

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton
CHAIR

Frank M. Dickerson
SECRETARY

Jerry D. Jordan
MEMBER



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – April 20, 2010

Present: Linda J. Sutton, Chair
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections
Lamar Joyner, Deputy Director of Elections
Judy Speas, Senior Office Assistant
Rebecca VanderKlok, Office Assistant

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM in the Board of Elections Conference Room.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes for April 13, 2010. Ms. Sutton entertained a motion for approval of the minutes. Mr. Jordan moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Absentee Ballots

The Staff recommended 33 absentee ballots for approval and zero for disapproval. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the recommendation of absentee ballots by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

General Election One Stop Locations

Mr. Coffman explained two documents to the Board containing one stop statistics. A document titled One Stop Transaction Statistics detailed voter amounts for the first week of the 2010 Primary one stop voting at the Forsyth County Government Center. It was noticed that Sunday was a more popular voting day than Saturday. The Board agreed that the early voting schedule in Forsyth County was excellent to offer voting on all days during the one stop period. A One Stop History document that detailed voter amounts at all one stop locations from 1998 to 2008 was studied. A Forsyth County precinct map was also displayed to indicate each early voting location used, presenting the geographical spread of the voting sites. The detailed one stop information was provided to assist the Board in choosing the locations and specific dates and hours of operation for the 2010 General Election. The locations must be reserved with a detailed schedule and advertised in advance. The 2010 General Election early one stop voting will begin on October

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14 and end on October 30, 2010. Mr. Coffman explained that the Government Center location always operates full time while additional sites may have staggered times. Libraries and recreational centers are usually better choices for additional one stop sites as they have a complementary data infrastructure system for equipment. Mr. Jordan questioned whether the State Board of Elections would once more present one stop grant funds to operate additional sites. Mr. Coffman explained that the State Board has not approved any funds yet and that the county budget would only allow for four sites to be funded. Approximately \$4000 per site must be allocated for operation. The State Board would probably send a memo of instructions to apply for a grant in late summer if additional funds are available. Mr. Coffman offered to provide the Board with more one stop data to aid in their decision. The Board decided to choose the one stop dates and locations at a later meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Coffman stated that a candidate at early voting had recently questioned the statute regarding assistance to voters in elections. Simply stated, the law says that a voter is entitled to assistance in getting to and from the voting booth, entering and exiting the voting booth, and in preparing their ballots. A candidate is not exempt from bringing a voter to the polls and offering assistance per North Carolina Election law.

Mr. Coffman stated that in-depth training in the operation of e-poll books was in process this week and invited the Board to view the training after the meeting. The poll workers would also have access to paper copies of the poll books for additional assistance in the Primary Election. All precincts have been staffed with poll workers from the two political parties.

The Board discussed preparations at several precincts for Primary Election day. Latham Elementary School has ongoing construction but parking spaces have been guaranteed for voters. Ms. Sutton stated that the Board would visit several precincts during the day and offer assistance for a smoother operation.

Adjournment

Ms. Sutton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dickerson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM. The next Board of Elections meeting will be an Absentee meeting on April 27, 2010 at 1:00 PM in the Board of Elections Conference Room.

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

Jerry D. Jordan, Member