



BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Canvass of Votes Meeting

March 13, 2026

11:00 am

The Bertie County Board of Elections held their Canvass of Votes meeting on Friday, March 13, 2026 at 11:00 am. The meeting took place at 210 W. Watson Street, Windsor.

Present from the Board and Staff were: Timothy Davis, James Lee, Tammy Lee, Lori Morings, Pamela Staneski, LaToya R. Peele and Synesta P. Freeman

Present from the public were Canvass Monitors from Common Cause: Linda McNair-Moore, Linda Freeman and Norman M. Cherry, Sr.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davis at 11:08 am. The Invocation was done by Chairman Davis and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business

Old Business

Review: Provisional Ballots

Chairman Davis reviewed the Provisional Tabulation meeting from March 6th.

There were 53 total Provisional Ballots within the following categories:

34 Provisional Ballots were Approved
19 Provisional Ballots were not approved

Review: Sample Hand and Eye Count

Director Peele reviewed the Sample Hand and Eye Count for the US Senate Contest for precincts Woodville and Absentee by Mail. The contest was for both the Democratic and Republican seats. At the result of the count, Director Peele informed the Board that the hand and eye results matched those of the DS200 machine.

Director's Report

Voter History

Director Peele informed the Board that Voter History for the Primary Election would be completed the week of March 16th. She also stated that all Voter History must be completed by State Canvass, March 25, 2026.

Precinct Sort

Director Peele informed the Board that Precinct Sort is due on April 2nd. All ballots from the Administrative Precincts (Early Voting, Absentee by Mail and Provisional) must be sorted and inserted in the DS200 of their respective precincts.

FY2026-2027 Budget Review

Director Peele reviewed the FY2026-2027 Budget with the Board. The review included each line item, the amount requested along with justification for each.

Upon review, Mrs. Lee made a Motion to Approve Director Peele to submit the recommended FY2026-2027 Budget to the County Manager. The Motion was Second by Mr. Lee.

Election Equipment Upgrade: Express Votes Machine

Chairman Davis discussed with the Board the possibility of upgrading to Express Vote Machines within the next few years. Chairman Davis stated the Express Votes would take the place of our Auto Marks and are half the size. The Board agreed with the upgrade. Director Peele stated this purchase would be considered Capital Outlay and she informed Finance during the FY2024-2025 that we would eventually upgrade.

Chairman Davis and the Board discussed the possibility of purchasing the equipment through grant funds. Mrs. Lee stated that Robyn Payne serves as the County Grant Writer.

Mr. Lee made a Motion to invite Robyn Payne to the next Board meeting to discuss grant purchasing opportunities for the Express Votes. Secretary Staneski Second the Motion.

Alibi Topics

Election Day Assessment

Chairman Davis informed the Board that he spoke with County Manager Vaughan regarding the \$150.00 Election Day Assessment. Chairman Davis stated that County Manager Vaughan did not feel comfortable reinstating the assessment due to the fact that it is labeled a "Bonus" and no one else in the county received such an incentive. The Board discussed this matter intensely.

During discussion, Chairman Davis asked Director Peele if he could review the timesheets from November 2025 to see how the incentive was written. Director Peele informed the Board that the word "Bonus" was always used for the assessment. She also stated she would need to have a document in writing from County Manager Vaughan if his decision changes.

Recess of Meeting

Chairman Davis recessed the meeting for a 10-minute break at 12:20 pm.

Reconvene of Meeting

Chairman Davis reconvened the meeting at 12:29 pm.

Election Day Assessment

The Board continued to discuss the Election Day Assessment. Chairman Davis informed the Board that he will request a second meeting with County Manager Vaughan regarding the reinstatement of the assessment. He also stated he would discuss retroactive pay.

Chief Judge: End of the Night Reporting

The Board discussed the various processes of End of the Night Reporting and the changes that could be made.

Final Comments

There were no final comments from the Board or staff.

Comments from the public: Common Cause Canvass Monitors

Linda McNair-Moore stated she enjoyed the meeting. She also informed the Board that Common Cause would like her to attend additional meetings before the General Election season.

Linda Freeman and Norman M. Cherry, Sr thanked the Board and staff for their service.

Finalize of Canvass and Reading of Contest Winners

Director Peele finalized the Canvass Results in Election Night Reporting and read the contest winners. The Canvass Abstracts were printed for the Board to sign.

Next Board Meeting


The next board meeting is the monthly meeting on Tuesday April, 7 2026.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy Davis, Chairman 

Pamela Staneski, Secretary 

James Lee, Member 

Tammy Lee, Member 

Lori Morings, Member _____