

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

CANVASS

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>

May 27, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.

Attendees:

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

Call to Order

After a moment of silence and pledge of allegiance, Chair Heise called the meeting to order to CANVASS the votes for the May 17, 2022 Primary Elections. She stated there was a quorum to present to conduct board business.

New Business

Complete Abstract for Official Results

Director Paschal explained that the results were uploaded in the presence of the board on May 26, 2022 at the Absentee/Supplemental meeting. There were 22 Provisional ballots counted, and 109 Supplemental Absentee ballots counted. These totals were added making the election results official. The Abstract Cover Sheet, the results by precinct, and the results by contest was printed May 27, 2022, prior to the meeting. There were 16,220 ballots cast for this election, and Chatham County had a 27.71% voter turnout. Chair Heise asked the board if they were comfortable with accepting these results before signing the official abstract of votes. The board requested to see results by precinct.

Director Paschal explained why manual edits were made to the results in East Siler City precinct and in the East Williams precinct. There were 2 voters identified in the town of Siler City and 2 voters in the town of Cary Municipalities that were eligible to vote in the town elections but were not put in the municipality when staff entered their jurisdictions. These voters were given the incorrect ballot at the

time they voted. They put their ballots in the tabulator, and afterwards they discovered they were given the wrong ballot. To rectify the problem their early voting application was cancelled. They voted a Provisional Ballot with the correct ballot style for the election. The ballots that were put in the machine were retrieved and the votes were deducted. A copy of the results prior to the manual edits was printed. The manual edits were made, and another report was printed to verify that the changes were made. All present board members and staff signed each copy. The state requires that an audit report be printed from the Verity Count showing all edits made for this election. All board members and staff signed the copy.

The board signed the abstract to make the results official for this election.

AAR (After Action Review)

Chair Heise stated that doing an After-Action Review of the election will assist us in knowing what worked, what didn't work, and what we could do better. The board looked at all the incident reports from each precinct from Election Day.

What Worked

- Member Meek thought the 5 early voting sites worked well especially with the additional site in Apex to take some stress off the CCCC Health Science site. Member Dunphy stated that this Apex site was at a Baptist church, and he wanted to ensure that the board take into consideration that private property is not as accessible as a public venue. He stated that the church has been very helpful to us, and he hopes they will continue to allow us to use their facility (For full discussion see the meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs/board-of-elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>).
- Chair Heise stated that the election was ran fine, and she would be hard pressed to find any issues with the administration of the election. Secretary Ramos stated that he thought it went very well, and that the staff did an outstanding job.
- Member Dunphy made reference to a disciplinary action taken on an election official during the early voting period. His question to the board was, 'did we have jurisdiction over this matter'? (For full discussion see the meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs/board-of-elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>).
- Member Dunphy stated that what he thought went very well was his observation of educating, instructing, organizing, and scheduling, about 150 employees.
- Temporary employee Donald Lyerly thought that having a verity printer at some precincts on Election Day went well.
- Chair Heise praised the new technical personnel Austin Conklin and Sara Gitt for how they came in and learned the job. They were helpful, while showing good temperament.

What Didn't Work

- Member Meek visited Crossroads precinct and some of the workers from the Bennett precinct wanted to know if the name of Crossroads could be changed to reflect the merger with Bennett. Also, there were concerns about Bonlee precinct voting on the stage in the auditorium at Chatham Central High School.

- Chair Heise commended Deputy Director Simos and temporary employee Lyerly on all the work they do on election night setting up and greeting the Chief Judges on arrival at the office. She asked them if there was any way the audit process could be speeded up? She suggested having snacks or something for the Chief Judges when they come in on Election night while they wait to be audited
- The board looked at all the incident reports from Election Day to gain a better understanding of problems or issues that the election officials deal with throughout the day. Member Dunphy commended the staff on how well things are documented by election officials for transparency. Member Dunphy suggested using the issues on the incident reports for training election officials.

Approve Early Voting Schedule for Possible Cary Runoff Election

Chair Heise explained that there could be a runoff election for the at-large seat for the town of Cary. She stated that the board needs to approve early voting dates and times to avoid having to call another meeting. Director Paschal recommended early voting would be held at the Board of Elections office because New Hope Baptist Church was too far away to use as an “in lieu” of site for the office. She suggested the following days and times: Beginning July 7, 2022 and ending July 23, 2022 – Monday - Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm – open the last Saturday, July 23, 2022 – 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Chair Heise made the motion to approve early voting for the dates and times stated by Director Paschal. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 5-0.

Director Paschal shared with the board a complaint from Republican Party Chairman Terry Schmidt pertaining to the 50 ft. buffer zone at Mann’s Chapel precinct. The buffer was set more than 50 ft. This matter will be corrected for the November 2022 General Election.

Member Meek made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.



Charles Ramos, Secretary



Pandora Paschal, Attest