

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, August 3, 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: Lynn Carraway; Carteret County Votes Count Committee, Barbara Smith; CCVC, Carol Geer; League of Women Voters, Norma Hall; LWV, Ralph Hall; LWV, and Steve Norton; Chief Judge

II. Approval of Agenda

Secretary Deese made a motion to approve the August 3, 2022 regular meeting agenda as presented. Member Gillikin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Lynn Carraway highlighted the event hosted by Carteret County Votes Count on August 11, 2022 at the Carteret County Community College.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Director Sabadish presented the minutes from the July 6, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Member Bond made a motion to approve the minutes with an amendment made to change “Vice Chair Deese” to “Secretary Deese” under item VI. Member Gillikin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. One-Stop Implementation Plan for the November, 2022 General Election

Director Sabadish presented the recommended November 8, 2022 One-Stop plan to the Board for approval to include opening three (3) locations for One-Stop Early Voting as listed below to operate from October 20, 2022 through November 5, 2022. All locations will operate Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 7:30PM excluding the last Saturday which will operate from 8:00AM to 3:00PM as required in even-year elections.

- Board of Elections Office (BOE) – 1702 Live Oak Street Beaufort, NC 28516
- Fort Benjamin Park/Recreation Center (FBEN) – 100 McQueen Avenue Newport, NC 28570
- Western Park Community Center (WEST) – 275 Old NC Hwy 58 Cedar Point, NC 28584

According to G.S. § 163-227.6, "...a county board of elections by unanimous vote of all its members..." shall approve the sites and hours for One-Stop early voting. Member Gillikin made a motion adopt the November 8, 2022 One-Stop early voting plan as recommended. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Director's Report

a. Carteret County Votes Count Event

Director Sabadish presented the invitation to attend the event hosted by Carteret County Votes Count and expressed that the State had not provided any guidance concerning the Boards' attendance.

Chair Cuthrell expressed that she is not interested in attending the event and feels confident in the execution of the elections in Carteret County. Chair Cuthrell expressed that she supports the efforts of CCVC concerning voter registration lists and maintenance, however, does not support the questioning of the outcome of past elections or accusations of voter fraud within the County. The Board recommended that staff attend the event if there is any information to gain. Staff agreed to attend.

Member Gillikin noted that she also feels confident that the voter registration lists are maintained in Carteret County and would like to know what each of the 'green', 'yellow', and 'red' categories are based upon and would also like an updated copy of the map after staff had made corrections based on the last list provided. Member Gillikin expressed interest in viewing the list of the claimed fifteen hundred voter anomalies. Member Gillikin also said that she is in support of efforts that increase voter confidence.

Member Bond expressed that trust in the process and trust in the Board of Elections is extremely important and she feels confident that the staff research and do their due diligence to ensure that all processes are executed accurately and fairly.

Secretary Deese expressed that she is unable to attend the event and also noted that she feels confident in the election that was conducted in Carteret County and appreciates that effort and time that the staff puts in to researching and maintaining accurate voter records. Secretary Deese also explained that a public event could be attended by all Board members and notice could be sent in regard to the social event. Secretary Deese also noted that in this case, the UNC School of Government recommends that Board members not sit together or discuss any business at the event. In this case, Secretary Deese commented that taking any steps to notify the public is not necessary in this case, as not more than a quorum will be present. Secretary Deese also expressed concerns about staff being targeted at the event and that if they feel uncomfortable at any point, they should leave.

Member Godette commented that one of the main reasons that he agreed to be a member of the Board of Elections was to ensure voter confidence. After being on the Board and being involved in the process and witnessing the work that the staff conducts, he is confident that voter fraud is not an issue in Carteret County. As a result, Member Godette does not feel the need for the Board to be present at the event.

b. List of Important Dates

Director Sabadish presented the Board with a list of important dates concerning the November, 2022 General Election.

VII. Board Comments

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

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese asked staff about the State's approval for the permanent relocation of the Newport 2 precinct. Director Sabadish explained that State approval is not required since the move is within precinct boundaries and the authority lies solely with the County Board of Elections.

VIII. Closed session in accordance with GS 143-318.11 (1) for the purpose of discussing personnel and performance reviews

Secretary Deese made a motion to move to closed session in accordance with GS 143-318.11 (1) for the purpose of discussing personnel and performance reviews. Member Gillikin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Return to Open Session

Member Gillikin made a motion to return to open session. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Member Godette made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Member Bond and the motion was passed unanimously.

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Jeanette Deese, Secretary

Dale Gillikin, Member

Gerald Godette, Member

Lucia Bond, Member