



FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Video Conference Supplemental Absentee Board Meeting
Agenda

November 12, 2020 – 2 p.m.

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence
4. Public Comments

If you wish to speak, please click on this link <https://meet.google.com/okk-hxdo-wxj> at 1:45 p.m. on the day of the meeting and inform the Board Clerk. You will be recognized to speak during the public comment period in the order you have joined the meeting. The Chairperson will also ask for any additional speakers before the meeting is called to order.

5. Approval of Absentee Ballots
6. Approval of Provisional Ballots
7. Tabulation of Absentee Ballots and Provisional Ballots
8. Certification of Absentee Ballot List and Abstracts
9. Other Business
10. Closed Session (if necessary)
11. Adjournment

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

A meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was called to order on November 12, 2020 at 2:06 p.m. Chairperson Campbell presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Chairperson Susan Campbell, Secretary Robert Durrah, Member Stuart Russell, Member Catherine Jourdan and Member John Loughridge arrived at 2:22 pm.

Staff Members in attendance: Director Tim Tsujii, Deputy Director Michelle Bobadilla, Monica Gary, Kanitha Davis-Englebert, Danielle Malone, Carma Buchanan, Kay Moore, Malik Williams, Nate Gladding, Jordan Taylor, Suzanne Dorsett, Holly Mathis, Carlton Morgan, Clint Mooney and Adam Clark

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Chairperson Campbell called for a moment of silence.

Public Comments

Chairperson Campbell called for public comments, providing three minutes for each speaker:

Jim Smith, 2110 Rossmore St., Clemmons, NC 27012.

Secretary Durrah moved to close the public comments; seconded by Member Russell; **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approval of Absentee Ballots

Ms. Gary reported that there were 1,315 civilian ballots, 31 military ballots and 51 overseas ballots equaling 1,397 ballots. Ms. Gary reported that 108 were disapproved. Of the 108 disapproved ballots, 44 arrived late and were not postmarked and 4 voters had voted in person. She informed the Board that 10 cure certification letters were mailed out. The deadline to return the cure certification letter is November 12th by 5:00 p.m. Ms. Gary asked the Board Members to review an absentee ballot that had 2 or more unclear postmark dates stamped. Director Tsujii shared an email that addressed a similar situation in Craven County where they accepted the absentee ballot because the postmarks were distinctive followed by an explanation from the Post Office. Secretary Durrah motioned to accept the absentee ballot; seconded by Member Jourdan; **Motion carried 3-2.** Member Russell and Member Loughridge opposed.

Ms. Gary reported that six absentee ballots were returned with cure certification letters for the Board's review.

Reviewing of the absentee ballots commenced at 2:40 p.m.

Director Tsujii asked the Board Members to sign the zero report for both high-speed scanners. All Board Members signed the report.

Ms. Gary presented an overseas absentee by-mail ballot where the voter filled in the oval for a presidential candidate but also wrote in the same candidate's name in the "write in" line. Director Tsujii explained that per State Board of Elections directives, the Board should transcribe the ballot as is as that was the voter's intent.

Member Russell left the meeting at 4:00 p.m

Director Tsujii reported that during the Audit and Reconciliation Process, there were 38 One-Stop Early Voting ballots returned to the Board of Elections office. These ballots were possibly placed in the emergency bins due to machine glitches and jams or, ballots were not accepted due to possible over-voting or mismarking of the ovals. The ballots were properly casted therefore, the 38 ballots were tabulated in the presence of the Board during the meeting.

On a previous meeting, the Board Members had approved an absentee by-mail ballot; however, upon opening the envelope, there were no ballot, only a note from the voter. A blank ballot was tabulated.

Member Russell returned to the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Gary reported that in today's mail, the Board of Elections received a ballot that was sent from Utah County, Utah. The absentee by-mail ballot was date stamped timely by Utah County. The State of Utah allows for drop off ballot boxes where the State of North Carolina does not allow drop off ballot boxes, and requires postage date on the absentee ballot envelope. Member Russell moved to disapprove the absentee ballot since it was received without proper postage after November 3, 2020; seconded by Member Loughridge; Secretary Durrah opposed; **Motion carried 4-1.**

Director Tsujii asked the Board Members to sign the zero report for both high-speed tabulators.

