

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2014
CANVASS

THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS MET ON NOVEMBER 14, 2014 AT 11:00 A.M., AT 35 WOODFIN STREET, MEETING ROOM #330, IN ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA, WHERE AND WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS WAS TRANSACTED:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jay Watson, Chairman
Bob Knapp, Secretary
Lucy Smith, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Trena Parker, Director
Victoria Leyva, Staff
Rachel Rathbone, Staff
John Noce, Staff
Joyce Kanavel, Staff
Jennifer Sparks, Staff
Sara Kaglic, Staff
Bobbie Johnson, Staff
Dave Gregor, Staff
Jessica Furst, Staff
Caroline Mace, Staff

VISITORS: Annie Butzner, Jake Quinn, Tod Leaven, Fremont Brown III, Eileen McMinn, Jones Byrd, Christy Fryar, Michelle Pace Wood

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 10th meeting. Secretary Knapp moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Parker provided a review of the Canvass process. She also provided the results from the random sample audit for precinct 7.1 and precinct 50.1. She explained a bi-partisan team conducted the hand-eye count of the U.S. Senate race for the two precincts. There was one difference in the count for precinct 7.1 due to a voter marking 2 candidates but other than that the precincts balanced completely. The results have been sent to the State Board of Elections.

John Noce presented to the Board 3 pending provisional ballots. The first provisional was pending because the application was on the inside of the envelope and staff is unable to open the envelope without the Board's approval. The second provisional was pending because the address given by the voter was not an address in our Buncombe County Geographical Information System. John explained that he believes the house number given by the voter is actually an apartment number. The third provisional was pending due to the residence address given by the voter being incorrect. Our office has attempted to contact the voter by mail and by e-mail but have not received a response. Secretary Knapp moved to approve the first two provisional ballots and to reject the last provisional ballot since the voter is a new registrant to the county and our attempts to contact him have been unsuccessful. The motion passed unanimously.

Rachel Rathbone presented to the Board an absentee ballot with incomplete witness information. Secretary Knapp moved to disapprove the absentee ballot. The motion passed unanimously. Rachel presented 33 absentee ballots which were returned after the deadline. Secretary Knapp moved to disapprove the 33 absentee ballots. The motion passed unanimously. Rachel presented an absentee ballot that was returned to our office undeliverable by the post office. Secretary Knapp moved to disapprove the absentee ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

Rachel Rathbone informed the Board that a civilian absentee ballot was found among West Asheville's early voting ballots indicating that it had been scanned in the M100. Since there was no absentee application or certification with the ballot she recommends the Board reject the ballot and redact the votes of that ballot from the unofficial results of the West Asheville early voting site. Member Smith moved to reject the absentee ballot and redact the votes of that ballot due to deficiency of signatures/incomplete application. Secretary Knapp seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Rachel Rathbone informed the Board that a voter who had voted absentee by mail and whose ballot was approved by the board has apparently cast a ballot in person on Election Day. The voter's absentee by mail ballot was received by our office on November 4th. The voter's Election Day authorization to vote form indicates that the voter presented at Enka Middle School, precinct 45.1, and cast a ballot. Rachel recommends the board redact the votes of the absentee by mail ballot since that ballot is retrievable. Secretary Knapp stated he would like to send this case to the State for investigation. Secretary Knapp moved to redact the votes from the absentee by mail ballot. The motion passed unanimously. A bi-partisan team conducted a hand-eye count on the 2 ballots to tally the votes for redaction.

John Noce informed the Board that a provisional ballot was apparently scanned by an M100 machine on Election Day and should not have been counted since the voter was ineligible to vote. Secretary Knapp moved to reject the ballot and redact the votes of that ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

John Noce presented a provisional ballot which the voter is qualified to vote but the M100 would not accept the ballot for unreadable marks. Secretary Knapp moved to accept the provisional ballot. The motion passed unanimously. A bi-partisan team conducted a hand-eye count on the 2 provisional ballots to tally the votes for addition and redaction purposes.

John Noce presented 5 provisional ballots recommended to be counted partially due to the fact that there were unreported moves and accordingly voters received the incorrect ballot and partial counting is approved by statutes. Member Smith moved to approve the 5 partial provisional ballots in accordance to G.S. 163-82.15(e) and to tally the votes of the races the voter was eligible to vote on. The motion passed unanimously. A bi-partisan team conducted the hand-eye count on the 5 provisional ballots and tallied the votes.

John Noce presented 214 provisional ballots recommended for rejection. He explained that these voters were ineligible to vote due to not being registered prior to the October 10th registration deadline, being registered in another county and a few stated they

registered at the DMV but there was no record of them registering at the DMV. Secretary Knapp moved to disapprove the 214 provisional ballots. The motion passed unanimously.

John Noce presented 119 provisional ballots recommended for approval. He explained that these voters were eligible to vote but were unable to cast a regular ballot due to being removed in error, geocode issues, poll worker error, and a few had registered at the DMV but their application was not received by our office. Secretary Knapp moved to approve the 119 provisional ballots. The motion passed unanimously.

The 118 approved provisional ballots were counted by the 650 scanner. One ballot could not be read by the 650 scanner so a hand-eye count was conducted so the votes could be manually entered.

The board recessed at 1:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

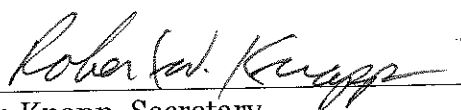
At 3:34 p.m. the Board entered into Executive Session for matters containing confidential information. The Board returned to regular session at 3:40 p.m. Chairman Watson announced that the Board voted unanimously to refer 6 voters to the State Board of Elections office and county District Attorney for further investigation.

At 4:47 p.m. the abstracts were provided to the Board. The Board certified the abstracts and the results became official. The results were sent to the State Board of Elections.

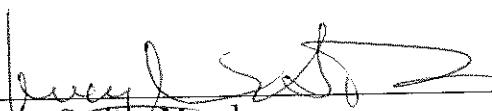
The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



Jay Watson, Chairman



Bob Knapp, Secretary



Lucy Smith, Member