

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>

August 22, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES:

Chair Laura Heise, Member Frank Dunphy, Member Mark Barroso (Remotely), Bob Tyson, Director of Elections Pandora Paschal, Deputy Director Steve Simos (Remotely), and Election Specialist Chance Mashburn. Member Erika Lindemann was not present at this meeting.

Moment of Silence and Pledge

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

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Chair Heise asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda. Member Dunphy made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Tyson seconded it, and all were in favor. Vote 3-0. Member Barroso had not joined the live stream for this vote.

Approve Minutes

Member Tyson made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2023, meeting. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0. Member Tyson made a motion to approve the July 26, 2023, Special Meeting minutes. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Public Input

Victoria Shea asked if there were any after hour information sessions scheduled for voter ID. She felt that more people would be able to attend after the end of the workday. Also, would there be opportunities for people to obtain photo ID after office hours. Director Paschal stated that people could come in during October and November early voting at the office when the hours are extended and on the weekends. There will be another voter ID information session held prior to the Primary in 2024.

Old Business

Review Revised MOU Between Board of Elections and Chatham County MIS (Management Information System).

Director Paschal provided the board with a draft copy of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Elections and Chatham County MIS Department (Management Information System)). For full discussion see the live streamed meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>. After reviewing the document to ensure that it satisfied the needs of the elections office the board voted to adopt the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Elections and Chatham County MIS Department (Management Information System)). Member Tyson made the motion to accept the MOU. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Board Sign Director's Duties and Responsibilities

Director Paschal presented the board with the Directors' Duties and Responsibilities to sign. The board voted to adopt them during the July 18, 2023, meeting and suggested an edit to the last bullet point. The correction was made and the three board members that were present in person signed the document. The two board members that were not present will sign the document later.

New Business

Adopt Resolutions Concerning Counting Absentee Ballots

The board voted to adopt Resolutions to count absentee ballots at 2:00 pm on two municipal election days (October 10, 2023, and November 7, 2023). Member Tyson made the motion. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Approve Delegation of Absentee Ballot Procedures to Staff

Deputy Director Steve Simos revised detailed procedures for approval of absentee ballots for the board during absentee meetings. The procedures delegates preparations of the mail in ballots, and the emailed ballots to the staff to avoid long meetings. The board retains authority for final approval and will check the preparations for accuracy to ensure staff is adhering to North Carolina election law pertaining to the counting of absentee ballots. Deputy Director Simos suggested adding the following to the procedures; On the Friday before the meeting an email will be sent to the board to let them know the number of absentee ballots that will be presented at the upcoming meeting. For full discussion see the live streamed meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings> Member Dunphy made the motion to approve the procedures as written. Member Tyson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Voter ID Information Session

The Board of Elections will hold a Voter ID information session on September 6, 2023, at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center for all Chatham County citizens from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. This event will be live streamed and uploaded to the YouTube channel.

Approve Judge Appointments for 2023-2025

Election Specialist Mashburn presented the board with the list of Judges nominated by the Republican, and Democratic party chairs for the board’s approval. There was not a nomination for a Republican Judge in the Albright precinct. This slot will not be filled until all five board members are present to fill the Albright Judge with unanimous approval as required by law when a party chair leaves a Judge slot vacant. Board members had a robust debate regarding the process used for the Precinct nominations and the reasoning behind their selection. For full discussion see the live streamed meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>. Member Tyson made a motion to appoint all nominations except for the Republican Judge in the Albright precinct. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Legislative Updates

Director Paschal gave the board an update on SB 747 which passed the house and has been vetoed by the governor. There will probably be a “Veto Override” by the General Assembly. If overridden, the law will take effect 1/1/2024. For full discussion see the live streamed meeting at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

Cancel Absentee Board Meeting

The board cancelled the September 5, 2023, Absentee meeting because ballots for the October 10, 2023, election will not be mailed until September 8, 2023. Member Tyson made the motion to cancel the meeting. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Adjourn

Member Tyson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Dunphy seconded the motion all were in favor. Vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Frank Dunphy, Secretary Frank Dunphy 09/19/23

Pandora Paschal, Attest Pandora Paschal