

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING – VIRTUAL GoToMeeting
984-D Thompson St., Pittsboro, NC 27312
May 19, 2020–5:30 P.M.**

The Chatham County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections office 984-D Thompson Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on May 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting for the regular scheduled meeting. Citizens were given the opportunity to listen only. Prior to the meeting citizens were instructed to email the Director of elections with comments or concerns to be addressed during the citizens input section on the agenda. The following people were present, Chair Laura Heise, Secretary Charles Ramos (remotely), Member Amy Meek, Member Brian Bock, Member Mark Barroso, Director Pandora Paschal, and Deputy Director Steve Simos.

Chair Laura Heise led everyone in a moment of silence. Afterwards, she led everyone in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag

Chair Laura Heise called the meeting to order by welcoming citizens via GoToMeeting.

The board addressed an emailed comment sent in by a citizen who wanted to know if the state would be going to all mail in voting. Deputy Director, Steve Simos stated that North Carolina would not be going to all mail in voting for the November 3, 2020 election due to time restraints for implementation.

The board approved the minutes from the March 17, 2020 meeting. Amy Meek made the motion, and Brian Bock seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Director Pandora Paschal gave the board an review of the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) which would award North Carolina \$10,897,295.00 to conduct elections in all 100 counties in the state if the state provided a 20% match, which would be \$2,179,459.00. These funds would aid counties in purchasing supplies that would ensure voters and election workers protection from the possibility of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Currently the availability status of these funds will not be known until the General Assembly meet and approve the match.

There were no legislative updates at this time. The Executive Director of the State Board of Elections made some requests to the General Assembly to expand options for absentee requests, reduce or eliminate the witness requirement for absentee ballots, modify restrictions on assistance in care facilities, expand the student poll worker program, eliminate the requirement that a majority of poll workers reside in the precinct, and modify one-stop site and hour requirements. These request are pending General Assembly approval.

The staff has contacted election officials who worked in the Primary Election to see if they are willing to work in the November 3, 2020 election as we continue to deal with the COVID-19

pandemic. Half responded and are willing to work. Election officials will be sought by encouraging county employees, and student election assistants to work.

The board has determined the four early voting sites that have been used in the past will remain in place for now, and staff will search for a possible fifth site in the Northeastern part of the county. The board will adopt a final plan at a future meeting.

The board is expecting an increase in absentee voting by mail, therefore more money for printing, postage, and additional staff will be needed. Funding for these additions will come from the CARES Act funds if approved.

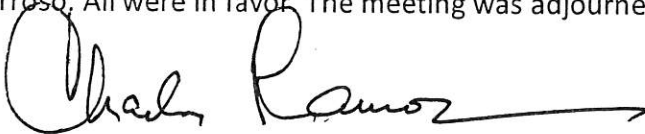
Deputy Director Steve Simos, reminded the board of the importance of each member being in attendance at absentee meetings to ensure the board is in agreement with any approval decisions that are made to avoid unnecessary scrutiny from the public.

Counties has been asked by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections to seek larger buildings for early voting and Election Day Voting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will ensure proper social distancing to assist in not spreading the virus.

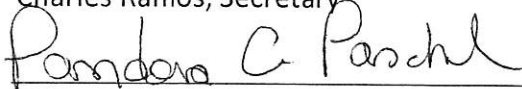
The Board of Elections is reaching out to the Board of Education to ask them to use school gymnasiums for voting in the November 3, 2020 election, since there is a school located in close proximity of each polling place. Also, the board is asking them to adjust their calendar to allow for school to be closed on Election Day for the safety of staff and students.

Chair Laura Heise asked the staff to talk about election security at the next board meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Amy Meek. The motion was seconded by Mark Barroso. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.



Charles Ramos, Secretary



Pandora Paschal, Attest