

Meeting Agenda

Location: Henderson County Board of Elections
75 E. Central St.
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Date: January 28, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Clay Eddleman (D) / Deborah Dante (S-R) / Sharon Pearson (D) / Linda Rebuck (R) / Cynthia Ellis (D)

Agenda details:

Call Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- General Election Feedback
- Approval of Budget
- Personnel

Closed session –**\$ 143-318.11 (6)**

Directors Comments

Adjournment

Welcome

Please Sign In (Name/Organization(optional))

Date: JANUARY 28, 2025

1. Mary Kwasniewski
2. Ivy OLSON
3. Ken OLSON
4. Gail Banner
5. Sheila Clendenny
6. Peri David
7. Pam THETSCH
8. Janet Bilello NCE IT
9. Paul Repuck
10. Patricia Rogers LWV

Henderson County Board of Elections

Welcome

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Please Sign In (Name/Organization(optional))

Date: January 28, 2025

1. Richard Vickers, Esq.
2. Caren Kessler - LWV
3. Pete Fricke
4. Maureen Heaphy
5. Lynn McFarlane & LWV
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Henderson County Board of Elections

Welcome

Please Sign In (Name/ Organization(optional))

Date: Jan 29 2025 Group

1. Paul T ReBuck
2. Paul Traetsch
3. Richard J. Vickri, ESQ
4. Pat Regers LWV
5. Coy Winn
6. Lynn McFarland LWV
7. Jane Blillo NCEM
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Henderson County Board of Elections

Henderson County Board of Elections
Minutes of Board Meeting
January 28, 2025

The Board of Elections met on January 28, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Henderson County Board of Elections office at 75 E. Central Street. Members present were Clay Eddleman, Chair, Debbie Dante, Secretary, Linda Rebuck, Sharon Pearson, Cindy Ellis, Members, and Summer Heatherly, Director, Aaron, Elections Specialist.

Pledge

Agenda: Member Rebuck moved to move Director's Comments after Old Business. Member Pearson 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Member Dante moved to discuss non-personnel issues in the budget, then move into Closed Session to discuss personnel part of the budget. Member Rebuck 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Minutes: Member Rebuck moved to accept the minutes of 12/2/24. Member Pearson 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Member Rebuck moved to accept the minutes of 12/5/24. Member Pearson 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Old Business: None.

Director's Comments: Director will be working to get more voters involved in the process of elections and increase volunteer sign ups. We will begin by sponsoring a weeklong Citizens Academy (similar to the Sheriff's Department). The Proposed Budget is due to the county this Friday. Director thanked the Board acknowledging that it was a difficult time during this election. Director will go to Raleigh for training March 8 through March 16, and the SBOE conference will be July 27, 2025 in Wilmington. Board members terms are expired and new board members will be appointed the end of June.

New Business. **General Election Feedback.** Chair reminded the Board that a new Board will be appointed at the end of June, so any recommendations by this Board would be non-binding on the new Board. The Board appreciates all comments submitted by the voters.

Member Rebuck moved to enter the submitted comments into the record. Member Ellis 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Member Ellis reviewed her questions on comment sheet.

- Traffic-what to do differently? The intersection of Spartanburg Hwy and Central Street will not be blocked off- one lane will be a through-lane and the other lane a turn-only into the BOE. More electronic signage directing traffic. Most of the complaints were regarding traffic at the main office.
- Voting experience-safety, fairness, efficiency, accuracy. No complaints received

regarding these issues. Complaints were expected regarding Early Voting.

