

# BRUNSWICK COUNTY

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Meeting Minutes · Pre-Canvass Meeting · November 14, 2024 · 9:00 a.m.

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**Board Members Present:** Chair Edward E. Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, member Paula Clarity, Member Randy Pelton, and Member Timothy M. Randall

**Board Staff Present:** Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Melissa Chambers, Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, Absentee Assistant Christy Souter

**Bipartisan Duplication Team Present:** Julie Paladino, Stefanie Ottolini, Myrtle Stevenson, Gwen Causey, Debra Prew-Delekto, and Pat Vandergrift

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### **Meeting Opening**

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. LaVere clarified that any ballots approved, opened, and scanned today will not be tabulated until the canvass meeting.

### **Consideration of Supplemental Absentee Ballots**

There are 265 ballots for the board's consideration.

Information only: 55 ballots pending cure.

Mr. Johnson opened the central scanner and ran a zero-count report which board members signed.

Ms. LaVere presented supplemental absentee ballots recommended for consideration:

### **Ballots recommended for approval**

#### **180 Ballots recommended for approval for board to spot check**

- 104 Civilian ballots
- 13 Overseas returned by mail or will be duplicated during the board meeting
- 10 Military returned by mail or will be duplicated during the board meeting
- 53 Affidavit Review Pending Civilian ballots that were returned with a properly executed Photo ID Exception Form

Board members each reviewed at least two ballots.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the 180 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

19 Ballots requiring board review- approval

- 18 Accepted Cure
- 1 Accepted Cure Military

The board reviewed each of these ballots.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballots requiring board review – pending board decision

- 8 Civilian ballots received in a sealed return envelope, but the ballot envelope was unsealed or the ballot was loose in the return envelope
  - Numbered Memo 2021-03 provides that when the ballot is inside the executed ballot envelope which is not sealed but the ballot envelope is received in a sealed return envelope, this anomaly is not a deficiency. Staff is instructed to re-seal the return envelope with a notation of “sealed in return envelope” and the county board should open the return envelope and address the ballot at its next absentee meeting.
  - Mr. Pelton made a motion to authorize staff to open envelopes and evaluate for further recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.
  - Upon staff review, two ballots did not have acceptable witnesses.
- 7 Civilian ballots where the voter indicated that their photo ID documentation is inside the ballot envelope.
  - Mr. Pelton made a motion to authorize staff to open envelopes and evaluate for further recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve 13 ballots recommended for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballots recommended for disapproval

- 5 Civilian ballots with incomplete witness information
- 46 Civilian ballots received after the deadline, which was Tuesday, November 5, at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Randall made a motion to disapprove 51 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved ballots were removed from the envelopes and scanned into the Verity scanner.

Mr. Johnson announced that 212 ballots were scanned at today’s meeting. That was confirmed to be the number of ballots approved.

The ballots were placed in a bin and sealed, with seals signed by Ms. Clarity and Mr. Pelton. The secure vDrive was placed in a storage container and will be sealed with approved provisional ballots later in the meeting. The following vote count was logged.

- Ballot count: 212
- Ballot bin seals: 36069794 and 36069750

**Consideration of Provisional Ballots**

Ms. Chambers explained the provisional process and presented provisional ballots for consideration.

Provisional ballots being considered today: 1059

<b>Vote Count</b>	<b>Provisional Voting Reason</b>	<b># Ballots</b>
<b>APPROVED</b>	ID Not Provided (Exception Form Properly Executed, No finding of falsity)	72
	ID Not Provided (No Exception Form, Provided Acceptable Photo ID to BOE)	15
	Administrative/Poll Worker Error	21
	Incorrect Precinct	145
	No Record of Registration (Provisional Application resolved deficiency in existing incomplete application)	15
	Previously Removed	103
	Unreported Move	4
	Voter Already Voted (poll worker error, checked-in incorrect voter)	5
	Geocode Issue	10
	<b>TOTAL (Fully) APPROVED</b>	<b>390</b>

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve 390 ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>PARTIALS</b>	Voted out of Precinct (Incorrect NC House District)	49
	<b>TOTAL (Partial) APPROVED</b>	<b>49</b>

Mr. Smith made a motion to partially approve 49 ballots recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>NOT APPROVED</b>	No Record of Registration	521
	Previously Removed	87
	Unreported Move	6
	Geocode Issue (Address does not exist)	3
	Voter Already Voted	1
	<b>TOTAL NOT APPROVED</b>	<b>618</b>

Mr. Randall made a motion to not approve 618 ballots as recommended by staff.

<b>PENDING BOARD DECISION</b>	Voter's Address Unclear	2
	<b>TOTAL PENDING 11.14.2024</b>	<b>2</b>

Mr. Smith made a motion to disapprove the ballot in which the voter's address was unclear. The motion carried by majority.

Mr. Johnson opened the central scanner and ran a zero count report which board members signed.

Approved ballots were opened and duplicated as necessary by the bipartisan team and scanned into the Verity Central Scan.

Upon opening approved ballots, 4 ballots were determined to be only partially eligible to be counted due to voter receiving the ballot of the incorrect NC House district.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to change the status of those 4 ballots from full approval to partial approval as deemed necessary by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

The board adjudicated overvotes as necessary.

Mr. Johnson announced that 439 ballots were scanned which was confirmed as the number of approved ballots.

Ballot bin seals were initialed by Mr. Pelton and Mr. Randall.

Provisional and ballot bin seals: 36069747 and 36069749

Vdrive seal for supplemental absentee and provisional: 36069748

**Adjournment**

Mr. Lewis thanked the staff and bipartisan team for their excellent work.

Mr. Randall made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.