Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Opening

A meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 3:33 pm on Tuesday, September 29, 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) **State Board of Elections Member** Angela Hawkins, Member (in-person) 12 virtual guests 10 in-person guests	Corinne Duncan, Director (in-person) Neggy Fox, Deputy Director (in-person) Gabrielle Corey, Staff (in-person) Rachael Wonderlich, Staff (in-person) Aaron Bell, Staff (in-person) Bria Bailey, Staff (in-person) Joyce Kanavel, Staff (in-person) Emerson Ellis, Staff (in-person) Mary Lou Surgi, MAT (in-person) Donna Sester, MAT (in-person) Gregg Teufel, MAT (in-person) Ron Howell, MAT (in-person) Terry Rafinski, MAT (in-person) 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

- Member Quinn moved to approve the agenda as presented 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 meeting for September 15, 2026. 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:

- Early Voting poll worker training has concluded, and Election Day poll worker training began Monday and will continue for the next four weeks.
- Logic and Accuracy testing is complete and constructive feedback was received. Early Voting machine Board testing will be October 6 and Election Day machine Board testing will be October 13 and each is open to the public.
- Voter registration deadline is Friday, October 9 at 5:00pm.
- Early Voting begins Thursday, October 15.
- Six election staff have received Election Assistance Commission certification (this is a federal certification): Ryan Oliver, Bria Bailey, Rachael Wonderlich, Morgan Chance, Aaron Bell, and Corinne Duncan.
- Chair Weinert provided a facilities update from meeting with Assistant County Manager Tim Love on September 22. JC Penney at 3 Tunnel Road is still slated for Election Services warehouse and storage. The timeline on the move is still TBD.

Item Four: Report on Filling Poll Worker Vacancies

- Staff member Rachael Wonderlich presented a report of poll worker vacancies filled to date, per Resolution 2025-09.
- The Board discussed.

Item Five: Resolution Review

- Director Duncan presented resolution 2026-06 which rescinds resolution 2025-08 as the process for reviewing returned Absentee envelopes that contain a ballot with a mismatched Absentee ballot number is now detailed in Numbered Memo 2021-03.
- The Board discussed.
- Secretary Braine motioned to approve resolution 2026-06. Member Blossman seconded. The motion carried with four in favor and one against (Member Quinn). Chair Weinert signed the resolution.

Item Six: Absentee Ballot Review

- Staff Member Aaron Bell reviewed the absentee ballot review process and guide, including updated Numbered Memo 2020-25. Today, there are 786 total ballots to review, 577 civilian (CIV), eight military (MIL), and 201 overseas (OVR).
- Total ballots issued to date are 4,242: 3,609 CIV, 24 MIL, and 609 OVR. For the 2022 Midterm, there were 11,329 absentee requests with 7,560 returned for a 66% return rate. There are seven pending cures.
- Staff Member Bell presented 12 non-curable deficiencies recommended for disapproval.
- The Board reviewed.
- Chair Weinert requested a motion to disapprove the 12 non-curable absentee ballots with deficiencies as recommended by staff. Member Stein moved to disapprove the 12 ballots as recommended by staff with the understanding they have been reissued. Secretary Braine seconded. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against. The Board signed the list.
- Staff Member Bell presented the 577 CIV, eight MIL, and 201 (OVR) absentee ballots for a total of 786 ballots for the Board's review with assistants of the opposite party.
- The Board reviewed ballots.

- Chair Weinert requested a motion to recess for 30 minutes. Member Quinn moved to recess. Secretary Braine seconded. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against. The Board recessed at 5:38pm.
- Chair Weinert requested a motion to come back into session. Member Blossman so moved. Member Stein seconded. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against. The Board reconvened at 6:09pm.
- The Board reviewed the ballots.
- The Board discussed the schedule next week and agreed to do Early Voting machine Board testing at 1:30pm on Tuesday 10/6 at 50 Coxe Ave and then will meet separately at 3:30pm at 35 Woodfin for the regularly scheduled Absentee meeting.
- Thirty CIV ballots required duplication. The duplication team duplicated the ballots. Chair Weinert administered the oath to the duplication team and they heard all calls, saw all marks, were satisfied, and had no questions.
- Three CIV ballots were moved to pending status due to mismatches with the CIV number.
- Chair Weinert requested a motion to approve the absentee ballots as presented except for the three CIV pending ballots. Member Quinn moved to approve 574 CIV ballots, eight MIL ballots, and 201 OVR ballots for a total of 783 ballots as reviewed. Secretary Braine seconded. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against. The Board signed the lists.

Item Seven: Next Meeting Date

The next Board of Elections meeting is Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 1:30pm at 50 Coxe Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801 followed by 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

- Member Stein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Quinn seconded. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Gabrielle Corey, Clerk

Approval date: 10/06/2026

Minutes approved by:

Glenda P. Weinert 10-6-26
Glenda Weinert, Chair

Mary Ann Braine 10/6/26
Mary Ann Braine, Secretary

Courtney Blossman 10/6/26
Courtney Blossman, Member

Sally Stein 10/6/26
Sally Stein, Member

10/6/26
Jake Quinn, Member

Resolution No. 2026-06

A RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PROCESS FOR REVIEWING RETURNED ABSENTEE ENVELOPES THAT CONTAIN A BALLOT WITH A MISMATCHED ABSENTEE BALLOT NUMBER

Whereas, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-33, county boards of elections must make and issue such rules, regulations, and instructions, not inconsistent with law, with directives promulgated under the provisions of G.S. 163-132.4, or with the rules, orders, and directives established by the State Board of Elections, as it may deem necessary for the guidance of election officers and voters;

Whereas, on or about June 11, 2021, the North Carolina State Board of Elections ("SBOE") adopted Memo No. 2021-03 concerning Absentee Container-Return Envelope Deficiencies;

Whereas, in accordance with SBOE Memo No. 2021-03, the Buncombe County Board of Elections ("BCBOE") adopted a resolution entitled *A Resolution Adopting a Process for Reviewing Returned Absentee Envelopes That Contain a Ballot with A Mismatched Absentee Ballot Number;*

Whereas, SBOE Memo No. 2021-03 was updated on September 25, 2023, and January 19, 2024;

Whereas, the current applicable BCBOE Resolution, No. 2025-08, was adopted on October 21, 2025, and is scheduled to expire on July 15, 2027; and

Whereas, SBOE Memo No. 2021-03 was updated on September 4, 2026, superseding previous guidance, and invalidating the procedures outlined in BCBOE Resolution No. 2025-08.

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

1. Resolution 2025-08 is rescinded.

2. When processing absentee ballots, the Buncombe County Department of Election Services shall comply with the updated guidance and procedures established in the updated SBOE Memo No. 2021-03.

3. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

This 29th day of September, 2026

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Glenda Weinert 9/29/26

Glenda Weinert, Chair