

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
May 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

**Present**

**Board Members:**

**Staff Members:**

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Chair: Sara Champion  
Secretary: Lee McMinn  
Wendy Warwick  
Judith West

Director: Jeff Storey  
Deputy Director: Laura Owen  
Deputy Director: Julie Dennis

Visitors: Jeff Brewer, Barb Jackson, Ken Klink

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

Chair Champion asked for a review of the agenda. **Member Warwick made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Review and Approval of Previous Minutes**

The board reviewed the minutes for the April 13, 2023 board meeting. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to approve the minutes for April 13, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.**

**DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Director Storey reminded the board the state conference will be held on August 14-15, 2023 with a location to be released by the end of the week. Chair Champion confirmed all board members will be attending and indicated the director will register board and staff. The director informed the board that precinct worker zoom calls have resumed on a quarterly basis. This allows the director to give updates to potential and current workers and provides an opportunity for a question-and-answer session.

Director Storey and staff attended the District 1 meeting held in Haywood County to review and compare emergency plans, precinct worker pay, and board member pay. Secretary McMinn asked if police officers had a copy of the Election Day card developed by the State Board of Elections and Sheriff's Association. The director will verify.

The district will also begin a voter outreach project to reinforce confidence in the election processes with coordination and assistance from Buncombe County.

Director Storey went over recent court rulings with photo ID, felony registration eligibility, and redistricting. The State Board will be providing further guidance. County boards of elections have the equipment to provide free photo id cards, but the software may change. Staff will be trained on the photo id procedures. Photo identification cards from schools and employers will be reevaluated by the State Board of Elections to determine validity with respect to elections. Member West was concerned about communicating the changes to absentee by mail voters. The director mentioned once details are finalized outreach can begin, but previously the State Board of Elections provided counties with signage, flyers, social media, and held public forums. Members West and Warwick felt a public education plan will be needed. Member Warwick asked if the county had funded additional early voting sites for the next fiscal year. The director had no indication it had been cut but reiterated the previous turnout numbers are probably not persuasive to funding additional sites.

Director Storey updated the board on the next steps in evaluating the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center location. Dates will be provided for the board to sign up for a site visit and staff will conduct an ADA assessment.

The director has collected board pay data from District 1 counties and will ask the board to review pay structures and rates to simplify the current payroll process.

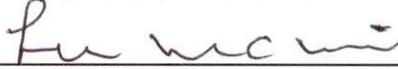
## **BOARD AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Champion reminded the board the next meeting has been moved to June 1, 2023. Chair Champion asked for public comments. Mr. Kline asked about the card given out to police officers mentioned by Secretary McMinn. Chair Champion responded it gives guidance to local authorities on interactions with election officials during a security issue on Election Day. Secretary McMinn mentioned emergency plans are available to election workers for each election. Mr. Kline asked if proof is required when determining reasonable resemblance. Chair Champion and Director Storey responded that voter challenges for reasonable resemblance were handled by the three precinct judges appointed by the board. The judges would determine whether a provisional ballot would be warranted, or the challenge was overruled and the voter continued with the normal voting process. Mr. Kline asked if the county providing free photo id cards was a new process. The director stated the equipment was provided by the State Board of Elections and used previously prior to the injunction. Mr. Kline asked about the process of removing felons from the voter rolls. Director Storey responded that monthly lists are provided from the State Board of Elections that identifies felons to be removed from the registration books.

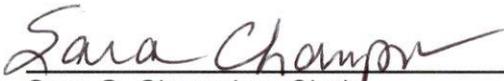
Mr. Brewer asked for clarification on the budget timelines for the primary and general elections in relation to early voting site funding. Chair Champion responded that the general election will be in a different fiscal year that starts July 1, 2024. Mr. Brewer provided the board with feedback at an April meeting held in the Quebec Community Center and felt there were lingering questions as to why it was phased out. Mr. Brewer stated that ADA improvements have been made since the 2012 consolidation of precincts and felt that having only four Election Day precincts in that area may be insufficient. Mr. Brewer felt reconsideration of Election Day precincts in that location should be addressed by the board. The Board felt voter accessibility is of utmost importance but other factors including monetary needs, logistics, staffing, and ballot availability also have to be weighed into the decisions when determining the best service to the voter. There were no further public comments.

**On a motion by Secretary McMinn, the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.** The next scheduled meeting will be at 10 a.m. on June 1, 2023, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

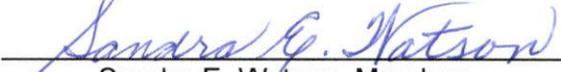
Respectfully submitted,



Lee McMinn, Secretary



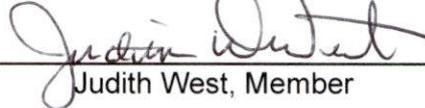
Sara G. Champion, Chair



Sandra E. Watson, Member



Wendy Warwick, Member



Judith West, Member

Approved by Board on: JUNE 1, 2023