- Early voting sites in the future- is one site the best choice? Director states it depends on the poll worker availability and equipment resources. Member Dante states this was the first time in 10 years that we did not have 4 Early Voting sites and she viewed it as an experiment, and then the flood happened. Member Rebeck states voters were used to having more than one Early Voting site, and the 1000 year flood caused an emergency where we needed to be flexible and it was an emotional time for all Henderson County. She had received complaints that people had trouble with their selections on the Express Vote machines, although "Review Your Ballot" signs were posted in that area and at the tabulator. Member Ellis suggests at least 2 sites but balance is a fine line with voter requirements and accessibility. Aaron states we want to use as many sites as we can staff but it is fluid from year to year. Etowah Library is a small room that only has space for 3 Express Votes, so they will always have a line. This year we were unable to secure (change the locks) the Justice Center; the janitor had to lock and unlock the space for the workers daily. Paper ballots are available but the voter must ask for one at the registration station. Offering a choice of Express Vote or paper would cause poll worker explanations to voters to back up the lines and increase wait time. Aaron states the benefit of Express Vote is that the ballot style is coded on the Ballot card so when inserted into the machine it automatically chooses the correct ballot style for that voter. With Municipal Elections moving to even numbered years, many more ballot styles are needed, with a potential of as many as 20 different ballot styles in a primary election. Supplying paper ballots only would increase the potential of increased errors in giving the voter the wrong ballot. Member Ellis was concerned with the amount of out of county voters voting (provisionally) at the Fletcher Town Hall. Director states the Greeters were asking people in line if they are registered in Henderson County. It was recommended that when the Greeter checks their county of registration, out of county voters should be told to go to their county instead of giving them a provisional ballot that will most likely not be counted. Member Pearson noticed that the registration information coming from the DMV is stalled, causing missing registrations in the pollbook. Director states the DMV registrations go to the SBOE first and then sent to the counties.

Member Pearson moved to recess and reconvene tomorrow, 1/29/25 at 3 PM.
Member Rebeck 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Recess: 11:50 AM

Henderson County Board of Elections
Minutes of Board Meeting
January 29, 2025

The Board of Elections met on January 29, 2025, at 3:00 PM at the Henderson County Board of Elections office at 75 E. Central Street. Members present were Clay

Eddleman, Chair, Debbie Dante, Secretary, Linda Rebuck, Sharon Pearson, Cindy Ellis, Members, and Summer Heatherly, Director, Aaron, Elections Specialist.

Reconvene: 3:00 pm

General Election Feedback, con't.

Member Dante asked How do we fix the lack of poll workers? As stated, Director will organize a BOE Citizens Academy. It was suggested to request a speaking spot in the Henderson County Venture Program and having the County Board of Education close the schools on election day. Dante believes the SBOE failed in helping the flood affected counties in managing emergency procedures causing resulting confusion in how to help the displaced voters. Examples include the misunderstanding regarding MAT team procedures and opening of new early voting sites. The state did not issue instructions until Numbered Memo 2024-07 was published 19 days after the storm. She says the long wait lines at the early voting sites, once opened, showed that there was/is a demand for voters to cast their votes near where they live in the county and the need to open them. She confirmed that when there are complaints on Express Vote machines, they would be taken out of service and tested that evening with a bipartisan team present. Supplying a stylus may help voters isolate their choices and help prevent mistakes as some voters suffer from tremors.

Member Pearson asked Director to compile all the comments by subject and the Board to meet at a later date to review more in depth. Board members will send emails to the Director with ideas to solve some of the comment issues.

Approval of Budget. Director states we had to borrow equipment from other counties for this election. Originally purchased in 2018 the current inventory is: Express Vote: 90; Express Link(printer): 16; Tabulators: 45; 850 Scanner: 1. We are in the process of replacing the 4-booth voting booths, due to breakage, with stand-alone voting booths, purchasing 45 boxes (2 to a box) per year. Director recommends purchases of 14 Express Vote machines, 6 Express Link(printers), 5 DS200 tabulators, 2 deck flatbed scanners, transcription system for Board meetings, and 1 ballot on demand laptop. This budget adds \$100,000 to last years budget.

Currently we donate \$50 to the non-governmental precincts to use their facilities. Director recommends an increase of \$150. We currently pay \$60,000 rent for our office (lease expires 2029) and use 14 non-governmental buildings as precincts. Chair suggests a donation of \$200 to the 14 precincts, totaling \$2,800. Discussion ensued regarding how to increase communications and information to the community. Possibilities are a dedicated app, email push with sign ups for this on the BOE site, text alerts (very expensive). Aaron will consult with the County IT department. We will add \$15,000 for this and \$8,000 for electronic signage.

Member Ellis moved to approve the non-personnel portion of the budget as amended. Member Pearson 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Member Rebuck moved to go into Closed Session per NCGS§ 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel salary matters contained in the budget. Sharon 2nd. Passed unanimously. Closed session 4:25 PM.

Motions for Board approvals of salaries as discussed with the county HR Department passed in the Closed Session as well as approval of payment of Director's overtime.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Allebach Wente

Secretary

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Clay Eddleman

Chairman

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Cindy Ellis

Member

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Lucy Revell Roberts

Member

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Sharon Pearson

Member

Approved this the 20 day of May, 2025.