

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
ABSENTEE 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-and-services/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

July 19, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

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**Attendees:**

Chair Laura Heise  
Secretary Charles Ramos  
Member Amy Meek  
Member Frank Dunphy II (virtual by phone)  
Member Mark Barroso (virtual by phone)  
Deputy Director Steve Simos  
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 opened the absentee ballot meeting for the Cary run-off election with a quorum of three Board members present (i.e., Members Heise, Ramos, and Meek). The absentee ballot meeting was followed by a regular board meeting with two additional board members joining remotely.

**Approval of Agenda**

There were no changes made to the draft agenda. Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve the agenda. Member Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0 (Heise, Ramos, Meek).

**Approve Absentee Ballots**

Deputy Director Simos stated there would be 22 applications and 18 returned absentee ballots to be approved at the meeting. A total of 102 ballots were sent out for this election. There were 99 Civilian absentee ballots mailed, 1 Military mailed, and 2 Overseas ballots emailed.

Chair Heise asked for a motion to approve the 22 SOSA applications. Secretary Ramos moved to approve the applications and Member Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0

Chair Heise confirmed everyone looked at the absentee ballot envelopes. Member Meek moved to approve to approve the 18 absentee ballots, and Secretary Ramos seconded the motion. All were in

favor. Vote 3-0. Before feeding the ballots into the tabulator, Board members Heise, Ramos, and Meek verified the beginning count was 28, same as what was approved from last week's board meeting. The ending count on the machine after the ballots were fed into the machine was 46.

## **Regular Meeting Business**

### **Approve Minutes**

There were no changes made to the July 12, 2022, meeting minutes. Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve the minutes, and Member Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0.

### **Public Input**

Board Members Dunphy and Barroso joined the regular meeting by phone before Chair Heise proceeded with public input. The public input was related to the early voting plan options for the general election.

The BOE received 17 emails against Sunday voting. Chair Heise read the names of the citizens. The reasons included: Sunday is a religious day, already enough early voting days, opposition to early voting in general, and the additional cost which can be spent on other things.

Chair Heise received 10 emails in support of Sunday voting stating the more days of voting the better. The NAACP West Chatham chapter emailed Director Paschal their support of Sunday voting. Victoria Shea, League of Women Voters, addressed the board to advocate for voting on both Sundays.

### **Approve Election Day Workers**

Election Specialist Mashburn stated the Cary election is a non-partisan election with two candidates. Two hours prior to the meeting, he learned that Jeffery Long, a Republican judge, will not be able to work this election. Oscar Robbins, who has worked before and is a Republican, would be able to fill in. The East Williams precinct will have three judges and one assistant. The New Hope precinct will have just the three judges.

Specialist Mashburn will notify Terry Schmidt, Chairman of the Chatham Republican Party. If there are any issues with the replacement, it can be discussed at the July 25, 2022 board meeting. Member Meek made a motion to approve the election day workers, and Secretary Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

### **Approve Early Voting Plan for November 8, 2022 Election**

Chair Heise explained an early voting plan must be approved for the November 8, 2022, election. There are three options. Option #1 has one day of 12-3pm Sunday voting, Option #2 has two days of 12-3pm Sunday voting, and Option #3 has no Sunday voting. If the Board vote is not unanimous, it will go before the NC State Board of Elections and a representative from each side will speak on behalf of his/her plan.

Member Meek said there is insufficient data on Sunday voting. She advocated for Option #2 with two days of Sunday voting to see what results we get this election to discuss Sunday voting in the future.

Secretary Ramos was in favor of Option #3, no Sunday voting. He does not see the benefit of opening the locations for three hours on Sundays. The general feeling from speaking to poll workers was that it was already tiring to work 6 days a week. He said 3 hours of Sunday voting plus 1.5 hours to set up and 1.5 hours to close is a lot of wasted time and costs for low voting.

Chair Heise favored Option #2 because we have not tested all the interest in Sunday voting. She said we stay away from Sunday morning church hours and voting activity after 3pm on Saturdays is low so staying open longer on Sundays would not bring more voters. The idea was to pick three hours on Sunday where we could get voters.

Member Dunphy had no comment.

Member Barroso made a motion to adopt Option #2, and Member Meek seconded the motion.

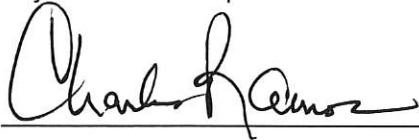
The Board vote was 3-2. Members Heise, Meek, and Barroso voted yes. Members Ramos and Dunphy voted no. As the vote was not unanimous, the NCSBE will vote on the county plan. Chair Heise will speak in favor of Option #2. Secretary Ramos or Member Dunphy will speak at the NCSBE meeting.

Deputy Director Simos had some meeting reminders: Supplemental/Provisional meeting will be at 4:00 pm on August 4, 2022, and Canvass will be at 11:00 am on August 5, 2022.

The BOE staff will check if the Chatham County HR Manager/Assistant County Manager will attend one of these meeting dates. Director Paschal would like the Board to go look at the new BOE office location.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

Chair Heise asked if there was any further business before adjourning. Secretary Ramos made the motion to adjourn, and Member Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor (vote 5-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.



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Charles Ramos, Secretary



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Pandora Paschal, Attest