



Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2024

5:00 pm

The Bertie County Board of Elections held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2024 at 210 W. Watson Street, Windsor, NC.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wm. Michael Freeman. Mrs. Staneski gave the Invocation.

Present were Wm. Michael Freeman, James Lee, Pamela Staneski, Timothy Davis, LaToya R. Peele, Synesta Freeman, Angela Watson and Sheriff Tyrone Ruffin.

Business

The first order of business was the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Secretary Davis read the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were approved by a Motion by Mrs. Staneski and a Second by Mr. Lee.

Sheriff Tyrone Ruffin: Election Security

Sheriff Ruffin informed the Board on the various ways his office will provide Election Security during the Primary Election. Sheriff Ruffin stated during the last election, his deputies provided periodic checks to each Precinct. Sheriff Ruffin stated he would like to have a Deputy or an unarmed Bailiff at each precinct during closing. He also stated he would be willing to have his deputies transport Election Results to the office as he did in Hertford County. Sheriff Ruffin stated his goal is to make sure we are safe on Election Night.

Director's Report

Director Peele discussed several topics with the Board.

2023 Municipal Election: Town Billing

Director Peele informed the Board that the billing to the Municipalities will be mailed next week. Director Peele stated the Municipal Towns are billed for everything regarding the election of their town (Ballots, Coding, Precinct Workers, etc.)

2024 Primary Election

Official Ballots/ Samples

Director Peele informed the Board that she has completed the Ballot Proofing process and placed the official ballot order with Printelect. Director Peele also stated that sample ballots are now available.

Laptop Preparation

Director Peele informed the Board that she and IT Director Joe Wilkes will begin to prepare the Laptops for that Primary Election the week of January 29th.

Absentee by Mail

Absentee Mail begins Friday, January 9th

Director Peele informed the Board that Absentee by Mail begins on Friday, January 19th and Absentee Ballot Request forms are available. Director Peele also stated those who complete an Absentee Ballot will have to provide a copy of their Photo ID when they return their balloting envelopes. Those without Voter ID may complete a Voter Photo ID Exception Form.

Bertie County Selected to participate in a Signature Verification Pilot Program

Director Peele informed the Board that Bertie County was 1 of the 10 Counties selected to participate in the Signature Verification Pilot Program. Director Peele stated the signature verification software will be used to compare the signatures on mail-in absentee ballot applications and envelopes against the voters' signatures on file with the elections' offices. The Board discussed our selection and the effects it could possibly have.

Director Peele further stated that Field Support Technicians will be at each of the 10 counties once the software is received. The other counties selected to participate in the pilot program are Cherokee, Durham, Halifax, Henderson, Jones, Montgomery, Pamlico, Rowan, and Wilkes.

Voter Registration Deadline

Director Peele informed the Board that the Voter Registration Deadline is Friday, February 9th at 5:00 pm

Senate Bill 747: New Laws in effect as of January 1st

Early Voting and Observers

Early Voting Workers Appointment

Director Peele informed the Board that Early Voting workers have to be appointed as they would on Election Day. There will be a Chief Judge and 2 Judges at each Early Voting Site.

Director Peele stated that the Party Chairs would receive an official appointment letter informing them of any recommendations they have to our current list of workers.

Director Peele suggested the appointment meeting take place on Tuesday, January 30th at 5:00 pm which is a regular absentee board meeting.

Observers

Director Peele informed the Board that according to the new session laws, County boards shall require every observer on duty to wear an identification tag or badge. The identification will make voters and election officials aware of the observer's role in the voting precinct.

Director Peele also stated the Chief Judge should verify the identity of individuals appearing at the voting place to serve as an observer, which may include asking the observer to show photo ID.

Early Voting Dates: February 15th- March 2nd

Director Peele reminded the Board that Early Voting begins Thursday, February 15th and ends Saturday, March 2nd. Our two sites are The Board of Elections Office and the Powellsville Town Hall,

Poll Worker Training

Early Voting and Election Day Workers

Director Peele reminded the Board that Early Voting Training will be Thursday, February 8th and Friday, February 9th at 10:00 am at the Elections Office. Director Peele also informed the Board that Precinct Training for Election Day Officials will be Monday, February 19th - Friday, February 23rd. The training will take place at the Social Services Training Classroom at 7:00 pm.

Voter Assistance Log

Director Peele informed the Board that as of January 1st, a citizen who provides assistance to a voter and does not vote will have to complete a Voter Assistant Log. Director Peele further stated the log will be for those who vote in person not curbside.

SBOE Winter Conference

Director Peele reminded the Board of the SBOE Winter Conference in Concord from February 4th-February 6th.

NC Coming Together Video

Director Peele showed the Board the final version of the NC Coming Together Video. The video will be available on the NC State Board of Elections website.

Next Board Meeting

Director Peele stated the next board meeting would be Tuesday, January 30th to approve Absentee Ballots and appoint Early Voting Precinct Officials.

The next official regular board meeting and Absentee Meeting is Tuesday, February 13th.

There were no Public Comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. Michael Freeman, Chairman



Timothy Davis, Secretary



Anthony Ward, Member

Pamela Staneski, Member



James Lee, Member


