



MONTGOMERY COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Teddi Benson Chairperson
John Adams, Secretary
Debbie Burris, Member
Dree Wynkoop, Member
Tasha Medley, Member

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2024

The Montgomery County Board of Elections (BOE) met November 5, 2024, Election Night. At 5:00 p.m. at the BOE office located at 327 N Main Street in Troy, NC. Board members present were Teddi Benson, Chairperson; John Adams, Secretary; Debbie Burris, Dree Wynkoop and Tasha Medley. BOE staff present were Director Rhonda Johnson, and Deputy Director Kimberly M. Walter.

Chairperson Benson called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. approval of Agenda Member John Adams made a motion to approve agenda, Member Tasha Medley seconded the motion. Minutes from October 29, 2024, approved, motion made by Member Debbie Burris seconded by Member Tasha Medley.

The Absentee ballots were presented for supplemental. And ran through the Supplemental machine.

When the time came for the Absentee machine to be balanced Member Secretary John Adams discovered some inconsistencies in the comparison of reports. He questioned Director Johnson; she left the board room in search of the answer to Member Adams' question but took a turn for the worse as far as her health. She has been sick on her stomach earlier in the day and this feeling returned with severity. Enough severity that the Director let everyone know she had to leave and would not be returning. The time of this occurrence was at 6:15 pm.

Deputy Director, Kimberly Walter then messaged the State requesting complete assistance from them for election night. Kimberly received a phone call from the State letting her know when the Absentees were ran to call them. When she returned to the board room she was informed of the discrepancies and the boards need for another report to verify and complete the investigation as to what step needed to happen to balance the Absentees. Kimberly Walter was then able to retrieve the missing report and presented it to the board which led them to discover there had been two ballots each, counted for two voters and these ballots needed to be located and pulled from the DS200 Absentee machine. After they are pulled the Absentee ballots would need to be reran in the Absentee DS200.

At this point Kimberly notified the state board that it would be a while before we could start reporting results due to the mistake the Director had made of submitting the voters twice. The board began the task of locating the additional ballots and pulling them then rerunning all Absentee ballots to get the correct total.

At this point Member John Adams asked the Deputy Director, Kimberly Walter to bring the thumb drives from all three early voting sites to be read through the DS200s so we would have the Early Voting total tapes and could then upload to the State.

Deputy Director went to retrieve the thumb drives and could not locate them so she called the directors phone number, her husband let her know the Director was at that moment sick and she couldn't talk. Deputy told him all she needed was to know where the thumb drives for early voting were. They ended the call, and she kept looking, about 10 min later he called back, and

the Director was able to let him know that the thumb drives were in a tin. That triggered the memory of the Deputy, and she remembered what the tin looked like. The Deputy and the office assistant Brenda Ritter continued to look in the office for the thumb drive. Brenda found the tin containing the thumb drives under papers on the Directors desk.

The Deputy took the early voting thumb drives out of the tin and took them to the board room and presented them to Member John Adams who then placed them into the DS200s to run the tapes from each. The Mt Gilead thumb drive was marked with a thin sticky note that had an E x V on it. Except the small x just looked like a scribble. The DS200s would not read this stick. We put the stick into each DS200, and it would not read it. At that point Member Adams and the Deputy took all other Election Day thumb drives to the Directors office to call and receive guidance from the state on downloading results, time was ticking, and we had to get results out to the public.

The deputy let the state know at this point that there was one stick we couldn't get to read on any of the three DS200s. State advised we would come back to that, so we continued working with the election day sites, two of those wouldn't download so we did 12 of the 14 precincts then the Deputy had to go to her office to complete the upload.

Once we were able to post some results, we could focus on figuring out what was actually wrong with the thumb drives that were unreadable. The deputy was directed to call Print Elect (our Election Computer Specialists) and spoke with Tiffany off and on the rest of the night. The Deputy let Tiffany know that we had one Early Voting thumb drive that was unreadable and two Election Day thumb drives that were also unreadable. Tiffany instructed the Deputy to insert the Early Voting Thumb drive into the computer and guided the deputy to look at the coding on the stick. Tiffany told the Deputy to look at the "Read Me" line which said "ExpressVote." We were confused, why does it say ExpressVote? Then she and Member Adams realized the E V on the sticky note stood for ExpressVote not Early voting. Which meant where was the Early Voting stick? It was then realized the two Election Day sticks that would not read were indeed ExpressVote thumb drives too. We quickly located their correct DS200 thumb drives and downloaded those results and the Absentee results. Then the State guided the Deputy Director in uploading the results to the proper State site to be viewed by the public.

The board members and the deputy started looking everywhere for the missing DS200 thumb drive. After some time of searching and speaking to the state, the state recommended rerunning Mt Gilead Ballots. The members of the board went straight to the locked voted ballot room and retrieved the Mt Gilead Early Voting ballots and set up 3 DS200 machines to rerun them. While they reran the ballots the deputy stayed on the phone with Tiffany from printelect to figure out the other thumb drives. We were verifying voting totals, and we would get to a point that two sticks would download fine then the 3rd wouldn't, we would have to remove those totals and start over, starting with the stick that wouldn't work. Then it would work then the next one wouldn't, we would do the process all over again. Once the thumb drives were delivered to the deputy from the board members after rerunning the ballots this process happened a few more times where some sticks would download some wouldn't then they would start all over.

Finally, they all downloaded, the state advised the deputy during the process of creating an ASCII file, the Deputy went to her office and finally uploaded the results.

The Final Results!! The Deputy and all present left the office at approximately 2:45 am.



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The signatures below are for the minutes from November 5, 2024.

<u>Teddi Benson</u>	CHAIR
<u>[Signature]</u>	SECRETARY
<u>Dree Wynkoop</u>	MEMBER
<u>Debbie C. Burris</u>	MEMBER
<u>Tasha Medley</u>	MEMBER