Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Opening

A meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 3:33 pm on Tuesday, February 3, 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) 5 virtual guests 4 in-person guests	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) Devin Whitney, Staff (remote/in-person) Bria Bailey, Staff (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 Blossman requested the agenda be amended to add an item for procedural guidelines for providing information to the Board and Chair Weinert suggested adding it between Items Three and Four. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.
- Member Quinn moved to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

Item Two: Minutes

- Chair Weinert requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026 meeting as presented. Member Blossman so moved. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.

Item Three: Office Updates

Director Duncan gave office updates including the following:

- The voter registration deadline for the upcoming Primary Election is Friday, February 6 at 5:00pm.

- WLOS is covering the Primary Election and Director Duncan did an interview this morning on voter registration. Director Duncan is continuing with media availability and the next is Thursday for the start of Early Voting.
- The State Board of Elections (SBOE) winter virtual conference has been rescheduled to February 5 and 6, 2026.
- Early Voting starts February 12, 2026 at 11 sites. Site set-up begins Thursday/Friday.
- The inclement weather policy from the 2024 resolution will be followed per the Early Voting implementation plan. The county closure guidelines will be followed. An emergency Board meeting could be called if Early Voting sites are not uniformly closed.
- Election trainings have been impacted by weather but are still on schedule.
- The State Board of Elections has received an appeal for the Morman Candidate Challenge. County attorney Amy Broughton discussed the appeal process with the Board.
- Chair Weinert asked Amy Broughton to discuss the law as it relates to admissible evidence presented in the hearing. The Board discussed.

Item Four: Procedural Guidelines for Providing Information to the Board

- Member Blossman read a prepared statement that was given to Staff Member Gabrielle Corey for referencing in the minutes. See attachment. The Board discussed.

Item Five: Absentee Ballot Review

- Staff Member Aaron Bell presented 41 total absentee ballots to review, 39 civilian (CIV) and two overseas (OVR).
- Total absentee ballots issued to date are 795.
- 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 heard all calls, saw all marks, were satisfied, and had no questions.
- Chair Weinert requested a motion to approve the absentee ballots as presented. Member Quinn moved to approve 39 CIV ballots and two UOCAVA ballots for a total of 41 ballots as reviewed. Member Stein seconded. The motion carried with five in favor and zero against.
- Chair Weinert called the meeting to recess at 35 Woodfin St and reconvene at the warehouse at 50 Coxe Ave. The meeting will adjourn from 50 Coxe Ave. The public is welcome to attend.
- The Board took public comment from Cathy Walsh.

Item Six: Early Voting Machine Testing

The Board recessed at 5:08 pm to move to 50 Coxe Ave for Early Voting machine testing. The meeting was brought back into session at 5:30 pm.

- According to NC G.S. § 163-33.2, the Board shall test voting machines, in a reasonable number of combinations, no less than ten percent (10%) of all voting machines programmed for each election.
- Eleven Early Voting ExpressVote machines, and 11 DS200 tabulators were available for Board testing. The Board tested 11 Early Voting ExpressVote machines, and six DS200 tabulators.

- The Board tested machines with the following serial numbers:

Early Voting DS200:

DS0315350444	DS0315350337	DS0315350451
DS0315350273	DS0315350459	DS0315350135

Early Voting ExpressVote:

EV0222410682	EV0222380190	EV0222380140
EV0222380181	EV0222380264	EV0222380529
EV0222380218	EV0222380395	EV0222380356
EV0222380207	EV0222380185	

- The Board completed a hand-eye comparison of ballots to machine tapes and found no errors.
- Member Blossman moved to approve the machine testing, because all machine counts matched hand-eye counts. Member Stein seconded. The motion passed with five in favor and zero against.

Item Seven: Next Meeting Date

The next Board of Elections meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 3:30 pm at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Gabrielle Corey, Clerk

Mary Ann Braine 2/10/2026
Mary Ann Braine, Secretary

Courtney Blossman 2/10/2026
Courtney Blossman, Member

Approval date: 02/10/2026

Sally Stein 2/10/26
Sally Stein, Member

Minutes approved by:

Glenda Weinert 2/10/26
Glenda Weinert, Chair

2/10/26
Jake Quinn, Member

Agenda Item: An item of Procedure

To read:

"Procedural Guidelines for providing information to the Board"

Statement to be entered into the minutes:

"This board is set up by State Statute to be independent.

This board has to demonstrate to the electorate that the BOE is independent.

Information should not be withheld from the BOE for any reason.

This is not about recent challenges or the outcome, but about information withheld without board knowledge."

"If there is some question about procedure, this board can consult our BOE attorney for direction. Information should be given straight to the board and not circumvented by staff, other attorneys, or any other entity. We are a five -member independent board."

I know now this board should have reviewed the challenges before the hearing, since we were the panel conducting the hearing. It was not necessary or warranted to blindside the board – we got the information in our hands two minutes before.

It would do well for us all to review the:

Duties of the Board & Chair

Duties of the Executive Director

MOU Review