

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
PRELIMINARY PROTEST CONSIDERATION MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2024

A preliminary protest hearing was conducted on November 21, 2024 at 3 p.m. by the Transylvania County Board of Elections to consider an election protest of the Supreme Court Associate Justice contest, Seat 6, filed by Jefferson Griffin, alleging that a violation of election law, an irregularity, or misconduct has occurred.

Attendance

Board Members:		Staff Members:	
Chair:	Sara Champion	Director:	Jeff Storey
Secretary:	Judith West	Deputy Director:	Laura Owen
	Sandy Watson (phone)	Deputy Director:	Julie Dennis
	Wendy Warwick	County General Counsel:	
	Nona Walker	County Attorney:	William Bulfer
		County Attorney:	Jillian Camp

The Board received documentary evidence and sworn affidavits from Jefferson Griffin. After having considered the evidence, the Board found and concluded the following:

1. That the Transylvania County Board of Elections has given official notice of this hearing, and the Board is properly assembled to conduct its business.
2. That the protest was timely filed, in writing, signed by the protester, and alleged a violation of election law, or misconduct sufficient to cast doubt on the apparent results of the election.
3. That the protest alleged the following:
 - a. Two (2) voters cast votes who were not properly registered because they moved outside of Transylvania County.
 - b. One hundred twenty-nine (129) voters whose registration was incomplete for lack of a driver's license number or last four digits of their social security number cast ballots.
4. The relief sought by the protestor is to correct the vote count.
5. On November 20, 2024, the State Board of Elections issued an order in which it found, in part, that:
 - a. The State Board takes jurisdiction over protests filed with county boards of elections by Jefferson Griffin where the protest alleges that ballots were cast by registered voters whose voter registration database records contain neither a driver's license number nor the last-four digits of a social security number.
 - b. The county boards of election shall retain jurisdiction over other protest grounds such as voters casting votes who had moved outside the county.

6. The State Board of Elections further ordered as follows:

- a. "At preliminary consideration, the county board shall advance the protest to a hearing to be conducted at a later date upon proper notice, if the protest was timely filed and otherwise substantially complies with G.S. 163-182.9. Because similar protests were filed in many counties, to ensure uniformity in the process for review of these protests, the county boards shall assume at preliminary consideration that the protests establish probable cause to advance to a hearing, per G.S. 163-182.10(a)(1). The county board shall not consider any evidence outside the protest documents at preliminary consideration."

The Board unanimously authorized the chair to sign the order advancing the protest to a hearing to be held within 5 business days.

On a motion by Chair Champion, the meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m. The hearing will be scheduled for 4 p.m. on December 2, 2024, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Respectfully submitted,



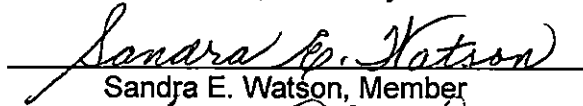
Judith West, Secretary



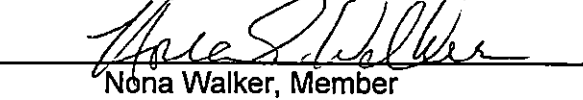
Sara G. Champion, Chair



Wendy Warwick, Member



Sandra E. Watson, Member



Nona Walker, Member

Approved by Board on: 1-9-2025