

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

Chatham County Board of Elections Office
984 Thompson Street, Suite D
Pittsboro, NC 27312
GoToMeeting

Recorded meeting is available at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs/board-of-elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

November 16, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

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.

Secretary Ramos led everyone in a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Call to Order

Chair Heise called the meeting to order stating that this is a regular meeting. Chair Heise stated there was a quorum to conduct the meeting. Five members were present as stated above.

Public Input

Chair Heise gave the citizens who were on live stream the opportunity to make comments or voice any concerns they may have. Victoria Shea sent an email to the Director prior to the meeting asking to address the board. She was given the opportunity to make comments about early voting plans for the Primary to be held in 2022. She strongly encouraged the board to include Sunday voting in their plans (for full discussion see taped meeting on 11/16/2021 at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>).

New Business

Approve Minutes

Member Barroso made the motion to approve the minutes from November 8, 2021 & November 9, 2021, meeting minutes. Member Dunphy II stated he would approve the minutes from November 8, 2021. Member Mark Barroso stated he did hear an objection, so he withdrew his motion. Chair Heise asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 8, 2021. Member Dunphy II made the motion. Member Barroso seconded the motion. All were in favor (Vote 5-0). Member Dunphy II had a question about the dates of the December meeting and about the North Williams Democratic party judge appointment for the North Williams precinct in the November 9, 2021, minutes. Member Meek made the motion to approve the

minutes for the November 9, 2021, minutes. Secretary Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor (vote 5-0).

Post-Election Review

Chair Heise stated that the post-election review is something the board does shortly after canvassing an election to determine what went well, what didn't go well and what we could do better. Chair Heise asked the staff to give their thoughts first. Director Paschal stated there were no major issues or concerns. In the office, some administrative procedures could be more organized during board meetings. The ballot we thought had not been counted was found mixed in the one stop applications. She suggested that we handle one stack at the time and move slower with the process to avoid this happening again. Deputy Director Simos explained how we should streamline the process with approving one stop applications, absentee ballot envelopes, and any military or overseas ballots that are emailed. Director Paschal suggested hiring temporary staff to work as a bipartisan team to perform daily audits in the office during the early voting period so it would not disrupt the duties of the staff. Election Specialist Mashburn thought the election went well.

Member Dunphy II asked a question about processes. He stated that on the November 9, 2021 minutes the board approved a judge for the North Williams precinct and it is documented in the minutes for perpetuity. His question to the board was where was the notice announcing how we select early voting workers, where was the roster documenting the selection of early voting workers, and where are the minutes publicly documenting the early voting workers and how they are selected? Director Paschal asked for clarification of the question. Member Dunphy II stated he wanted the information for the March 2022 Primary. Director Pandora Paschal stated the information is not yet available. Directors Paschal and Deputy Director Simos further stated that there would be no board vote or posted list of selected early voting workers. Member Dunphy II was reminded of the agreement made in a previous meeting about the selection of early voting workers (for the full discussion see the taped 11/16/2021 meeting at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>).


Chair Laura Heise thanked the staff for conducting the election. She asked the staff for any suggestions on how to promote voting for better turnout. Member Dunphy II commended Director Paschal and Deputy Director Simos for being honest, transparent, and having integrity for alerting the board of an issue with not counting an absentee ballot.

Discuss Early Voting Plans for Primary 2022

Director Paschal stated to the public that the board would not take a final vote on early voting plans at this meeting. The final vote will come at the December 14, 2021 meeting. She asked that anyone interested in giving their comments or concerns to email her or the board. Member Barroso asked the staff to obtain data to see how many people voted on each Sunday that the sites were open, and to obtain daily data for the 2020 Primary. Member Barroso asked if cost was an issue. Director Paschal stated cost was not an issue if the board votes to

have Sunday voting. Sunday voting was not budgeted for the 2022 Primary election. Member Dunphy II suggested putting on the agenda to discuss how to obtain a multipurpose building on the 15-501 corridor in the northern part of the county that could be used for voting and other venues as needed. Member Barroso stated that the building would need to have more than one use, and that it would take people from neighborhoods to advocate for building a community center. (For the full discussion see the taped meeting on 11/16/2021 at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>). The board decided to invite the Human Resource Director/Assistant Manager to the December 14, 2021 meeting to explore the possibilities of obtaining a multipurpose building in the northern quadrant of the county that could be used for early voting, and to ask any other questions they may have pertaining to election administration (for the full discussion see the taped meeting on 11/16/2021 at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>).

Member Barroso made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Dunphy II seconded the motion. All were in favor (Vote 5-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.



Charles Ramos, Secretary



Pandora Paschal, Attest