

Duplin County Board of Elections

Canvass Board Meeting

November 17, 2023

11:00 AM

The Duplin County Board of Election meeting Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Duplin County Board of Elections office. Members in attendance were:

Angela B. Mainor, **Board Chair**

Ann Henderson, **Secretary**

Larry Cooper, **Board Member**

Anita Powers, **Board Member**

Vickie Ezzell, **Board Member**

Also present: Jasmine Gadsden, **Director**

Carrie Sullivan, **Deputy Director**

Call to Order: Board Chair, Angela B. Mainor at 11:01 AM

Invocation: No Invocation given

Public Comments: Mayor A.J. Connors expressed that he wished campaigners were not allowed at precincts on Election Day. Mayor Connors stated that he preferred that they display signage and campaign ahead of Election Day instead.

Agenda and Previous Board Minutes: Agenda and previous board minutes were previously approved during Supplemental Board Meeting at 10:00 AM. No new agenda or minutes needed approval.

Canvass: Board Chair, Angela B. Mainor stated that she had received 2 complaints from precinct officials on Lorraine Carlton, the Chief Judge of the Faison precinct. Board Chair, Angela B. Mainor read a note aloud to the Board that she had obtained from a precinct official that worked at the Faison precinct. After discussion among the Board, Director Jasmine Gadsden stated that she has not seen this behavior from the 5 elections that she has been here and that she would need to have time to speak with her precinct staff, as this blindsided her because it had not been previously brought to her attention. The Board requested that Director Jasmine Gadsden get statements from all of the poll worker staff that worked at the Faison precinct and come back with a conclusion.

Board Secretary, Ann Henderson stated that a voter approached her and said that she did not get to vote on Election Day in the Wallace Precinct and that she was only told that she was not "allowed to vote" there. Director Jasmine Gadsden informed the Board that this voter was out of the city's voting limits and was not eligible to vote in the Municipal election due to that.

Board Member, Larry Cooper stated that the Board needs to continue to educate the voting public of Duplin County. Board Member, Larry Cooper expressed that the Board needs to meet people where they are and continue to provide education on election processes.

Board Member, Anita Powers added that the Board has held information sessions prior to the last 2 elections and those events resulted in low voter turnout.

Board Member, Vickie Ezzell stated that 80% of the voter base in Duplin County is over the age of 60 and that the Board needs to find better ways to communicate with them.

Director Jasmine Gadsden informed the Board that about 200 less people had voted in this Municipal election than in the 2021 Municipal election.

Director Jasmine Gadsden expressed her thanks to the Deputy Director and Election Specialist.

A copy of the Election Results for Duplin County was handed out to all Board Members and Public that were in attendance.

Upcoming Events:

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Adjourn: Board Member, Anita Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 AM. The motion was seconded by Board Member, Larry Cooper.

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/ Revised by Jasmine Gadsden, Director

*Minutes approved by Duplin County board members at the Board meeting on December 7, 2023.