

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ABSENTEE/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-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

October 18, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Chair Laura Heise, Secretary Charles Ramos, Member Mark Barroso, Member Frank Dunphy, Member Amy Meek, Director Pandora Paschal, Deputy Director Steve Simos, Election Specialist Chance Mashburn, and Election Assistant Donald Lyerly. [Absent from absentee meeting: Member Amy Meek.]

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 and stated this was the third absentee meeting for the November 8, 2022 election. There was a quorum to conduct board business.

Approval of Agenda

Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve the agenda. All were in favor. Vote 4-0 (Heise, Ramos, Dunphy, and Barroso).

Approval of Absentee Ballots

Deputy Director/Absentee Coordinator Simos stated 3,388 cumulative ballots were mailed out. For this meeting, there were a total of 450 completed ballots for board approval: 433 civilian, 1 military, and 16 overseas.

Before approving the ballots, the board verified that the machine produced a tape that showed the ending count from the meeting on October 11, 2022, before any ballots were inserted. The count was 585.

The board looked at the envelopes of the returned ballots to ensure they had all required signatures and initialed them for confirmation. The board checked the CIV (civilian) numbers against the list of voters to ensure none were missing. Following completion of these tasks, Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve 433 civilian ballots for counting. Member Barroso seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0 (Heise, Ramos, Barroso, and Dunphy). The board directed the staff to open the ballots to insert into the tabulator.

In addition, 2 ballots were “disallowed” due to missing required witness addresses on the ballot containers. Member Barroso made the motion to disallow the 2 ballots. Secretary Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0 (Heise, Ramos, Barroso, Dunphy) The voters were contacted by staff and to let them know they could request another ballot, vote early, or vote on Election Day.

Member Barroso made the motion to approve 1 military ballot. Secretary Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0 (Heise, Ramos, Barroso, and Dunphy).

Member Barroso made the motion to approve 16 overseas ballots. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0 (Heise, Ramos, Barroso, and Dunphy).

The board duplicated the emailed ballots from the overseas voters onto official ballots to be inserted into the Verity scanner.

While opening the absentee envelopes, a staff member pulled a voters ballot out to find a sticky note that read, “I would like another ballot sent to me, I messed up my ballot”. The board discussed rectifying the problem and decided to spoil this voter’s ballot and have the absentee coordinator reissue another ballot to the voter. Secretary Ramos made the motion to spoil the ballot and reissue another ballot to the voter. Member Barroso seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0 (Heise, Ramos, Barroso, and Dunphy). This left a total of 432 ballots for approval for this meeting.

Member Barroso was removing ballots from the absentee return envelopes and discovered upon checking the CIV number, that the CIV number on the ballot did not match the CIV number on the return envelope. It was discovered that a husband and a wife had mixed up their ballots. The wife’s ballot was in the husband’s return envelope. The husband had not returned his ballot. Absentee Coordinator Steve Simos was instructed by the board to contact the voter to alert them of the problem and to see if the husband had put his ballot in the mail. If the ballot had been mailed the wife’s ballot would be approved at the time the husband’s ballot is approved if returned. If the husband’s ballot is not returned both ballots will be spoiled, and the voters will be instructed to go vote at early voting or on Election Day. Chair Heise made the motion to put the wife’s ballot in “pending status” until the voter is contacted. Secretary Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (Heise, Ramos, Barroso, and Dunphy). Deputy Director/Absentee Ballot Coordinator Simos will give the board an update on this situation at the October 25, 2022, meeting. The total number of approved civilian ballots for this meeting was 431. (For full discussion see the taped meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>)

The final vote count on the Absentee by Mail Verity Scan after all ballots were inserted was **1,033** for this meeting.

Regular Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Chair Heise made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2022, meeting. The vote was 3-0 (Heise, Ramos, and Meek). Member Barroso and Member Dunphy abstained from voting due to their absence at that meeting.

Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve October 11, 2022, absentee meeting minutes. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in Favor. The vote was 4-0. (Heise, Ramos, Barroso, and Dunphy). Member Meek abstained from voting. She was not present at this meeting.

Early Voting Workers

Elections Specialist Mashburn gave the board an update on the early voting workers for the November 8, 2022 election. He stated that all sites were staffed fully, and backups are available should someone not be able to work due to an emergency.

Election Day Workers

Election Specialist Mashburn presented the board with the list of workers for Election Day on November 8, 2022 for all 16 precincts. There were 3 Chief Judges who were unable to serve for this election for the following precincts: Bynum (Dem), East Williams (Rep), and East Siler City (Dem).

The following people were appointed to work for this election: Bynum -Anita Badrock (Dem), East Williams – Denise Umberger (Rep), and Nancy Hirsch – East Siler City (Dem). Kelly Cook (Rep) Judge was appointed to replace the Republican Judge at the East Williams precinct.

Chair Heise made the motion to appoint these Chief Judges and Judge for the November 8, 2022 election. Secretary Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0 (Heise, Ramos, Barroso, Dunphy, and Meek).

Security Update

Director Paschal presented the board with an early voting and Election Day security briefing from the Emergency Operations Management Director. (For full discussion see the taped meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>).

Early Voting Preparations

Staff updated the board on preparations for early voting which starts on October 20, 2022 and ends on November 5, 2022 (For full discussion see the taped meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>).

Adjourn Meeting

Secretary Ramos made the motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.



Charles Ramos, Secretary



Pandora Paschal, Attest