

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

Chatham County Board of Elections Office

984 Thompson Street

Pittsboro, NC 27312

GoToMeeting

December 15, 2020 – 5:30 P.M.

The Chatham County Board of Elections met at the Chatham County Board of Elections office at 984 Thompson Street Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on December 15, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting. 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, and Election Specialist Chance Mashburn.

Call to Order

Chair Laura Heise called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed the public. There was no public input for this meeting. Secretary Charles Ramos led everyone in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Approve Minutes

The Director presented the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes for approval. Chair Heise requested some changes. The amended minutes will be included on the next meeting agenda.

The October and November 2020 minutes will be emailed to the Board for review prior to the January 19, 2021 meeting.

November 3, 2020 Election Comments or Concerns

Chair Heise asked if there were any comments about the November 3, 2020 election. She praised the staff, poll workers, county government and all others who contributed to a successful election in the face of Covid-19 and cyber challenges.

Deputy Director Simos presented the staff's exhibit findings sent to the attorneys involved in the Beasley campaign committee protest for investigators to review before deciding whether to move forward with the protest hearing with the Board of Elections scheduled for December 11, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Chatham County Agriculture Conference Center.

In addition, Deputy Director Simos reported that two voters, who initially appeared to have voted twice, did not vote twice. There was no double voting. Member Mark Barroso praised county voters for only voting once.

Per a Board request, Deputy Director Simos presented the final absentee ballot statistics for the November 3, 2020 general election.

Board Members Ramos and Dunphy asserted that information transmitted from our BOE staff to Attorneys representing Chief Justice Cherie Beasley was not shared. Beasley Attorneys were using said information to prosecute a "Protest" scheduled for December 11, 2020. The "Protest" was a Quasi-Judicial Hearing challenging the Chief Justice election result.

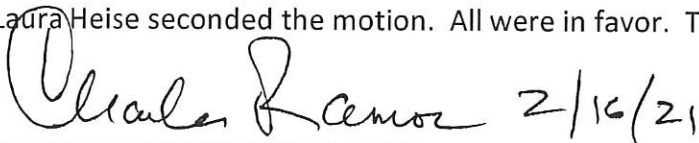
All Members were expected to vote after deliberation by Beasley Attorneys. Said Members received no information transmitted from the BOE staff to Beasley Attorneys before the hearing, handicapping their knowledge to render an informed vote in the upcoming hearing. The transmitted information should have been shared with all Board Members. Finally, at 12:45 p.m. December 10, 2020 and, only after the Beasley Attorneys cancelled the hearing, the BOE staff distributed to the full Board their summary of protest findings shared with the Beasley Attorneys. The County Board *duty* is to determine if probable cause exists to believe if a violation of election law or irregularity or misconduct occurred in accordance with G.S. 163-182.10, **Consideration of protest by county board of elections** ((a); page 214 of Election and Related Laws and Rules of North Carolina, 2019 Edition.

The Board and staff robustly discussed their objection. The staff felt it did not purposely withhold information and was not non-compliant with Members Ramos and Dunphy's information request.

Staffing and Salaries

The Director moved this topic to the January 19, 2021 regular Board meeting.

As there was no other Board business, Mark Barroso made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Laura Heise seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

 2/16/21

Charles Ramos, Secretary

 2/16/21

Pandora Paschal, Attest