

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
REGULAR MEETING – VIRTUAL GoToMeeting  
984-D Thompson St., Pittsboro, NC 27312  
July 21, 2020–5:30 P.M.**

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The Chatham County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections office 984-D Thompson Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on July 21, 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, Member Amy Meek (remotely), Member Mark Barroso, Member, Frank Dunphy II, Director Pandora Paschal, and Deputy Director Steve Simos.

Secretary Charles Ramos led everyone in a moment of silence. Afterwards, he 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 emailed citizen's comments were addressed by the Director.

There were approximately 55 comments. Among some of the things citizens were advocating for were, absentee ballot drop boxes, robust early voting sites and hours, younger poll workers, sites larger enough for social distancing, and voter's safety. Approximately 40 citizens advocated for Sunday voting.

The Board approved minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting. Charles Ramos made the motion to approve the minutes, and Amy Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor. New member Frank Dunphy II, abstained from voting.

New member Frank R. Dunphy, II, was sworn in by Clerk of Court Dana Hackney.

#### Early Voting Sites

The following early voting sites were presented to the Board for discussion:

1. Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Ave., Goldston, NC 27252
2. Paul Braxton Gymnasium – 115 S. 3rd Ave., Siler City, NC 27344
3. Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center – 1192 US-64 Business, Pittsboro, NC 27312
4. Central Carolina Community College Health Science Center – 75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro, NC 27312
5. New - The Bold Building – 41050 Moring Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

6. New - New Hope Baptist Church – 581 New Hope Church Rd., Apex, NC 27523

Laura Heise, Chair, stated normally Chatham County has four early voting sites which accommodates Chatham County voters, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic she believes adding more places to vote would aid with proper social distancing and if people take advantage of early voting this would help with easing crowds on Election Day. Frank Dunphy II, Member stated that voters still had the option to request absentee ballots and vote curbside. Mark Barroso, Member, thought the site at the Bold Building would capture commuters who travel to and from work in that area. Charles Ramos, Secretary, stated he thought the two additional sites were both great sites for voting.

Charles Ramos made the motion to approve all six sites for early voting for the November 3, 2020 election. Laura Heise seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2020 Early Voting Plan

The Board were presented with four options for early voting dates and times. The options were made prior to receiving the Executive Director's Emergency orders for early voting plans. The plan stated each option should contain at least ten hours of voting on the first two weekends.

Charles Ramos chose option one stating that he did not want Sunday voting for religious reasons. He believes that Sunday is a day of rest and it should be spent with family. Amy Meek chose option 2 stating for public health and safety it would be good for voters to have three hours on Sunday to vote. Frank Dunphy chose option three with 9 hours on Saturday and no Sunday hours; adding 1 hour to Saturday to make the ten hour requirement. Mark Barroso chose option two with 7 hours on Saturday and 3 hours on Sunday. Laura Heise chose option 2 as well citing the number of voters drops off later in the afternoon on Saturdays, justifying having the 3 hours on Sunday. Frank Dunphy asked if there was data to prove this, and Amy Meek said there was data taken in 2016 election that proved Laura's point.

Mark Barroso made the motion to approve option 2 with ten hours of weekend voting. Seven hours on Saturday and three hours on Sunday. Mark Barroso, Laura Heise, Amy Meek voted yes. Charles Ramos and Frank Dunphy II voted no.

Frank Dunphy II made the motion to approve option three with ten hours on Saturday and no Sunday voting. Frank Dunphy II and Charles Ramos voted yes. Laura Heise, Amy Meek, and Mark Barroso voted no.

The Boards votes for one stop plans will be sent to the State Board of Elections since there was no unanimous decision.

## 2020 Election Day Plan

The Board adopted a resolution to move the following five (5) precincts to another building out of precinct in order to maintain proper social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic: #3 Albright, #15 Bynum, #21 Hadley, #24, Harpers Crossroads and #45 Oakland.

The Board adopted a resolution to Temporarily Move nine (9) voting sites to larger buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic for health and safety concerns of voters and election officials. The precincts are as follows: #6 Bennett, #9 Bonlee, #18 Goldston, #20 Three Rivers, #24 Harpers Crossroads, #30 Hickory Mountain, #MCH110 Manns Chapel, #ESC114 East Siler City, and #NWM117 North Williams.

The Board made a unanimous decision to adopt both resolutions for altering 14 out 18 Chatham County precincts for the November 3, 2020 election. Four (4) precincts will have voting at their current site: New Hope, West Siler City, East Williams, and West Williams

Deputy Director Steve Simos gave an update of how many absentee ballot request have been received in the office through July 21, 2020. There have been 2, 844 Civilians, 110 Military and Overseas. The office is averaging 100 requests per day.

Member Frank Dunphy II stated that the fax machine in the elections office had been out for about two weeks and the absentee ballot request form should be updated to reflect the State Board of Elections fax number until the Chatham County Board of elections fax machine line is repaired by the service.

Member Frank Dunphy II mentioned for the meeting minutes that there were names of poll workers on a list with their party listed as Republican, but they are registered as unaffiliated in the state database of registered voters. The Director had already addressed these issues in an email to Chatham County Republican Party Chairman Terry Schmidt, which Frank Dunphy II and Charles Ramos were copied.

Board member, Frank Dunphy II, inquired about Multi-partisan Assistance Teams (MAT) which are paid election worker positions. Upon request of disabled voters, the Board of Elections staff will send a team consisting of one Democrat and one Republican volunteer to help a disabled person vote at his/her home address.

Director Pandora Paschal reminded Board members to register for the virtual training hosted by the State Board of Elections on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> before the deadline on Friday, July 24, 2020.

The Board was given a schedule with Board meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

Board member, Amy Meek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles Ramos seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Charles Ramos

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Charles Ramos, Secretary

Pandora Paschal

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Attest, Pandora Paschal, Director