MEETING MINUTES

Board of Elections Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
5:30 P.M.

Board Members:
David K. Boone, Chairman
Pamela A. Oxendine, Secretary
Dawn Y. Baxton, Member
Natalie Beauchaine, Member
James P. Weaver, Member

Board Members Present: Chairman David K. Boone, Member Pamela A. Oxendine, Member James P. Weaver, Member Natalie Beauchaine and Member Dawn Baxton

Board Staff Present: Elections Director Derek L. Bowens, Deputy Director Brenda Baker, Election Services Manager Julius Richards and Ballot Processing and Audit Manager Adam Byrnes

Guests in Attendance: See attendance sheet

Meeting Type: In-Person

Meeting Opening

Chairman Boone called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. at the Durham County Board of Elections Office (3825 S. Roxboro St. Suite 101 Durham, NC 27713) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a request to approve the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Mrs. Oxendine moved to approve the agenda as submitted by staff. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with a request to approve minutes from the 2/10 Board meeting. Following review, Ms. Baxton moved to approve the minutes as submitted by staff. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

New Business

a. Adoption of FY 2026-2027 Budget

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the recommended FY 2026-2027 Departmental Budget for approval. The budget will cover July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, which includes the 2026 November General Election. The total budget request, excluding Budget Department entries, is $1,814,128.00. Following review and discussion, Ms. Baxton moved to accept the FY 2026-2027 recommended budget as presented by staff. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

b. Review of Absentee By-Mail Ballots

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with 56 absentee ballots and applications recommended for approval, for review. Following discussion and physical review, Dr. Weaver moved to approve a total of 56 ballots and applications per the recommendation of staff. Dr. Weaver also moved to allow staff to open and scan all approved absentee ballots as preparatory steps prior to the

count on Election Day in accordance with NCGS 163-234(2) and (3). The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with 2 Witness Information Incomplete applications and ballots for review. Following review and discussion, Mrs. Oxendine moved to disapprove the 2 Witness Information Incomplete applications and ballots per the recommendation of staff. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0. The effected voters were reissued an application and ballot per State Board of Elections Numbered Memorandum 2021-03.

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with 1 application and ballot where both the inner and outer envelope were unsealed upon return to the Board of Elections. Following review and discussion, Mrs. Oxendine moved to disapprove the ballot consistent with State Board of Elections Numbered Memorandum 2021-03, per the recommendation of staff. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. The voter was reissued an application and ballot per State Board of Elections Numbered Memorandum 2021-03.

- The approved counts for the February 17, 2026, meeting was 46 Civilian, 2 Accepted-Exception Civilian, 1 Accepted-Cured Civilian, and 8 Military/Overseas duplicated applications and ballots. The total approved absentee count was 57.

General Discussion

Mr. Bowens provided the Board with updates on Early Voting, the deadline for requesting an absentee by-mail ballots, and results from the Voter Experience Survey. He also e provided an update on an observer-related issue.

Public Comments and Questions

One comment was provided in-person and addressed by Mr. Bowens.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 6:22 p.m., on a motion made by Mrs. Oxendine. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

s/Pamela A. Oxendine
Secretary