

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 <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

May 16, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Chair Laura Heise, Member Frank Dunphy, Member Amy Meek, Member Mark Barroso, Director of Elections Pandora Paschal, Deputy Director Steve Simos, and Election Specialist Chance Mashburn.

Member Frank Dunphy led a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Call to Order

Chair Heise called the meeting to order, and stated four board members were present to conduct board business. Currently there is one vacancy, and it will be filled when the state board make new appointments in June.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Heise asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda.

Approve Minutes

Member Meek made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2023, meeting. Member Barroso seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Public Input

Vicky Shea stated that two people from the League of Women voters went to the budget hearing, she stated that she spoke in support of the board of elections by telling the commissioners that the board of elections should have the independence to do what they know is best for the election's office.

Old Business

Budget Update

Chair Heise gave citizens in attendance in person and online a brief statement about the election budget. She stated that the Board of Elections (except for one member), and staff attended the Board of Commissioners work session on May 15, 2023, to give a presentation about funding for the 2023-2024 election budget. The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the two boards was also mentioned. To view recorded meeting for full discussion click this link:

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

Legislative Updates

Director Paschal provided the board with legislative updates on photo ID, felon voting rights, and redistricting.

- **Photo ID** - North Carolina Supreme Court ruled that the 2018 Photo ID law must be implemented. Voter ID will be required in the 2023 Municipal elections. All aspects of implementation are being established by the North Carolina State Board of Elections.
- **Felon Voting Eligibility** - North Carolina Supreme Court determined that requiring a person to complete their felony sentence before regaining the right vote is not unconstitutional. Felon voting rules return to what they had been pre-August 2020.
- **Redistricting** - North Carolina Supreme Court determined that the NC constitution does not prohibit partisan gerrymandering. The general Assembly may draw new maps for U.S. House, N.C. house, and N. C. Senate before the 2024 elections.

For full details of the discussion listen to recorded meeting at this link:

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

Candidate Filing

Director Paschal presented the board with candidate filing information and the election schedule for the 2023 Municipal elections. This information can be found on the board of elections website at

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections> .

Early Voting – Cary Municipal

The Town of Cary contacted Director Paschal. Cary is interested in making early voting available to the citizens in Chatham County that are eligible to vote in the Cary Town elections. They suggested an election reimbursement with Chatham County according to a contract established by the Board of Elections and the Town of Cary. The Town requested that the board adopt a schedule that is identical to the Wake County Board of Elections early voting schedule. For full discussion listen to the recorded meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

The board unanimously voted to adopt the early voting schedule identical to the Wake County Board of Elections schedule for the October Town of Cary Municipal Election. Chair Heise made the motion. Member Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Board Member Appointments

Director Paschal informed the board that the North Carolina State Board will make county board appointments on June 27, 2023. The appointed members will be sworn in at the meeting conducted July 18, 2023 meeting.

Precinct Judge Appointments

Election Specialist Mashburn updated the board on precinct judge appointments for 2023-2025 elections. He stated that he has been in contact with the party Chair’s about the process. He has invited them to come to the Board of Elections office to discuss appointments and other election items that pertain to political parties. He has been in contact with previous judges to see if they were interested in re-appointment prior to their names being submitted to their respective political party for appointment. For full discussion listen to the recorded meeting:

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m. Member meek made the motion. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

 <hr/> Frank Dunphy, Secretary	 <hr/> June 20, 2023 emt (D) 6/20/23
 <hr/> Pandora Pascal, Attest	 <hr/> 6/20/2023