

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2024

Chair Champion called the meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections to order at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 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: Barb Jackson

Review and Approval of Agenda

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS : None

Review and Approval of Early Voting Rosters

Director Storey submitted the recommended lists reviewed by the political parties for early voting workers. A question was raised regarding Jayne Mallwitz and whether she was involved with a candidate campaign. The Board asked the director to confirm the qualifications for Ms. Mallwitz and agreed to appoint with the contingency she is qualified to serve. There were no further questions regarding recommended workers. **On a motion by Member West, the Board unanimously approved the early voter rosters.** The Board asked the director to submit a follow-up letter to the party chairs regarding worker qualifications.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Director Storey provided updates on the county commissioner vacancy. Chase McKelvey was selected to serve as the interim county commissioner and is the presumptive republican nominee for the unexpired term. The director is still awaiting official notification from the party before placing Mr. McKelvey on the ballot. The Democratic party will be meeting next week to select their nominee. Director Storey stated both parties were asked to submit their nominees by August 2, 2024.

The director indicated a democratic candidate, Meg Lebeck, had withdrawn her candidacy for the board of education. The Democratic party can nominate a replacement to be on the ballot and would need to have that recommendation submitted by August 2, 2024.

Director Storey presented the Board with a consolidated "Lessons Learned" from the primaries where election officials provided feedback for training, supplies, and procedures. The Board reviewed the data and provided additional feedback on unreported moves, voter education, and shift work.

The director updated the Board on upcoming events. Staff will be going to "College Walk" and the Sharing House for photo ID events in July and August. The Election Center will be hosting a group from the library on July 24 that gives the public a demonstration of the voting equipment and election procedures.

Director Storey stated the District 1 meeting went well last Monday and noted there are 3 new directors amongst the 12 counties who have not worked in a presidential election before. Topics on the agenda included electronic pollbooks, training, and administrative procedures.

The director briefed the Board on election preparations including MAT teams, early voting, election day officials, and precinct signage. Election day recommended appointments to fill vacancies will be presented to the Board at the August meeting.

Director Storey attended the Henderson County voter signature matching pilot and provided details to the Board on the experience. The event is a result of Senate Bill 88 extending the pilot for the fall election. Staffing, funding, and the digital signature issues were of concern. The software handled handwritten signature matching without incident.

BOARD COMMENTS

The Board reviewed the updated calendar of events and held a discussion on the time and number of absentee meetings. The Board suggested holding the meetings at 3 p.m. to accommodate an anticipated larger volume of absentee by mail. **On a motion by the chair, the Board unanimously approved moving the scheduled absentee meetings to 3 p.m. for the 2024 general election.** The Board also moved the September 12 regular meeting date to September 5 in order to have a quorum. The director will update the calendar and give proper notification.

Member Warwick asked about the proceedings regarding the new political parties. Director Storey indicated the Constitution party had been recognized by the State Board of Elections with decisions on the Justice for All and We the People petitions deferred.

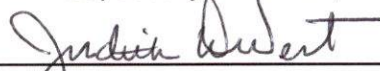
Member Watson stated that former board member Pam Dashiell has moved out of the county and asked the Board to consider drafting correspondence with well wishes. The director will coordinate with Member Watson.

The Board and staff discussed logistics for the upcoming state conference to be held August 4-6, 2024.

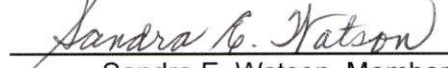
There were no further comments.

On a motion by Chair Champion, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be at 10 a.m. on August 8, 2024, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith West, Secretary



Sandra E. Watson, Member

Nona Walker, Member



Sara G. Champion, Chair



Wendy Warwick, Member

Approved by Board on: AUG 08, 2024