Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Opening

A meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 3:34 pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Attendance

Board Members	Election Services Staff
Glenda Weinert, Board Chair (in-person) Courtney Blossman, Member (in-person) Mary Ann Braine, Secretary (in-person) Sally Stein, Member (in-person) Jake Quinn, Member (in-person)	Corinne Duncan, Director (in-person) Gabrielle Corey, Staff (in-person) Aaron Bell, Staff (in-person) Joyce Kanavel, Staff (in-person) Sasha Hetherington, Staff (in-person) Neggy Fox, Staff (in-person) Amy Meier, Staff (in-person) Devin Whitney, Staff (in-person) Bria Bailey, Staff (in-person)
11 virtual guests 8 in-person guests	Buncombe County Staff: Samantha Kirk (CAPE), in-person Amy Broughton (Legal), in-person

Welcome Visitors

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

Item One: Approval of Agenda

- Chair Weinert requested a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting on February 17, 2026. Member Blossman moved to approve the agenda for this meeting. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

Item Two: Minutes

- Chair Weinert requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026 meetings as presented. 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 budget update will be provided to the Board at the next meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.
- Early Voting has begun and the turnout has been higher than the 2024 Presidential Primary. Statistics and graphs are available on our website and are updated daily.

- This is the first election with a significant number of provisionals to process since the reduction in time to three days. A provisional team has been assembled and trained.
- Absentee request deadline is today at 5:00pm.
- The State Board of Elections upheld the Board's written decision for the Morman Candidate Challenge at their appeals hearing last Wednesday, February 11, 2026.
- The Early Voting location for South Buncombe Branch Library has had complaints regarding the parking lot expansion and how it impacts entering the voting site. Additional signage has been provided and there is curbside voting at both entrances. Campaigners are allowed at both doors.
- Due to new reasons to have provisionals and questions regarding the Registration Repair project, Deputy Director Neggy Fox presented on the subject and how it impacts the polls. The Board discussed.
- The Board took public comment from Cathy Walsh.
- The Board took public comment from Judy Williams.
- Chair Weinert received via email from Dallas Woodhouse a press release from the state auditor. She will forward to the rest of the Board.
- Chair Weinert and Member Stein reported that they met with Assistant County Manager Tim Love on February 13 to get an update on the facilities planning. There will be no change to the warehouse at 50 Coxe Ave during the 2026 elections.

Item Four: Question for Counsel

- Member Blossman asked county attorney Amy Broughton who is her client and who she represents. Ms. Broughton stated she works for Buncombe County and the county is her client. She represents the county and the county offers legal services as a service to the Board of Elections. Member Blossman requested this be entered into the minutes.

Item Five: Absentee Ballot Review

- Staff Member Aaron Bell presented 96 total absentee ballots to review, 85 civilian (CIV) and 11 overseas (OVR).
- Total absentee ballots issued to date are 1,505. If all ballots presented today are approved, 236 will have been successfully returned.
- The Board reviewed the ballots and signed the lists.
- Two CIV ballots required duplication. The duplication team duplicated the ballots. Chair Weinert administered the oath to the duplication team and they confirmed that they heard all calls, saw all marks, were satisfied, and had no questions or concerns.
- Chair Weinert requested a motion to approve all absentee ballots as presented and reviewed. Member Quinn moved to approve all 96 absentee ballots as reviewed. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

Item Six: Next Meeting Date

The next Board of Elections meeting is Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Item Seven: Closed Session – Personnel

- Chair Weinert called for a motion to go into closed session. Member Quinn moved to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion carried with five in favor, zero opposed.

The board went into closed session at 5:27 pm and came back into open session at 5:44 pm.

- The Board reported that following the Primary but before the General election, the Board requests a training at a board meeting with the Director of Budget, the Director of Human Resources, the Board, and Director Duncan to understand processes and what role the MOU plays. Ms. Broughton advised having outside counsel be present if the MOU is at issue as that might be adversarial. The Board is not suggesting changing the MOU but discussing its administration. Scheduling will be determined.
- Member Blossman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with five in favor, zero opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Gabrielle Corey, Clerk

Approval date: 02/24/2026

Minutes approved by:

Glenda Weinert, Chair

Sally Stein, Member 2/24/26

Mary Ann Braine, Secretary 2/24/26

Jake Quinn, Member 2/24/26

Courtney Blossman, Member 2/24/26