

November 4, 2019

The Cumberland County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections Office for a 5:00PM Absentee Meeting.

Present: Floyd Johnson, Chairman
Helen Nelson, Member
Terri Robertson, Director

Linda Devore, Secretary
Bobby Swilley, Member

Staff: Angie Amaro and Vicki Hilburn

Chairman Floyd Johnson called the meeting to Order at 5:00PM, and presented the Agenda.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to amend the agenda to add an item for approval of Precinct Assistants for November 5 election day.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to approve the agenda as amended.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Secretary Devore submitted minutes of October 29th meeting for approval.
Approved unanimously.

Director Robertson presented the list of Precinct Assistants trained for tomorrow's election.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to appoint the Precinct Assistants as presented for tomorrow's election.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Vicki Hilburn reported an additional 790 one-stop votes since our last meeting. 32 absentee ballots presented for consideration today—23 civilian ballots, three military ballots, and six overseas ballots. One of the military and five of the overseas ballot were received by email, and were duplicated by Board Members. One of the civilian ballots was hand-delivered today in a manila envelope by the sister of the voter, who completed the State BOE form for a hand-delivered ballot. However, after the relative left and the manila envelope was opened, it was discovered that the ballot envelope had not been signed by the voter or witnesses. It is too late to issue a new ballot for this election. The voter could vote in person tomorrow, however, we were unable to reach the voter by phone—number disconnected.

Member Nelson inquired whether we should contact the person who delivered the ballot, and whether this is something we would be able to do in a large election.

Director Robertson responded that we are supposed to deal with the voter.

Secretary Devore suggested that we may not want to set a precedent of contacting third parties about getting absentee ballots.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to not approve the unsigned ballot.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Member Swilley moved to approve the 31 ballots presented without irregularities.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Director Robertson reported that we received a complaint last Friday about our policy of informing college students who come to register that they need to be aware that registering here could affect a scholarship from another county. They also went to the NAACP, Democracy NC, and the State Board. We received a call from the State Board on Friday, and an email from them this morning that we should no longer offer this advice to students. We have advised our workers to no longer offer this information to students.

Director Robertson reported that we sometimes get calls from voters who need a ride to vote. We inform them that we do not offer transportation, and provide them with party contact numbers. The concern is that we are directing voters to a party, so we will no longer be providing contact numbers for transportation by the political parties.

Member Swilley inquired whether the Director is comfortable with the workers we have for the March primary.

Director Robertson reported that we still need lots of workers, and even more for November 2020. We have talked with county HR, and asked them to include our need on their hiring page. We have "refer-a-friend" cards that we can make available to board members.

Member Nelson suggested that we create a flier to circulate to organizations in the community, and post on social media. Director Robertson agreed to have a flier prepared.

Board Members engaged in a discussion of the challenges and utility of continuing to staff 77 precincts on election days when a significant proportion of voters are voting early. We need to look at the numbers after 2020.

Member Swilley inquired about how we are doing with voter ID. Director Robertson reported that we have issued a few. The equipment is available, and staff is trained. We can make them through the last day of early voting before an election.

Member Nelson suggested that our minutes include a note indicating the date and time of our next meeting to help inform the public.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 5 at 5:00PM.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM.

Submitted by,



Linda Devore, Secretary

Robert E. Hanson
Chairman

Heleen A. Nelson
Member

Terri S. Robertson
Director

Robert J. Smalley
Member

Member Grimes not present
Member