

# BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton  
CHAIR

Frank M. Dickerson  
SECRETARY

Jerry D. Jordan  
MEMBER



Robert H. Coffman  
Director of Elections

## FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – May 4, 2010

Present: Linda J. Sutton, Chair  
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary  
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections  
Lamar Joyner, Deputy Director of Elections  
Judy Speas, Senior Office Assistant  
Rebecca VanderKlok, Office Assistant  
Kevin McGuckin, Assistant County Attorney  
Karen White, Interim Director of Human Resources

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### Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room.

### Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes for April 27, 2010. Ms. Sutton entertained a motion for corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Jordan moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### Personnel Matter (Closed Session)

Ms. Sutton suggested that the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. The motion would be based on G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (closed session to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information or information that is not considered a public record). Mr. Jordan moved to go into closed session. The motion passed unanimously and the Board went into closed session at 4:15 PM.

### Approval of Absentee Ballots

The Board reconvened from closed session at 5:43 PM. Ms. Sutton requested that Ms. VanderKlok present the weekly recommendation of absentee ballots to the Board. Ms. VanderKlok recommended 165 absentee ballots for approval and three for disapproval. She explained that one was unsealed and two were disapproved because of no witnesses. Second absentee ballots were mailed to allow these voters to submit an approved ballot. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the recommendation of absentee ballots by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

### Other Business

Mr. Dickerson raised an issue regarding an election statute to be entered in a motion to the Board. Mr. Dickerson moved that he would like for Mr. Coffman to officially request that the State Board lobby for a potential change to GS 163-166.8, Assistance to Voters. The requested change in this law would involve the prohibition of candidates to assist the voter in entering, exiting and preparing ballots at the voting booth unless the voter is a near relative. Mr. Dickerson stated that this assistance of candidates tends to cast doubt on the fairness of the election process. Mr. Jordan agreed, stating that there is another statute, GS 163-237 (b1), Certain violations of absentee ballot law made criminal offenses that states it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for a candidate to witness an absentee ballot of a nonrelative. The allowance of candidates in these two statutes seems to be disparate and in need of review. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed several Election Day problems. This included precinct worker use of the new computer system; interruptions of voting during a fire alarm at Kernersville Elementary; the recurring question of the voting eligibility of an unaffiliated voter; and parking problems at Latham Elementary.

The Board reviewed the violation and investigation of a one stop voter that voted twice. The State Board recommended that the first vote to be considered legal and the second vote to be removed with County Board approval. Mr. Jordan moved that the Board formally refer the issue to the State Board for investigation. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Dickerson moved to remove the second ballot voting from the official vote total. The motion passed unanimously.

### Adjournment

Mr. Coffman stated that staff would update web election results and absentee early voting results at 7:30 PM that evening. The Board agreed to meet later that evening to oversee election results. Ms. Sutton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dickerson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM. The next Board of Elections meeting will be on Canvass Day, May 11, 2010 at 11:00 AM in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room.

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Linda J. Sutton, Chair

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Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

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Jerry D. Jordan, Member