

# BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Linda J. Sutton**  
CHAIR

**Frank M. Dickerson**  
SECRETARY

**Jerry D. Jordan**  
MEMBER



**Robert H. Coffman**  
Director of Elections

## FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – OCTOBER 6, 2009

Present: Linda J. Sutton, Chair  
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary  
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections  
Lamar Joyner, Deputy Director of Elections  
Judy Speas, Office Assistant

Guest: James Dalton, Dalton Consulting, LLC

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### Call to Order

Ms. Sutton called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room.

### Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes for September 22, 2009. Ms. Sutton asked that there be a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Absentee Ballots

The Staff recommended one absentee ballot for approval and zero for disapproval for the September 29, 2009 meeting. The Staff recommended 17 absentee ballots for approval and zero for disapproval for the October 6, 2009 meeting. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve all absentee ballots as recommended by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Coffman introduced Mr. James Dalton of Dalton Consulting, LLC and explained that he was employed to work with staff to develop the test script and improve the layout of the Municipal General Election ballot. Ms. Sutton expressed a concern regarding the cost of a consultant for the annual budget, especially in smaller election years. Mr. Coffman was requested to present future recommendations regarding similar contracts to the Board members in advance.

### Precinct Transfer

The Board and staff discussed a list of four precincts that would be closed in the 2009 Municipal General Election. Precinct 012, Union Cross Elementary, which has 4 qualified voters, would be transferred to 011, Glenn High School, for that election. Precincts 021, 053 and 068 contain only unincorporated voters and would be closed for that reason. Mr. Coffman explained that the voters in the transferred precinct would be alerted by mail as to their temporary precinct for that election only. The letter would contain the temporary precinct address and directions. Mr. Dickerson advised that MapQuest directions would be

helpful in the voter letter. Mr. Coffman stated that the previous procedure of the letter, a notice posted in the area newspapers, and a notice on the precinct door on Election Day would be followed. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve that Precinct 012 be temporarily reassigned for the Municipal General Election Day only and that the unincorporated precincts be closed. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Approval of General Election Ballot

The Board and staff discussed approval of the Municipal General Election Ballots for November 3, 2009. Of the fifteen ballot styles for the election, only Ballot Type 2, Southeast Ward of Winston-Salem, was unavailable for review as it must be determined after the official Second Primary results. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the ballots for the Municipal General Election. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Other Business

The Board discussed a letter from Donald L. Scales, candidate for the East Ward, Winston-Salem Primary. The letter addressed Mr. Scales' concerns regarding the nomination of Derwin Montgomery and the participation of the WSSU students. The Board agreed that there was no proof that WSSU officials instructed the students to vote as a unit for a specific political candidate in exchange for class credit, etc. Mr. Coffman stated that WSSU Chancellor Reaves was aware of the situation. The Board members agreed that they had no jurisdiction in this process with the university. The Board discussed that staff should expect extra write-in votes for the East ward in the November election because of the situation. Mr. Coffman agreed that Mr. Scales would receive an answer to his letter with copies to Chancellor Reaves and the Board.

Mr. Joyner explained the Kids Voting organization and their on-line operation for the November election. Voting space is normally provided for their operation in the school precincts on Election Days.

#### Adjournment

Ms. Sutton moved to recess the meeting in order that absentee ballots may be processed through the fast card reader in the storage room. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was recessed at 4:55 PM. The Board reconvened at 7:30 PM to count the returned precinct ballots. Ms. Sutton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Elections is the Second Primary Election Canvass meeting on October 13, 2009.

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Linda J. Sutton, Chair

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Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

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Jerry D. Jordan, Member