

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
January 11, 2024

Chair Champion called the meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections to order at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

**Attendance**

Board Members:	Staff Members:
Chair: Sara Champion	Director: Jeff Storey
Secretary: Judith West	Deputy Director: Laura Owen
Sandra Watson	Deputy Director: Julie Dennis
Wendy Warwick	
Nona Walker	

Visitors: Jeff Brewer, Barb Jackson, Herschel Johnson, Catherine Maloney, Rich Warwick, Kathy Voltz.

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

**On a motion by Member Warwick, the board unanimously approved the agenda.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Voltz asked about the status of SB749 regarding organizational structure of the board. Chair Champion responded an injunction is in place meaning the current board remains while the lawsuit goes through the court system.

Mr. Brewer requested the board consider a third early voting site for the general election to aid in minimizing congestion with the anticipated turnout.

Ms. Jackson asked about resources for voter registration drives.

**Review and Approval of Previous Minutes**

The board reviewed minutes for the previous board meeting. **On a motion by Chair Champion, the minutes were unanimously approved.**

**Approved: Dec. 14, 2023**

**Precinct Official Appointments and Modifications**

Director Storey provided suggested recommendations for precinct official vacancies for Boyd, Cedar Mountain, Rosman Eastatoe, and TC1. **On a motion by Member West, election day officials were unanimously approved (attached).**

## **Preliminary Review of FY 24-25 Budget**

The Board reviewed projected costs for one or more additional early voting sites for the 2024 General Election. Questions were raised during board discussion to identify the problem trying to be solved by adding a third site. Is there an impediment to voting? Are there viable locations for an additional site? Discussion over possible locations for an additional site included Quebec Community Center, Lake Toxaway Community Center, Public Safety Facility Training Room, the old Bi-Lo grocery store, and Pisgah Forest Recreation Center. Board members expressed an interest in gathering early voting turnout data to compare to registration numbers by location, if possible and agreed to readdress in a future meeting.

Director Storey asked the board for guidance with regards to additional early voting sites and budget preparation. The Board reviewed the preliminary draft for the next fiscal year and decided it a safe assumption to include a minimum of two early voting sites in the budget.

### **DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Director Storey provided updates on the ExpressVote printers. Expectation is they will be available for the primary.

The director will attend a photo ID / voter registration drive event today at 1:30 p.m. Students from Davidson River School asked for assistance. The Transylvania Times will provide a story on the event and will mention the public seminar on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 hosted at the Election Center for a photo ID and public education seminar. Deputy Director Dennis has reached out to the admin for the We are Brevard social media page about posting election related events on their site. The director will also seek other opportunities for advertising.

An updated 2024 board calendar was provided for review and a separate board calendar for a potential 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary. It was noted some contests could make a 2<sup>nd</sup> primary more likely, particularly an eleven-candidate race for one seat. The board asked about an early voting plan for a second primary. The director responded that historically, early voting for 2<sup>nd</sup> primaries were conducted at the office during business hours and the last Saturday. The board felt that reasonable and asked the director to draft a preliminary plan to approve at a future meeting.

The director informed the board absentee ballots will be available on January 19 with sample ballots available now.

The board discussed attendance and logistics for the February and August state conferences. An agenda will be provided shortly.

Director Storey reported the passing of former board member John Barker and will attend a memorial service for him at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Mr. Barker was an outstanding board member and public servant.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

**On a motion by Member Watson, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.** The next scheduled meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712 to review absentee ballots.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Champion  
Sara G. Champion, Chair

Wendy Warwick  
Wendy Warwick, Member

Judith West  
Judith West, Secretary

Sandra E. Watson  
Sandra E. Watson, Member

Nora Walker  
Nora Walker, Member

Approved by Board on: 2/6/24

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**ABSENTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
January 30, 2024

Chair Champion called the absentee meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections to order at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

**Attendance**

Board Members:	Staff Members:
Secretary: Judith West Wendy Warwick Nona Walker	Director: Jeff Storey Deputy Director: Julie Dennis

Visitors: None

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

**On a motion by Member Walker, the board unanimously approved the agenda.**

**Review and Approval of Received Absentee Ballots**

Director Storey presented the board with 1 CIV absentee application to consider and approve. **Member Walker made the motion to approve the executed absentee ballot. The motion carried unanimously.**

Approved: 1 CIV

**Precinct Official Appointments and Modifications**

Director Storey provided suggested recommendations for precinct official vacancies for Boyd, East Fork, Pisgah Forest, Rosman Eastatoe, and TC1. **On a motion by Member West, election day officials were unanimously approved (attached).**

**DIRECTOR UPDATES**

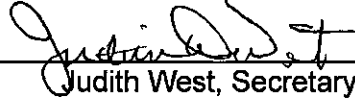
The director indicated the first night of three precinct trainings this week went well. There will also be a public photo ID event on Thursday evening from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Last week, the office hosted the sheriff, chief of police, fire and emergency management, information technology, and communications staff for a virtual statewide emergency services tabletop exercise.


**BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Storey provided the board with the agenda for the State Board of Elections Winter Conference. The board discussed the travel itinerary and attendance plans for the breakout sessions.

On a motion by Member Warwick, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be at 5 p.m. on February 6, 2024, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Judith West, Secretary

  
Sara G. Champion, Chair

Sandra E. Watson, Member

  
Wendy Warwick, Member

  
Nona Walker, Member

Approved by Board on: 2/4/24