

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.
CHAIRPERSON

Eric Elliott
SECRETARY

John Redding
MEMBER



Kathie Chastain Cooper
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- OCTOBER 26, 2004

Present: Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair
Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary
Mr. John A. Redding, Member

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections
Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections

Call To Order

Mrs. Cardwell called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

Approval of Minutes- October 19, 2004

Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes for October 19, 2004. Mr. Elliott asked to remove the identifying information on one of the absentees that was disapproved at the October 19, 2004 meeting. The Board agreed with making the change. With the change, Mr. Elliott seconded the motion to approve the minutes and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Absentees

The Board reviewed the absentees as presented by the staff. There were 10,658 recommended for approval. Mr. Redding moved to approve the absentees. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There were 70 absentees recommended for disapproval. The Board examined the absentees and Mr. Redding moved to approve CIV 811 and CIV 947. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Redding moved to disapprove 68 absentees. Mr. Elliott seconded and it passed unanimously.

Certification of Voting Equipment

The Board was presented with the certification of the programming and testing of the voting equipment. This document was signed by the staff that tested the equipment.

Mrs. Cooper stated that some ballot counters are in disrepair. There are no parts available to make the repairs on these machines. There are enough counters available for the precincts and for absentees.

Mr. Redding suggested that any recounts be done on the fast card reader if there are any recounts necessary on Election night. Mrs. Cooper stated the fast card reader will not count ballots unless the top stub is removed and with the Soil and Water write-ins the stubs will have to be left intact. Mrs. Cooper explained that the electronic returns program would have to be shut down in order to use the fast card reader, which could pose a problem on Election night.

Mr. Elliott asked that the abbreviations for the voting equipment be spelled out on the certification and any other documents so the public will know what it stands for. He also stated he would like to see the certification posted in the lobby.

Public Session

Joyce McCloy spoke to the Board regarding a paper trail study. She stated the WinVote had problems in Fairfax, Virginia. Ms. McCloy stated she was told that several machines at the Reynolda Manor Library were working incorrectly during the One-Stop voting. She questioned the Board regarding these problems. Mr. Elliott stated the staff has been handling any equipment problems promptly.

Other Business

Mr. Elliott asked the Director if there was any surveying of the voters after using the equipment. Mrs. Cooper stated that even though it was not an actual test of the equipment, it would qualify as a test. However, due to time constraints, number of voters, etc., she had decided not to survey voters.

Mr. Elliott stated the Board of Elections needs to budget money to advertise the One-Stop sites in future elections.

The Director discussed the approval of observers. She stated the Board has given her authority in the past to approve the observers' lists. Mr. Redding moved to allow the Director to approve the observers without holding a Board Meeting. Mr. Elliott seconded and it passed unanimously.

The Director discussed the procedures for counting absentees on Election Day. She suggested having the staff and temporary staff to check off the absentee list and open the absentees. This would be done under supervision of the Board. The Board discussed the procedure and agreed to let the staff and temporary staff assist with the absentees.

The Board and staff discussed the phone system on Election Day. Mrs. Cooper informed the Board that we will be using a new system that will allow us to answer more calls from the precincts. However, due to the high volume of calls, some of the public calling may not be able to get through to a staff member.

Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

s:/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s:/ Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member