

# 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>

June 20, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

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### **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 makes new appointments on June 27, 2023.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chair Heise asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda. Member Meek made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Dunphy seconded it, and all were in favor. Vote 4-0.

### **Approve Minutes**

Member Meek made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2023, meeting. Member Meek made the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

### **Public Input**

There was no Public Input for this meeting.

### **Old Business**

### **Budget Update**

Director Paschal stated that the elections staff received the same increase as all county employees, which was 7% plus an additional \$4400.00. This amount is \$20,193.00 less than the board requested for salaries in the budget. The new position, Elections Voting Equipment Technician was approved. Chair Heise stated that decisions regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be delayed until

the new board is assembled in July 2023. At that time the Board of Elections will debate processes of moving forward the MOU between the Board of Elections and the County Commissioners.

### **New Business**

#### **Legislative Updates**

Director Paschal presented the board with summaries of S.B. 747 and S.B. 749 as potential future North Carolina Law that will affect elections. Member Dunphy wanted to state for the record that these new election rules, once voted into law, didn't give adequate time for implementation three months before initiating the September 2023 mass mailing of mail-in absentee ballots before the Cary municipal election to be conducted on October 10, 2023.

Furthermore, Member Dunphy stated for inclusion into the record, that if Senate Bill 749 as provided at this meeting is implemented, the change that makes the Director of Elections appointed by the county commissioners creates a dangerous potential for government interference in elections; because elected commissioners could influence the elections apparatus for their own benefit.

(Summaries are attached to the minutes). To listen to the summaries go to this link with the live video: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

#### **Board Members Appointments**

Board of Election members appointments will take place on July 18, 2023, at 12:00 noon at the Board of Elections office. The board will be sworn in by taking the oath of office. The names submitted for nominations include: Democratic – Mark Barroso, Erika Lindeman, and Robert Waldrop, Republican – Frank Dunphy, Robert Tyson, and Kim Boyd-Moore.

#### **Plan for New Board Member Training**

Chair Heise asked Director Paschal to plan training for new board members who will be serving on the board for the first time. Director Paschal stated that a notebook will be put together with election law, social media guidelines, meeting schedule, and other pertinent information for carrying out their duties. Board members are encouraged to schedule a time to visit the office for a tour and to gain knowledge about how the office functions and processes for holding an election. Laura Heise's name was submitted to the governor for chair of the board.

#### **Plan for Voter Education Pertaining to New Legislation**

Director Paschal stated that elections staff will plan a series of voter education sessions throughout the county when changes in election law at the General Assembly is finalized and the solid guidance is given regarding voter ID and other sundry changes in election laws.

#### **Closed Session**

Chair Heise made a motion to go into closed session per GS 143-318-11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information or information that is not considered a public record. Motion is based on GS 143-318.31 (6 ). The closed session agenda was to discuss contracting legal counsel for matters pertaining to election law. Member Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0. 6:20 pm.

Member Meek Made the Motion to come out of closed session. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0. 7:30 pm.

Chair Heise made the motion to ask Director Paschal to explore hiring an outside counsel on a continuing basis for advice on election law. Member Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Frank Dunphy, Secretary

*Frank Dunphy*

Pandora Paschal, Attest

*Pandora Paschal*