

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**PROTEST EVIDENTIARY HEARING MINUTES**  
December 2, 2024

Chair Champion called the protest hearing to order at 4 p.m. at the Election Center

**Attendance**

**Board Members:**

Chair: Sara Champion  
Secretary: Judith West  
Sandy Watson (phone)  
Wendy Warwick  
Nona Walker

**Staff Members:**

Director: Jeff Storey  
Deputy Director: Laura Owen  
Deputy Director: Julie Dennis  
County General Counsel:  
County Attorney: Jillian Camp

On Behalf of the Protestor: Craig Bulkeley

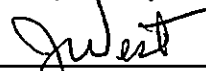
Visitors: Jeff Brewer, Sam Edney, Kelly Gee, Barbara Jackson, Peter Mockridge, Ellinore Mockridge, Kathy Voltz

The Board heard the evidentiary data presented by Mr. Bulkeley for two protested voters with a status of not registered / removed. Protested voters were Hurley Ward and Sara Ayers Howard. Director Storey was called to the witness stand to answer questions regarding the protests and the research involved with the findings. The director informed the Board and Mr. Bulkeley that Mr. Ward's ballot was already challenged and removed during the November 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The other voter, Sara Ayers Howard was an active registrant in Transylvania County until November 7, 2025 and the vote was counted.

Chair Champion stated Mr. Ward's ballot had already been removed making it moot but asked the Board to consider the remaining voter, Sara Ayers Howard, and render a decision regarding the protests based on the evidence presented. **On a motion by Member West, seconded by Member Watson, the Board unanimously dismissed the protests.**

**Chair Champion adjourned the hearing at 4:43 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Judith West, Secretary



Sara G. Champion, Chair



Sandra E. Watson, Member



Wendy Warwick, Member



Nona Walker, Member

Approved by Board on: 1-9-2025