

**COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, July 6, 2022**  
**9:00AM**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Chair Susan Cuthrell called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

**Board Members Present:** Chair Susan Cuthrell, Secretary Jeanette Deese, Member Dale Gillikin, Member Gerald Godette, and Member Lucia Bond

**Staff Members Present:** Director Caitlin Sabadish, Deputy Director Margot Burke

**Others Present:** Ken Raper; Clerk of Court, Nick Wilson; PIO, Lynn Carraway; Carteret County Votes Count Committee, Barbara Smith; CCVC, Carol Geer; League of Women Voters, and Ralph Hall; LWV

**II. Board Member Appointment**

Mr. William K. Raper, Carteret County Clerk of Court, issued the Oath of Office as outlined in GS 163-30 to newly appointment Board Member, Lucia M Bond.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Secretary Deese made a motion to approve the July 6, 2022 regular meeting agenda as presented. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Public Comment**

Lynn Carraway made the Board aware that they have received more data concerning possible voter fraud in Carteret County. CCVC is committed to providing Carteret County residents with well-organized and clean elections and are will to work with and assist the Carteret County Board of Elections.

Barbara Smith shared her personal experience going door to door and stated that the groups' efforts have been well received and appreciated by the public.

Carol Geer noted that the LWV will be doing their voter registration drive in September at the Carteret County Community College.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Director Sabadish presented the minutes from the June 1, 2022 Regular Meeting. Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Member Bond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Adopt Resolution to Permanently Relocate the Newport 2 Precinct**

The Newport 2 precinct, the Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church located at 182 Holly Springs Road Newport, NC 28570 is not willing to host the Board of Elections in future elections. The Church recently opened up a school and does not have the space to accommodate us any longer. Director Sabadish recommended to permanently relocate the Newport 2 precinct to the Sanctuary

Church located at 8125 Highway 70, Newport, NC 28570. These locations are four point nine (4.9) miles apart. Secretary Deese made a motion to adopt the resolution to permanently relocate the Newport 2 voting precinct from 182 Holly Springs Road Newport, NC 28570 to 8125 Highway 70, Newport, NC 28570 for all future elections. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously. Pertaining to this permanent precinct relocation, staff agreed to strictly adhere to GS 163-128 and provide notice to all affected registered voters. As such, notice will be given forty-five (45) days prior to the next election in a newspaper having general circulation in the county, by posting a copy of the resolution at the courthouse door and at the office of the county board of elections, and by mailing a copy of the resolution to the chairman of every political party in the county. Additionally, the Board will mail a notification card noticing the address of the new voting location to individuals affected by the change no later than thirty (30) days prior to the election.

## **VII. Director's Report**

### **a. Carteret County Votes Count list of duplicate registrations**

Director Sabadish presented the findings of the research done on the lists provided to staff by Carteret County Votes Count. The lists submitted were of duplicate voter records in Carteret County and voter registrations that listed PO Boxes or UPS boxes as their residential address. Out of the list of forty-five (45) duplicate registrations, Director Sabadish found that thirty-three (33) were in county and twelve (12) were duplicates in Carteret and another county. The twelve (12) out of county duplicate records were communicated with the other counties and resolved. Of the thirty-three (33) that were in county, six (6) of them had already been resolved through regular list maintenance and twenty-seven (27) were merged and resolved. Of the twenty-seven (27) that were merged, twenty-two (22) were the result of clerical errors on behalf of the office and five (5) were justifiable errors made by precinct officials or the voters themselves. Director Sabadish explained that duplicate registrations are not uncommon and that each County in North Carolina conducts regular monthly list maintenance to remove duplicate records across the State. Director Sabadish additionally noted that the county board of elections conducts systematic procedures to conduct regular list maintenance. If an applicant completes an application form but neglects to complete the portion of the form that authorizes cancellation of previous registration in another county, the State Board of Elections (SBOE) shall notify the county board of elections in the previous county of the new registration, and the previous county shall cancel the registration. When counties process a voter registration application, the applicant's information is checked first with the voter registration list within the county and then within the state. If the statewide voter registration system determines the applicant is registered in another county, then that voter is removed from the previous county of registration when the person is registered in the new county. The SBOE provide county boards of elections with a monthly report comparing the county voter records with the statewide voter records in an attempt to identify *potential* duplicate registrations that were not caught with the statewide duplicate check. This report is generated and made

available to the counties electronically. County boards of elections must research these reports and work with other boards of elections to make a determination of whether an individual is registered in another county, and if so, in which county the voter needs to be removed and in which county the person is more recently qualified to vote.

Concerning the list of PO boxes and UPS boxes, Director Sabadish found that of the thirty-one (31) listed, thirteen (13) were non-issues and eighteen (18) did list PO boxes or UPS boxes as their residential address. To resolve this, staff mailed letters to each of the voters asking for confirmation of their physical residential address. Staff will practice routine list maintenance procedures to remedy this and make two attempts to contact. The letters will be handled in the same manor as a confirmation card. After a second notice is mailed, if the letter is returned due to undeliverable mailings, the active voter will go inactive as part of an administrative list maintenance process if the voter does not return the notice or respond to the mailing within thirty (30) days. Inactive status indicates that the county board of elections has not been able to verify by mail the address in the voter's record; a confirmation notice mailed to a voter has been either returned undeliverable by the Postal Service or has not been returned at all. Inactive status cannot be applied within ninety (90) days prior to an election. Staff is now vetting the addresses of every post office and UPS location in the County to prevent future registrations that list the mailing address as the physical residential address.

b. Precinct Official Feedback

Deputy Director Burke presented and summarized the feedback received from the precinct officials about the 2022 Primary Elections. Several of the Board members noted that they were grateful for all of the positive feedback that was received.

c. NCSBE Virtual Conference Dates

The North Carolina State Board of Elections will be holding their annual conference virtually on August 30, 2022 and August 31, 2022.

## **VIII. Board Comments**

Chair Cuthrell opened the floor for Board comments. No formal action was required by the Board.

### Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell noted that she was pleased with the positive feedback from the precinct officials and welcomed Member Bond to the Board.

### Member Bond

Member Bond stated that she was honored to be a member of the Board of excited to work with the Board and staff through the elections process and is eager to serve the public in this capacity.

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese thanked the staff for their hard work and thanked the League of Women Voters and Carteret County Votes Count for their dedication to voter registration improvements.

Member Godette

Member Godette thanked the staff for their hard worked and expressed that he is glad to see so much public interest in the voting processes. Member Godette welcomed Member Bond to the Board.

Member Gillikin

Member Gillikin echoed the other board member comments and stated that she is glad to now have a full five-member board. Member Gillikin thanked that staff and the advocacy groups for their diligent work.

**IX. Adjournment**

Member Gillikin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Secretary Deese and the motion was passed unanimously.

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Susan Cuthrell, Chair

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Jeanette Deese, Secretary

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Dale Gillikin, Member

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Gerald Godette, Member

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Lucia Bond, Member