

# TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2019

The scheduled meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order at 10:00 am on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

### Present

#### Board Members:

Sara Champion, Chair  
David Morrow  
Pam Dashiell  
Michael Wainwright

#### Staff:

Jeff Storey, Director  
Laura Owen, Deputy Director  
Bria Bailey, Deputy Director

Absent: Lee McMinn, Secretary

Visitors: Kathleen Barnes

### Approval and Review of Previous Minutes

**Mr. Morrow made a motion to approve the minutes from August 1, August 7, and August 12, 2019. Mr. Wainwright seconded. The motion unanimously carried.**

### Appointment of precinct officials

Director Storey presented the board with the list of precinct workers to approve. The director indicated there is still a need for workers in TC7. Mr. Morrow will discuss with the Republican Party Chairman Sammy Kicklighter. **Mr. Wainwright moved to appoint the precinct officials presented. Ms. Dashiell seconded. The motion unanimously carried.**

### DIRECTOR UPDATES

- **Homeland Security Visit** - The director updated the board on the visit from Homeland Security. Director Storey indicated the visit went well and included the county information technology director, network administrator, and facilities manager. Mr. Storey indicated Homeland Security will also perform penetration testing on the county network to identify vulnerabilities. The agent mentioned several commendable areas regarding the election center facilities and provided suggestions for minor improvements.
- **Public Demonstration of Voting Equipment Dates** – Director Storey informed the board of dates and times for the public demonstration of voting equipment. Clear Vote, ES&S, and Hart are the vendors participating on September 12, 2019 in the Haywood County Senior Resource Center at 10:00 AM and 12 PM. The State Board, due to time constraints, authorized regional public demonstrations across North Carolina. The director informed the board that members must witness a demonstration before

recommending a purchase of new voting equipment. All present board members indicated they would attend.

- **Voting Equipment Timeline** - The director indicated the last demonstration will be September 23, 2019 and the board will need to decide soon which equipment to test in the 2019 Municipal. Chair Champion noted some of the public's concerns with how ballots are marked. The board was informed Mr. Storey and Ms. Champion met with the county manager to discuss questions from the county commissioners and the process for procuring ADA equipment to replace the soon to be decertified iVotronics. Mr. Storey informed the board a demonstration of the Balotar ballot on demand system will be provided by Deputy Director Bailey at the next board meeting to address early voting challenges with pre-printed ballots. The board and director agreed public education will be necessary to address security concerns regardless of the equipment used. Director Storey indicated ADA equipment testing would have to be in one precinct on Election Day in the Municipal due to time constraints. The director indicated Brevard #1 was the selected precinct for testing.

Director Storey updated the board on the DS200 equipment installation. The new Unity software was installed by the vendor on August 27, 2019 and is ready to use.

- **Training dates for Municipal Election** – The director mentioned that letters were mailed to precinct workers informing them of precinct training on October 10, 2019 and directions for signing up for OVRD training in late October. Director Storey indicated precinct training will involve setting up a mock polling site to demonstrate the new equipment and walk through all the processes from precinct setup to closing the polls.
- **Record Retention** – Director Storey stated that staff were busy working to clear out old materials where record retention has expired to make room for the anticipated increase in storage requirements that paper ballots will bring.

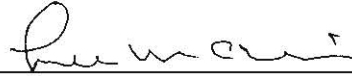
## **Board and Public Comment**

Kathleen Barnes asked if the ballot on demand system issues barcodes. Director Storey indicated the Balotar system prints a full-sized ballot that the voter marks and feeds into the tabulator. Director Storey provided an example of the ballot that would be marked by voters. The board expressed concern with determining voter intent if a ballot is not legibly marked. Director Storey commented that paper ballots do present a bigger problem with voter intent and information on properly marking the ballot will be provided at the polling sites. The county will assist with public outreach in helping voters understand the processes to ensure public confidence with the system. The director explained logic and accuracy testing and post-election audits are open to the public and provide transparency in the process. Director Storey added there will be general public seminars on the new voting systems and photo ID.

In other comments, Chair Champion mentioned the uncertainties with the redistricting maps and how that will affect the date of the Primary in 2020. Mr. Morrow asked about the email from the State Board regarding online training that was erroneous. Director Storey mentioned it was not intended for county staff and board members and was sent in error.

On a motion by Chair Champion, seconded by David Morrow, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am. The next scheduled meeting will be at 10:00 am on October 3, 2019, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

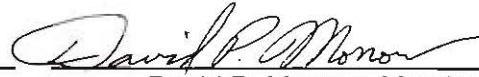
Respectfully submitted,



Lee McMinn, Secretary

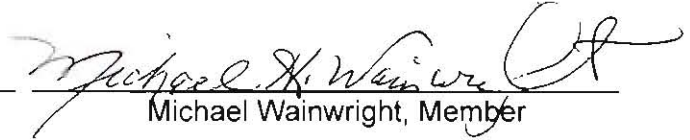


Sara G. Champion, Chair



David P. Morrow, Member

Pam Dashiell, Member



Michael Wainwright, Member

Approved by Board on: 10/3/2019