

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
2128 SOUTH STERLING STREET-SUITE 100
MORGANTON NC 28655
TUESDAY JANUARY 14, 2025
REGULAR MEETING

Attending: Beverly Carlton, LH Kirksey, Anthony Iovino, and Linda Walker.

Absent: Sandi Walker

Staff: Kenny Rhyne and Dustin Wise

Guests: Dot Williams and Barbara Myers

Chairman LH Kirksey called the meeting to order at 10:07am and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Public comments: Barbara and Dot both interest in the on-going contested race between Riggs/Griffin.

Beverly Carlton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. All approved.

Linda Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of December 10, 2024. All approved.

Business:

Poll Worker Dinner

Director Rhyne discussed Memo 2024-01 with regards to collecting funds or food for the Poll Worker's dinner. He outlined the section that stipulated only in-kind donations may be made for the dinner. He discussed funding options with the county and was told funds could not be used for this purpose. At this point each staff and board member have restaurants to contact. So far, we have received positive responses from: Subway, Buffalo Wild Wings, Kim Seafood, Boulevard BBQ, Chick-fil-a, Village Inn, Walmart, Jimmy John, and Beverly will be making some Pineapple Punch. Dinnerware can be purchased with supply funds. The dinner program for the January 28th Poll Workers Celebration format will be: Welcome and Prayer, Meal, Acknowledgments, Drawings, and Closure.

Inclement Weather Policy

Director Rhyne then presented the inclement weather policy followed in the past. The Board of Elections followed the county directive, unless the State overrode the closure due to needs for continued election functionality. Linda Walker made a motion to continue the policy to follow county directive, but to be prepared to adjust as deemed necessary by the State Board. All Approved.

Records Request

Director Rhyne discussed a public records request. A request has been submitted by a member of the public for the letter dated August 18, 2023, regarding the county board's response to HB 772, HB 747, and HB 749. This letter was added in April 2024 and noted Amended Minutes. A motion was made by Beverly to fulfill the public records request to the requestor electronically copying all those initially on the request and to provide a hard copy to the requester also. All approved.

NCADE Meeting

Director Rhyne provided information on the upcoming NCADE meeting to be held Mar 23-25th (Sun – Tue). The office will be manned while the staff attend the conference.

Election Continuation

Further information was provided regarding the Riggs/Griffin Contested Race. The future direct of this court case will only affect the outcome of this race. All other races have been certified.

SB382

Director Rhyne shared the changes to be made with the passing of SB382 (Session Law 2024-57): Following items **subject to lawsuit** - Moves Governor's appointment power for elections boards to State Auditor on May 1, Auditor appoints all five members of the State Board for four-year terms, on May 15, State Board appoints an executive director for a two-year term, on June 24, State Board appoints four board members for each county board, and Auditor appoints the chair, all for two-year terms, and Board members are sworn in July 22.

Provisions **not subject to lawsuit** - Deadline for missing info on VR forms is noon the Friday after Election Day (not day before canvass), requires the use of the State Board's voter assistance log at polling places, deadline to cure HAVA ID is noon on Friday after Election Day, deadline to return with photo ID is noon on Friday after Election Day and all provisional ballots must be counted by 5 pm on the Friday after Election Day. Deadline to request absentee ballot is two weeks before Election Day.

Sickness/disability exception starts two weeks before Election Day, absentee cures due noon on Friday after Election Day, all Election Day absentees must be counted on Election Day night in an ongoing meeting, supplemental absentee meeting is only permitted for UOCAVA ballots, absentee ballot tallies must be announced at 5 pm three days after Election Day. This law became effective Jan. 1, 2025.

Adjournment

Anthony made motion to adjourn at 11:24am. All Approved.

Submitted by Linda Walker, Acting Secretary