Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Opening

A meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 3:30 pm on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Attendance

Board Members	Election Services Staff
Glenda Weinert, Board Chair (in-person) Mary Ann Braine, Secretary (in-person) Courtney Blossman, Member (in-person) Sally Stein, Member (in-person) Jake Quinn, Member (in-person) 8 virtual guests 12 in-person guests	Corinne Duncan, Director (in-person) Neggy Fox, Deputy Director (in-person) Gabrielle Corey, Staff (in-person) Devin Whitney, Staff (in-person) Karen Rae, Staff (in-person) Victoria Pickens, Staff (in-person) Ryan Oliver, Staff (in-person) Aaron Bell, Staff (in-person) Nathaniel Speier, Staff (in-person) Buncombe County Staff: Samantha Kirk (CAPE), in-person

Welcome Visitors

- Chair Weinert welcomed in-person attendees and recognized the virtual attendees.

Item One: Approval of Agenda

- Chair Weinert made a motion to amend the agenda to add at the end a closed session with counsel for personnel discussion. Member Quinn seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.
- Chair Weinert requested a motion to approve the amended agenda. Member Quinn moved to approve the amended agenda for this meeting. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

Item Two: Minutes

- Chair Weinert asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting. Member Quinn so moved. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

Item Three: Office Updates

Director Duncan gave office updates including the following:

- A general information article for the 2026 Primary Election was sent out yesterday and is on our website.

- Ballot proofs are in the final stages. Once proofed, the sample ballots are created and can then be shared with voters on our website or on the State Board of Elections' website.
- Training begins next week. Early Voting is training for two weeks and then Election Day is training for four weeks, starting at 200 College St. and then moving to 40 Coxe Ave.
- Twenty-two seasonal contract staff started at Election Services on Monday.
- Absentee ballots will be going out starting Friday, January 9. First absentee meeting is 1/27.
- Candidate challenge deadline is this Thursday, January 8. A candidate filing challenge was received today and the next step is to choose a hearing date: Tuesday, January 20 at 2:30pm. It will be noticed to the candidate, challenger, the rest of the candidates in the race, and the party chairs. A court reporter will be requested.
- Rachael Wonderlich has accepted the offer for the Recruiting and Outreach position and will be starting January 14.
- The State Board of Elections' winter virtual conference is Monday January 26 and Tuesday January 27 and participants need to log in to receive credit.

Item Four: State Auditor Liaison Meeting Update

- Chair Weinert provided an update from the State Auditor liaison County Board Chair training that was December 12, 2025. Both Dallas Woodhouse and Dave Boliek were there with Angela Hawkins from Wake County. It was an overview training and materials were provided. Copies of Suggested Procedural Rules for Local Appointed Boards (a procedural rule book) were provided and may be ordered for the Board after evaluating.
- State Auditor Boliek did an introduction, Director Duncan spoke about the Buncombe County Board (and was then excused from the meeting), and they went over trends and goals, board relations, and Early Voting site selection tips. Board Chair roles, communications, and how to reach out for help were also discussed. The Board discussed.

Item Five: Report on Filling Poll Worker Vacancies

- Staff member Karen Rae presented a report of poll worker vacancies filled to date, per Resolution 2025-09. Six people dropped out and several needed to be reassigned. The Board discussed.

Item Six: MAT Appointments

- Staff member Aaron Bell presented one new Republican Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT) assignment to the Board for review. The Republican Board members signed the list.
- Chair Weinert requested a motion to accept the one new appointment as presented by staff. Secretary Braine moved to accept the Multipartisan Assistance Team member appointment for the 2026 election. Member Blossman seconded. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

Item Seven: Voting Location Changes

- Staff member Ryan Oliver presented the proposed Resolution 2026-01 to move Election Day precinct 57.1 from Emmas Grove Baptist Church at 417 Emmas Grove Rd, Fletcher, NC 28732 to Cane Creek Community Center at 1370 Cane Creek Rd, Fletcher, NC 28732. The Board discussed the proposed resolution.

- Chair Weinert requested a motion to approve moving the voting location of Buncombe County precinct 57.1 from Emmas Grove Baptist Church to Cane Creek Community Center. Member Blossman so moved, Member Stein seconded. The motion passed with five in favor and zero opposed. Chair Weinert signed the resolution.

