brevard #4, Boyd, Cathey's Creek, Dunn's Rock, Little River, Pisgah Forest, TC1, TC7 and WC. The motion unanimously carried.**

#### **DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Director Storey briefed the public on the state conference attended by the board and staff. Follow up for emergency planning will include a meeting with Police Chief Jordan and Sheriff Mahoney.

The director gave the board and public an overview of the national conference topics including voter outreach, best practices, election resources and a system the state board is considering called Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) used by over 30 states.

Director Storey updated the board on training dates, precinct workers, logic and accuracy testing, mock election testing, and absentee by mail. The director stated 193 absentee ballots are currently scheduled to be mailed September 9, 2022.

The director briefed the board about limited parking for early voting and asked that canopies not be allowed in parking spaces. **On a motion by Member West, the board agreed to prohibit canopies in the parking lot and give the parties a designated space in grassy areas outside of the 50-foot electioneering barrier. The motion passed unanimously.**

The director asked board members if they were agreeable to modifying the board payroll schedule from quarterly to bi-weekly to coincide with staff payroll and work better within the constraints of the payroll system. **Member Warwick made a motion to modify the board payroll schedule to coincide with staff payroll. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **BOARD AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Board members gave feedback regarding the participation in the state conference. Member Warwick issued a statement regarding precinct worker safety. Ms. Warwick felt the board and staff received good instructions from state and local authorities regarding polling site safety and that it will be a continued emphasis in training as needed. Chair Champion agreed that poll worker and voter safety is a focal point and added the pocket cards given to security personnel explaining election procedures, perceptions, and awareness of uniformed officers present at polling sites was a beneficial tool.

Member West asked the director about the volume of records requests. The director stated there has been an increase in records requests and in particular requests for cast vote records. Cast vote records are considered confidential in North Carolina according to general counsel from the State Board of Elections and not releasable to the public. The director indicated requests have also been received to retain 2020 General election data beyond the retention period. Regardless, there are no plans to remove any materials until at least 2023. The director is happy to address any questions or concerns with the general public.

Member Warwick asked about cell phone usage in the precincts. The director went through the policy and what is included in training. There was discussion over several operational procedures and what was included in training.

Herschel Johnson asked if there was a heightened sense of security concerns for this election. The director stated there was a heightened awareness nationally as portrayed by the news outlets but no direct concerns or issues regarding the county. There have been enough conversations and questions amongst workers to warrant a discussion from the board and staff to address any concerns.

Barb Jackson asked if there was a shortage of registration forms. The director acknowledged there are paper shortages nationally, but the office had enough supplies for the duration of the election.

Chair Champion asked if there have been any requests for a multi-partisan assistance team. The director answered no requests have been received to date.

On a motion by Secretary McMinn, the meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be at 5 p.m. on October 4, 2022, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

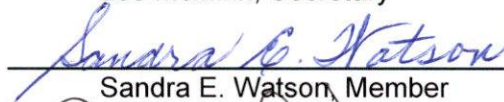
Respectfully submitted,



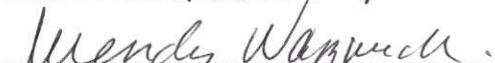
Lee McMinn, Secretary



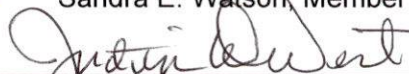
Sara G. Champion, Chair



Sandra E. Watson, Member



Wendy Warwick, Member



Judith West, Member

Approved by Board on: 2-9-2023