Director Tsujii asked the Board Members to sign the Supplemental One-Stop Early Voting report. Member Loughridge motioned to approve; seconded by Secretary Durrah. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approval of Provisional Ballots:

Director Tsujii announced that the 20 HAVA I.D. required voters who voted a provisional ballot on Election Day, needed to present an identification card until the end of day. Otherwise, the provisional ballots were to be moved as disapproved.

Ms. Gary announced the final absentee by-mail numbers: 1,322 civilians, 31 military, 51 overseas, with 1,404 total ballots. There were 115 absentee ballots to be disapproved. Member Russell asked how many of the absentee ballots came after November 6th. Director Tsujii explained that 42 ballots were returned after November 6th and 6 were from cure certification letters. Member Russell moved to approve the 42 as presented, but not the 6 from cure certification letters; seconded by Member Loughridge. Chairperson Campbell, Secretary Durrah and Member Jourdan opposed. **Motion failed 2-3.** Member Durrah moved to accept the final absentee by-mail ballot numbers; seconded by Member Jourdan; Members Russell and Loughridge opposed. **Motion carried 3-2.**

Secretary Durrah left the meeting at 5:50 p.m. and returned at 6:09 p.m.

Tabulation of Absentee Ballots and Provisional Ballots

Director Tsujii asked the Board Members to sign the zero report for both high-speed tabulators before scanning the provisional ballots.

Director Tsujii reported that for the November 3rd, 2020 General Election, 1,490 provisional ballots were issued by election officials. There were 547 approved ballots, 250 partially approved ballots, 678 disapproved ballots and, 15 early voting provisional ballots. The 15 provisional ballots were from voters that mistakenly cast a blank ballot during early voting and requested a provisional ballot. Member Russell moved disapprove the 15 provisional ballots and explained the law only allows the voter to cast one ballot; seconded by Member Loughridge. Chairperson Campbell, Secretary Durrah and Member Jourdan opposed. **Motion failed 2-3.** Member Jourdan moved to accept all the provisional ballots including the 15 provisional ballots from cast at early voting; seconded by Secretary Durrah. Member Russell and Loughridge opposed. **Motion carried 3-2.**

The Board Members discussed about a provisional ballot cast after 7:30 pm on Election Day and if it should count. The polling place closed at 7:30, there were no lines and the closing time can be verified on the results tape however, the voter did not cast her ballot until 7:45 p.m. Secretary Durrah moved to disapprove the provisional ballot; seconded by Member Russell. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Director Tsujii presented the Board Members with three additional determinations. The first voter voted a provisional ballot on Election Day because the voter records showed that he had already voted during the One-Stop Early Voting period. The Board of Elections staff verified and concluded after research that his son, who has the same name and is a “Junior,” inadvertently voted under the father’s voter registration. Secretary Durrah moved to approve the provisional ballot; seconded by Member Russell. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The second provisional ballot determination presented to the Board, was concerning an absentee ballot that was approved on the November 2nd, 2020 Board of Elections meeting. The same voter went to vote in person on Election Day and voted a provisional ballot. The signatures on the absentee by-mail ballot return envelope and the provisional ballot envelope did not match.

Member Russell moved to disapprove the provisional ballot; seconded by Secretary Durrah.
Motion carried unanimously.

The third provisional ballot presented to the Board for determination, involved a voter who casted a ballot during the One-Stop Early Voting period but also voted a provisional ballot on Election Day. Member Russell moved to disapprove the provisional ballot; seconded by Secretary Durrah. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Member Russell moved to approve the final Provisional Ballot Report; seconded by Member Loughridge. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The provisional ballots were pre-processed at 7:57 p.m.

The Board members reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

Director Tsujii reported that the 15 blank ballots cast at early voting were retrieved from the sealed ballot boxes. Of the 15 ballots, two were not in the ballot boxes. Discussion followed by the Board members on determination to accept the blank ballots or to accept the provisional ballots. Member Jourdan motioned to recall her previous motion and indicated that the voter's first cast ballot should stand; seconded by Member Russell. Member Loughridge opposed.
Motion carried 4-1.

Deputy Director Bobadilla presented the Board with the Absentee report, Absentee Abstract report, Supplemental Report and the Civilian and Military Certificates for review and signatures.

Other Business

Chairperson Campbell called for other business; none provided.

Adjournment

Member Russell moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Jourdan seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Approved:

s/ Susan Campbell

Chair

s/ Robert Durrah

Secretary

s/ Stuart Russell

Member

s/ John Loughridge

Member

s/Catherine Jourdan

Member