Item Eight: FY2027 Budget Update

- Deputy Director Neggy Fox presented cost analysis for adding two more Early Voting locations as previously requested at the last meeting on December 9.
- Deputy Director Fox explained two shifts per day for 2.5 weeks with Chief Judges, staff, and training as biggest expenses. Two sites would cost $67,280. Additional costs not included would be rental location fees, supplies, etc. The goal is bigger, convenient sites with more parking to increase capacity and better turnout. There is an equipment limitation of 140 express vote machines to support all locations. Expecting higher than normal turnout and expecting more curbside voting this fall.
- The Board discussed the budget analysis for Early Voting sites.
- Member Quinn made a motion in order to continue discussion to tentatively include the $67,280 plus additional costs in the budget for two additional Early Voting sites IF sites and staff can be found. Secretary Braine seconded.
- Director Duncan outlined the budget approval process to the Board.
- The Board took public comment from Judy Williams.
- Chair Weinert acknowledged the motion made and seconded and called for a vote. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

Item Nine: Approve Board Meeting Schedule

- Director Duncan presented the proposed Board meeting schedule for 2026 for the Board's review.
- The Board discussed the proposed schedule.
- Member Quinn made a motion to approve the Board meeting schedule as proposed by staff. Member Blossman seconded. The motion passed with five in favor and zero against.

Item Ten: Voter Challenges Hearing

- Director Duncan gave an overview of the voter challenge hearing procedure and read the qualifications to vote. Twenty-five voter challenges, on the basis of death, were presented from the preliminary hearing held December 9.
- Challenger Thomas Neubauer was present and declined to testify.
- Chair Weinert called out the names of each of the 25 challenged voters and asked if they or any of their representatives were present. None were present.
- Director Duncan confirmed notices were sent to all challenged voters.
- Chair Weinert gave Director Duncan the oath. Director Duncan provided the voter challenges and the staff research for each voter challenge.
- The Board reviewed and discussed the materials submitted by the challenger and by staff.

- Chair Weinert asked if there was any further discussion and hearing none, asked for a motion. Secretary Braine motioned to sustain all 25 of the voter challenges and remove the voters. Member Stein seconded. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.
- Director Duncan advised the challenges will be processed for removal from the voter database with reason being sustained challenge.
- The Board took public comment from Judy Williams.
- Chair Weinert moved to executive session to discuss personnel issues with legal counsel at 5:05 pm.
- Chair Weinert reconvened open session for the Board of Elections meeting at 6:20 pm.
- Member Quinn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Braine seconded. Motion passed with five in favor and zero against.

Item Eleven: Next Meeting Date

A Board of Elections Candidate Challenge Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20 at 2:30 pm at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

The next regular Board of Elections meeting is Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Courtney Blossman 1-28-26
Courtney Blossman, Member

Minutes submitted by:

Gabrielle Corey
Gabrielle Corey, Clerk

Sally Stein 1/28/26
Sally Stein, Member

1/28/26
Jake Quinn, Member

Approval date: 01/28/2026

Minutes approved by:

Glenda Weinert 1/28/26
Glenda Weinert, Chair

Mary Ann Braine 1/28/26
Mary Ann Braine, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2026-01

MOVING LOCATION OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY PRECINCT #57.1

WHEREAS, the current voting location for Precinct 57.1 is Emmas Grove Baptist Church, 417 Emmas Grove Rd, Fletcher, NC 28732; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 163-128 provides that a county board of elections shall have power from time to time, by resolution, to establish, alter, discontinue, or create such new election precincts or voting places as it may deem expedient; and,

WHEREAS, the county board's proposal is subject to approval by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Buncombe County Board of Elections as follows:

1. That pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 163-128, voting for Precinct 57.1 will cease to occur at Emmas Grove Baptist Church; and,

2. That pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 163-128, Cane Creek Community Center, 1370 Cane Creek Rd, Fletcher, NC 28732, will be the new voting location for Precinct 57.1; and,

3. That all notice requirements of North Carolina General Statutes 163 shall be met.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be effective upon the date of its signing by the Board's Chairperson and dispatched to the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections as consideration for the Board's decision on January 06, 2026.

Wanda Weinert

Chair, Buncombe County Board of Elections