Buncombe County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Opening

A meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Elections was called to order at 3:30 pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

Attendance

Board Members	Election Services Staff
Glenda Weinert, Board Chair (remote) Courtney Blossman, Member (in-person) Mary Ann Braine, Secretary (in-person) Sally Stein, Member (in-person) Jake Quinn, Member (in-person) 4 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) Victoria Pickens, Staff (in-person) Devin Whitney, Staff (in-person) Bria Bailey, Staff (in-person) Buncombe County Staff: Samantha Kirk (CAPE), in-person Angelica Tyler (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 24, 2026. Member Blossman moved to approve the agenda for this meeting. Member Quinn seconded. 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 17, 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:

- Election Day is one week from today, March 3! Voters must vote at their assigned precinct on Election Day. There are eight voting location changes. Impacted voters received a card in the mail and it is also available online. All voters need acceptable photo ID. Election Services can provide free voter photo IDs. The voter information tool

on the Election Services website can be used to check registration, voting location and to get a sample ballot.

- Early Voting continues to have higher turnout than the 2024 Presidential Primary Early Voting. So far, 14,303 voters total, not including today.
- Second Primary rules were explained via G.S. 163-111 and G.S. 163-294 for cities with nonpartisan primaries.
- Due to additional duties and new laws, the Board won't likely be able to go to the warehouse on Election night. A warehouse live feed with staff updates was suggested as an alternative. The Board discussed. At minimum, a quorum is needed at 35 Woodfin St.
- The procedures for the Monday night board meeting for March 2 was explained. This is where the list of Absentee ballots gets certified by the Board for handing out to polling locations on Election Day.
- Member Quinn has been approached regarding reports of voter registration drive irregularities in the news. Director Duncan explained that the State Board of Elections is investigating and voter registration drives are not conducted by county boards but information about rules is provided upon request. Anyone can file a complaint with the State Board of Elections.
- Secretary Braine initiated discussion regarding hand-marked ballot availability during Early Voting. The Board would like to table the discussion until after the Primary.

Item Four: FY2027 Budget Update

- Chair Weinert advised she may lose connectivity to the meeting and asked Secretary Braine to adjourn the meeting on her behalf if needed.
- Staff Member Victoria Pickens presented an update on the FY2027 budget based on the recent presentation to the Assistant County Manager and their budget team. The Board discussed.
- Secretary Braine asked why salaries and benefits were not included in the budget breakdown provided by Election Services. The Board would like to table the discussion until after the Primary and after an information session by County HR and Budget departments.
- It was determined that Chair Weinert was no longer in attendance and Secretary Braine would lead the agenda.

Item Five: Absentee Ballot Review

- Staff Member Aaron Bell presented four pending ballots for the Board to review and vote to approve or disapprove for final approval at the next board meeting. The Board reviewed the ballots. Member Stein made a motion to approve the four pending absentee ballots presented for further review/approval. Secretary Braine seconded. The motion carried with four in favor and zero against.
- Staff Member Bell presented 227 total absentee ballots to review, 211 civilian (CIV), 13 overseas (OVR) and three military (MIL).
- There was one CIV mismatched ballot that was removed so the voter could be contacted tomorrow February 25 and a ballot reissued. This brought the CIV count down from 211 to 210 ballots.
- The Board reviewed the ballots and signed the lists.

- Four CIV ballots required duplication. The duplication team duplicated the ballots. Secretary Braine confirmed that the duplication team heard all calls, saw all marks, were satisfied, and had no questions or concerns regarding any duplicated ballot.
- Secretary Braine requested a motion to approve 226 of the 227 absentee ballots as presented and reviewed. Member Blossman so moved. The motion carried with four in favor and zero against.

Item Six: Next Meeting Date

The next Board of Elections meeting is Monday, March 2, 2026, at 2:00 pm at 35 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

- Member Quinn moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with four in favor, zero opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Gabrielle Corey 03/02/2026
Gabrielle Corey, Clerk

Approval date: 03/02/2026

Minutes approved by:

Glenda Weinert 3/2/26
Glenda Weinert, Chair

Sally Stein 3/2/26
Sally Stein, Member

Mary Ann Braine 3/2/2026
Mary Ann Braine, Secretary

Jake Quinn 3/2/26
Jake Quinn, Member

Courtney Blossman 3/2/2026
Courtney Blossman, Member