

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ABSENTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Present

Board Members:

Staff Members:

Chair:	Sara Champion	Director:	Jeff Storey
Secretary:	Lee McMinn	Deputy Director:	Laura Owen
	Wendy Warwick		
	Judith West		

Visitors: Sam Foresman, Barb Jackson, Harry Harrison, Palmer Swanson

Review and Approval of Agenda

Chair Champion asked for a review of the agenda. There were no amendments to the agenda. **Member Warwick made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.**

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The board was presented with the minutes from the previous meetings. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes for April 19, 2022, April 26, 2022, and May 3, 2022. The motion carried 4-0.**

Review and Approval of Received Absentee Ballots

Deputy Director Owen presented the board with 19 CIV absentee applications and 1 Cured CIV application to consider and approve. Absentee envelopes were provided sequentially by how they appear on the CIV absentee list. Secretary McMinn (D) and Member Warwick (R) reviewed page 1 of returned CIVs. **Secretary McMinn made the motion to approve page 1 of 1. The motion carried 4-0.**

Secretary McMinn (D) and Member Warwick (R) reviewed the return listed on page 1 of cured CIVs. **Member Warwick made the motion to approve page 1 or 1. The motion carried 4-0.**

Approved: 19 CIV
 1 Cured CIV

Review and Approval of One Stop Applications

Director Storey informed the board there are 488 absentee one stop applications that have processed between April 28 and May 2, 2022. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to approve the applications as presented. The motion carried 4-0.**

Approved: 1,128 OS Applications (May 2, 2022 5 p.m. – May 9, 2022 5 p.m.)

Precinct official appointment

Director Storey informed the board of a staffing shortage in the Brevard #1 precinct and David Alff has been recommended as a replacement Election Day assistant. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to approve the recommended precinct official as presented for Brevard #1. The motion unanimously carried.**

Discussion of deceased voter challenges

The board asked about the process of removing deceased voters and voter challenges. Director Storey explained that deceased voters are primarily removed through list maintenance when the office receives official notification from the Department of Health and Human Services. The reports are received monthly, and staff update the voter records. Voter challenges with deceased as the reason are most commonly submitted when a recent death has occurred, and the registered individual had voted at early voting or absentee by mail. The methods to remove a deceased voters and an overview of a retrievable ballot were also discussed.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Director Storey indicated early voting turnout is currently keeping pace with the turnout from the 2020 primary which was expected with multiple sheriff candidates. Turnout is significantly higher than the similar 2018 primary. The director stated the bi-partisan sample audit team has been assembled for the May 20, 2022 audit.

The board asked if there were any complaints / concerns for early voting. The director indicated there was one complaint regarding parking during peak hours, but it was due to a large precinct training class in the same building. Parking is being monitored and has not been an issue to date with the one stated exception.

Director Storey briefly went over expectations for the Monday prior and Election Day procedures for the board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Champion thanked the public for being at the meeting and stated the more people see the process, the more confidence they can have in our election process. The Chair is proud of how elections are handled in our county and in North Carolina.

Mr. Foresman commented on the absentee ballot process in Pennsylvania and suggested the process involved waiting to see how many ballots were needed to accomplish a given result but

was confident in how it was done in Transylvania County. The director explained in North Carolina that absentee ballots are processed and reconciled in the presence of the board at each absentee meeting without tabulating. The process allows results to be tabulated on Election Day and released at 7:30 p.m. along with the Election Day precinct results.

Chair Champion reiterated that the absentee ballot reconciliation process in North Carolina is solid and felt all states, while having different procedures, have some measure of reconciliation. The Chair stated that comments should reflect what is known and not hear say.

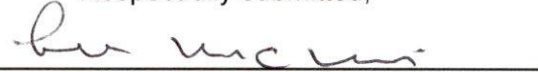
Mr. Harrison asked how the results on Election Night are submitted to the State Board. The director explained the logic and accuracy testing involved with all 100 counties in North Carolina to simulate Election Night results. The process takes place before each election to ensure the results are accurate. Director Storey also discussed the process of collecting the Election Night returns and how those are verified and submitted to the State Board.

Mr. Harrison indicated he was a precinct party chair and thanked the board and staff for a most informative view of the procedures that go into ensuring the integrity of the election and felt good about responding with factual information when addressing concerns from the public.

Member Warwick stated continuing to educate the public on the election processes will go a long way to providing confidence in elections. Chair Champion and Secretary McMinn reminded the public the process is always transparent. Member West invited those with questions to work as precinct officials and see how fair, honest, and safe elections are conducted.

On a motion by Chair Champion, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be at 5 p.m. on May 16, 2022, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

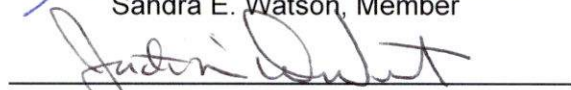
Respectfully submitted,



Lee McMinn, Secretary



Sandra E. Watson, Member



Judith West, Member



Sara G. Champion, Chair



Wendy Warwick, Member

Approved by Board on: 7-14-2022