

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS ABSENTEE MEETING

Chatham County Board of Elections Office

984 Thompson Street, Suite F

Pittsboro, NC 27312

Live Streamed by TaJTalk.com

October 27, 2020 - 5:00 P.M.

The Chatham County Board of Elections met at the Chatham County Board of Elections office at 984 Thompson Street Suite F, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on October 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via live stream video provided by TaJTalk to conduct the business of counting absentee ballots for the November 3, 2020 election. Citizens were given the opportunity to listen only.

The following people were present: Chair Laura Heise, Secretary Charles Ramos, Member Amy Meek, Member Frank Dunphy II, Member Mark Barroso, Director Pandora Paschal, Deputy Director Steve Simos, Election Specialist Chance Mashburn, temporary employee Donald Lyerly, and videographer Aaron Hall.

Call to Order

Chair Laura Heise called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Chair Laura Heise asked if anyone had anything to add to the agenda. There were no changes or additions.

Secretary Charles Ramos led the group in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Chair Laura Heise asked Director Pandora Paschal how early voting was going throughout the county. Director Paschal stated that voting was going great. We have had minimal complaints and no major issues. Currently Chatham County has the highest voter turnout in the state. 34,737 voters have voted early and by mail.

Secretary Charles Ramos was concerned about voters going to the wrong polling place to vote on Election Day since there were changes to 14 polling places for the upcoming election. Director Paschal assured him that voters were sent mailing to let them know where to vote, and that there would be signage at the old polling place to direct them to the new polling place for this election.

Director Paschal was approached by the Hispanic Liaison about placing Spanish sample ballots produced by them in the polling places for Latino voters who may have language barriers. They asked permission from the State Board of Elections but had not gotten approval of the ballots. Director Paschal asked the board what their thoughts were about these sample ballots being placed in the polling places. The board discussed the issue and agreed that since approval was not given by the State Board of Elections the sample ballots should be given to the voters outside the 50 ft. buffer zone.

Approve Ballots

The board members that were present signed the tapes and examined the ballot box before approving ballots for this meeting.

Beginning count machine #1 – 2985

Beginning count machine #2 – 3348

Beginning count machine #3 – 3819

There were 848 civilian ballots, 6 military, and 18 overseas ballots for approval for this meeting.

Approve Civilian Absentee Ballots

The board reviewed the civilian absentee envelopes to ensure that required signatures for the voter, the witness and the person assisting if needed were provided before approval.

Member Mark Barroso made the motion to approve the 848 civilian ballots. Chair Laura Heise seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Board members and staff proceeded to open the approved ballot envelopes.

Early Voting Applications

The board reviewed the early voting applications from all early voting sites from October 23, 2020 – October 26, 2020. Chair Laura Heise made the motion to the approve early voting applications for October 23, 2020 – October 26, 2020. Member Frank Dunphy II seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Military/Overseas ballots

The board reviewed the 6 military and the 18 overseas ballots that the staff replicated prior to the meeting. Member Mark Barroso made the motion to approve the 6 military ballots. Secretary Charles Ramos seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Chair Laura Heise made the motion to approve the 18 overseas ballots. Member Frank Dunphy II seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

All ballots were fed into the tabulator for counting.

Ending count on machine #1 – 3255

Ending count on machine #2 – 3630

Ending count on machine #3 – 4139

Chair Laura Heise made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Charles Ramos seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Charles Ramos

2/16/21

Charles Ramos, Secretary

Pandora Paschal

2/16/21

Pandora Paschal, Attest