

Duplin County Board of Elections

Board Meeting

October 31, 2023

5:30 PM

The Duplin County Board of Election meeting Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Duplin County Board of Elections office. Members in attendance were:

Angela B. Mainor, **Board Chair**

Ann Henderson, **Board Secretary**

Larry Cooper, **Board Member**

Vickie Ezzell, **Board Member**

Anita Powers, **Board Member** (Via phone)

Also present: Jasmine Gadsden, **Director**

Carrie Sullivan, **Deputy Director**

Evelyn Tuten, **Election Specialist**

Call to Order: Board Chair, Angela B. Mainor at 5:30 PM

Invocation: Given by Board Member, Vickie Ezzell

Public Comments: Mr. James W. Smith, from the Duplin County NAACP, voiced his concerns on the need for more early voting sites for the 2024 election.

Board Member, Larry Cooper commented on his concerns that more needs to be done year-round in order to increase voter turnout.

Board Secretary, Ann Henderson reiterated her concerns that more needs to be done to educate everyone to come out and exercise their right to vote.

Public comment closed at 5:38 PM.

Approval of Agenda/Previous Board Minutes: Board Member, Vickie Ezzell made the motion to approve the agenda and previous Board Minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member, Larry Cooper.

All members present were in favor and the previous Board minutes were approved.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS:

Early Voting: Director Jasmine Gadsden informed the Board that 107 ballots had been cast at the Early Voting site so far. Director Jasmine Gadsden reminded the Board that Early Voting will conclude on Saturday, November 4 at 3:00 PM.

Absentees: Director Jasmine Gadsden stated that there were 17 Absentee Ballots to review. The Board reviewed and approved all 17 ballots. The total number of Absentee Ballots accepted by the Board for this election is 27.

Early Voting Plan Primary 2024: Director Jasmine Gadsden presented the Board with a calendar and potential Early Voting Schedules for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election. Director Jasmine Gadsden asked that each Board member review the schedule so that they could revisit the conversation at the next meeting. Director Jasmine Gadsden stated that she had noted Kenansville as an early voting site on the schedule and had also listed TBD (To be Determined) in that area as well due to the Board's pending decision on how many early voting sites the County will utilize for that election.

Tents at Early Voting: Board Secretary, Ann Henderson and Board Member, Vickie Ezzell stated that they were concerned with the wording in a document issued by the Board of Elections Office to candidates of the Municipal Election that stated that tents for electioneering could not be placed on the front lawn of the Ed Emory Auditorium. Board Member, Vickie Ezzell further stated that her concern was not about the tents, but that the wording stated that the Board voted and unanimously approved that decision.

Director, Jasmine Gadsden stated that the Board had discussed the matter at the November 18, 2022 CANVASS meeting at the previous election due to the issues with elderly voter complaints that they could not access the voting site because of the amount of electioneering on the front lawn. Director Jasmine Gadsden also stated that she and former County Manager, Davis Brinson, had made the decision to keep tents off of the front lawn because the facility is a County office that sees patrons during regular business hours. Director Jasmine Gadsden further stated that the wording was a mistake and would be corrected to reflect that the decision was made by herself and the previous County Manager.

Closed session meeting: Board Chair, Angela B. Mainor stated that there would be a closed session meeting at the Monday, November 6 meeting. No reference was made as to whether this meeting was for personnel or legal matters.

Board Minutes: Board Chair, Angela B. Mainor requested that the Board Minutes be added to the County website after they have been approved by the Board. Board Chair, Angela B. Mainor also requested that the Elections Office staff update the Board minute notebooks with all minutes that have occurred since the Board took their Oath of Office earlier this year.

Upcoming Events:

Next Board Meeting: In person Absentee Meeting Monday, November 6, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Adjourn: Board Member, Larry Cooper made a motion to adjourn. Board Member, Vickie Ezzell seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela B. Mainor, Board Chair

Ann Henderson, Secretary

Anita Powers, Board Member

Vickie Ezzell, Board Member

Larry Cooper, Board Member

Prepared by Carrie Sullivan, Deputy Director
Reviewed by Jasmine Gadsden, Director

*Minutes approved by Duplin County board members at the Board meeting on November 17, 2023.

Revised 11/9/2023 per request from Board Secretary, Ann Henderson during 11/7/23 Board Meeting