

May 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

NAME

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June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

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Name

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# Buncombe County Board of Elections

## Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2017

### Opening

The scheduled meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 5:30pm on June 1, 2017 at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

### Present

Board Members-

Jay Watson, Chairman  
Lucy Smith, Secretary  
George Keller, Member

BOE Staff-

Trena Parker, Director  
Jennifer Sparks  
Corinne Duncan  
John Noce

Visitors-

(See attached)

### Item One – Welcome of the Visitors

### Item Two - Approval of Minutes

- Member Keller motioned the minutes to be approved for March 30, March 9 , and May 11, 2017.
  - Approval in unanimous agreement

### Item Three – Correspondence from Senator Chuck Edwards, 48<sup>th</sup> District

- Senator Edwards sent the Board a letter asking the staff to review 25 names that were mailed and returned to him as undeliverable
- Sparks reviewed the data and presented her findings
  - 14 are active
    - 6 letters had no apartment number
    - 2 came back with forwarding address
    - 1 updated their info
    - 5 are the same address as his sent address
  - 4 inactive failed mail verification process
  - 3 registrations denied
  - 4 removed/ archived
    - 2 deceased
    - 2 archived
- Director Parker has drafted a response to Senator Edwards

- After review, Chairman Watson requested Director Parker to incorporate Sparks findings into the response letter.

**Item Four-- Executive Session**

- Chairman Watson made a motion to enter into executive session for a personnel matter.
- Member Keller seconded with unanimous approval.
  - Entering executive session at 5:57pm
  - Out of executive session at 6:30pm
  - No action was taken

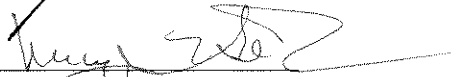
The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm. The next meeting is to be determined, at 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Minutes submitted by: Kevin J. Roberts

Approved by:



Jay Watson, Chairman



Lucy Smith, Secretary



George Keller, Member



MAY 1 ' 2017

MAY 1 ' 2017

North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate

SENATOR CHUCK EDWARDS  
48TH DISTRICT

OFFICE: 2115 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
16 WEST JONES STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27601-2808  
PHONE: (919) 733-5745  
EMAIL: CHUCK.EDWARDS@NCLEG.NET  
DISTRICT: 337 NORTH MAIN STREET  
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792  
PHONE: (828) 214-5700

COMMITTEES

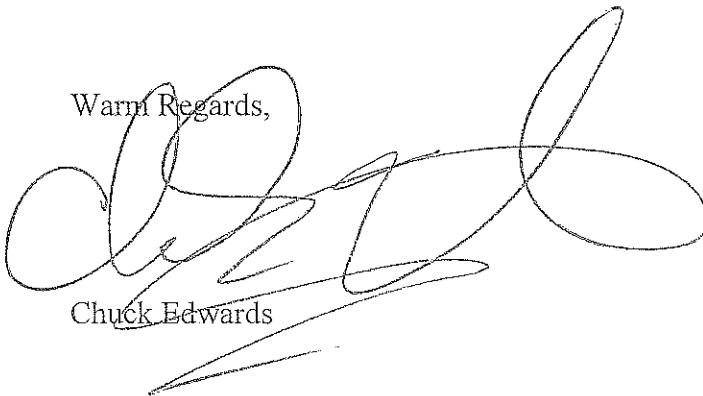
APPROPRIATIONS ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION  
HEALTH CARE  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Hello Mr. Watson,

I am writing you today regarding a number of returned letters to my office. I send a letter to every newly registered voter in my District to introduce myself as their Senator and ensure they have my contact information. My office pulls the voter registration data straight from information provided by the State Board of Elections. Many of these letters are returned to my office marked as undeliverable. These letters are sent monthly to ensure that voters that registered within the month have information to receive the services my office is able to supply.

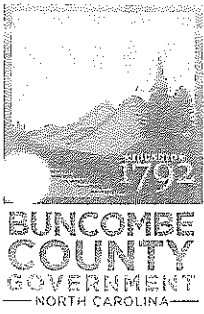
I have received 75 of these letters back within the past few months. In addition to this letter, you are receiving copies of the addresses and names that have been returned to us from your county. To some, the number we have received overall may seem suspicious. With this letter, I am requesting you review the validity of the voter registration.

Warm Regards,



Chuck Edwards





## Election Services

**CHAIRMAN**  
*John D. Watson III*

**SECRETARY**  
*Lucy Smith*

**MEMBER**  
*George Keller*

**MEMBER**  
*Trena Parker*

June 16, 2017

Senator Chuck Edwards  
48<sup>th</sup> District  
2115 Legislative Building  
16 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator Edwards:

In response to your letter received by the Buncombe County Board of Elections office on May 17th, the election staff has conducted the enclosed research. As you will see from the attached, as to each of the 25 addresses in question, there appears to be legitimate reasons for the return of the mailings.

Fourteen of those mailed are active in the registration system, which means that the Board of Elections has mailed the appropriate notifications with no issues to warrant denials. The mailing from your office failed to include apartment numbers for 6 of those (14). Two of the letters contained in your mailing came back with a forwarding address, which would indicate that the voters in question moved to another address since their initial registration. One of the 14 has since updated their address information. The remaining 5 have addresses that are similar to the one provided to the Board of Elections. Since our mailings to them did not result in undeliverable status, only the Post Office could lend information to this mystery. Of the remaining mailings, 7 registrations were denied based on failed mail verification, 2 registrations are now deceased, and 2 have been archived.

**14 Active, Successful Registrations**

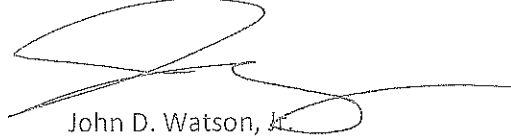
- 6 apartment numbers missing
- 2 returned with forwardable address
- 1 updated address
- 5 same information, BOE mailing successful

**7 Denied, 2 Deceased, 2 Archived**

The registration process, as dictated by Federal law, allows registrants to vote based on their current address which they attest to be valid, under oath, on the voter registration form. Certainly circumstances and addresses may change, and registrants do not always update the BoE on those changes. Under the current laws and process, we may not receive notice of changes until registrants update their information in preparation to once again vote.

Thank you for your inquiry, and do not hesitate to contact the Board of Elections staff if you should have further questions regarding these instances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Watson, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John D. Watson, Jr.  
Chairman  
For the Buncombe County Board of Elections



BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
PROPOSED AGENDA for June 1, 2017

- I. Welcome of Visitors
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Correspondence from Senator Chuck Edwards, 48<sup>th</sup> District
- IV. Executive Session
- V. Adjourn