



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2024  
5:00 PM

The Montgomery County Board of Elections (BOE) met October 22, 2024, 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 Rhonda Johnson, Director of Elections and Kimberly Walter, Deputy Director of Elections.

Chairperson Benson called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.  
Board Chair Teddi Benson added a closed session at the end of the agenda.  
Member John Adams requested to be added to the agenda to speak before Old Business.

Motion was made to accept the agenda by Member Debbie Burris and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Tasha Medley.

Director of Elections Rhonda Johnson presented the Director's Report see attached.

Motion was made by Member Debbie Burris to accept the October 8<sup>th</sup> minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairperson Teddi Benson. All were in favor.

Board Secretary Member John Adams wanted to address the board. He had a letter to present to the Chairperson Teddi Benson when he had finished reading the letter.

Member Adams proceeded to read his Board Member Resignation Letter, after 11 years of service to Montgomery County Voters he stated he could no longer support this Elections office under the current Director Rhonda Johnson.

Director Johnson at one point did interrupt him as he read his letter, but he continued until it was completed. When he was finished, he exited the board room.

Member Dree Wynkoop wanted to read her Board Member Resignation Letter next, expressing similar concerns about not being able to support this Elections office under the current Director. Upon completion of her letter, she also gathered her things and exited the Board meeting room.

After the resignation of two Republican board members, that left three Democrat board members. Members Tasha Medley and Debbie Burris both stated the meeting was over.

Addendum to this meeting is attached.



Board Meeting  
October 22, 2024  
Addendum Attachment

Open discussion began concerning what step to take at this point going forward. Member Tasha Medley talked of process being delayed-Director Rhonda Johnson will contact the state about what steps come next. Member Tasha Medley requested Chairperson Teddi Benson find out how to proceed moving forward.

Member Tasha Medley stated that everyone is not privy to all the emails that have been sent out, Member Medley then clarified that her and Member Debbie Burris had not been privy to certain emails in the past. She stated Rhonda needs to email all parties involved.

Tasha had a concern that she wanted to put on the table about an email.

This particular email did not include Democrat Party Chair Rosa Little, and it should have. Party Chair Rosa Little confirmed that she did not receive this email, she had received the other emails but not the one in question.

Director Rhonda Johnson defended her email practices and apologized to Rosa for not including her in the email. Director Johnson also pointed out that there have not been any responses to the emails she has sent to the board, Member Debbie Burris spoke up because she had responded, and Director Johnson confirmed that she had been the only one to respond.

Member Tasha Medley wanted to discuss the incident in Mt Gilead concerning campaign bracelets that were allegedly brought to the precinct via a curbside voter. Member Medley stated she would like to bring this up as another example of what Chairman Teddi Benson needs to report as another example of what goes on and the lack of communication from the office.

Director Johnson kept interjecting, and Member Medley stated, this is not a meeting. The voter allegedly told the precinct official to give them out to all voters. Member Medley explained she was referring to the situation as being alleged because she wasn't present to confirm.

Director Rhonda Johnson interrupted asking if all the Precinct Officials that had told of this occurrence were all lying?

Again, Member Medley explained she had used the word alleged due to her not being there, she found out from the voter that allegedly gave the bracelets to the precinct official that she did not do that.

Member Tasha Medley encouraged Chair Teddi Benson to research and find out what the Boards' next move is-Teddi responded she had no way of knowing how to proceed going forward.

During these conversations Rhonda did interject again and stated to the Board Chair that we could have a meeting with the majority of the board members present. Again, Member Burris and Member Medley stated that we could not have a meeting due to both Republicans leaving.

Chairperson Teddi Benson adjourned the meeting. Director Johnson asserted that the board could proceed with absentee ballots because there was a quorum. Chair Benson stated that could not be done without representation from the Republican party. Director Rhonda Johnson attempted to respond to Tasha's comments, but the meeting was adjourned before she could continue the response.

John J. Adams  
195 Deere Ln  
Star, NC 27356  
October 22, 2024

To: Chairperson of the Montgomery County Board of Elections

Over the last twenty years I have proudly served the citizens of Montgomery County, NC. First as a precinct assistant, GOP Judge and Chief Judge in the Little River precinct and for the last 11 years as a Member of the Board of Elections. Over the years I have worked to ensure that the election process in Montgomery County has been held to the highest standards set out by the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina for all the citizens of this county. I want it to be clear. I was instrumental in the hiring of the present director.

Over the last few years, I have been torn by the lack of respect and accountability that the Director of the Montgomery County Board of Elections has displayed towards the Members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections and the citizens of Montgomery County. My observations are based solely on 30 years in leadership. Long ago I learned to take emotion out of the equation when leading others. As true then as it is now, business decisions should be about what is best for the business and not about the feelings of those involved. These issues, although addressed on multiple occasions, have been all but ignored. Recently this Board unanimously recommended to the Executive Director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections the Termination of the Director for professional and job related reasons. That recommendation was denied and now awaits a ruling from members of the State Board

After months of contemplation in prayer I cannot in good conscience continue to support this Director when I have no confidence in her continuing leadership of this office and staff. So it is with a saddened heart that effective immediately, I resign my position as the Secretary of the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

Sincerely,

John J. Adams  
Secretary of the Montgomery County Board of Elections

October 22, 2024

To: Kelsey Brown, Montgomery County GOP Chair

In past years, I worked on election day as a pole worker, and as early as the 1980's.

I've been a board member since April 2018. When I was asked to represent my party on this board, it was very exciting. I didn't know what to expect at first but found out how much I loved it! I also enjoyed **almost** every minute of it. It has been very enlightening, a great learning experience. It was very rewarding to be able to tell anyone that asked about elections that this county had fair and accurate results because I was a witness to it.

This board gets along very well and has always come together on decisions.

However, I find it a slap in the face that our board's termination recommendation was denied by the State Board of Elections Director. No one outside of this board, except the ones that have attended meetings on a regular basis, does not have a clue what has transpired in some of these meetings. It has become a very hostile environment over the past 2 years.

I made mention to each of the board members that if the director's termination was denied, I would be leaving. It was not because of defeat but for standing up for right. I am going to stand on my word.

The disrespect shown to board members, a former employee, and outbursts only for the Director to try and cover it up with her sweet comments. She has fooled quite a few people.

Well, here it is... I cannot and will not be a part of what is going on in this Elections office by the Director. The disrespect shown to this board has gone too far and for too long. The support I once had for the Director is now gone. It is apparent that the comments by the Director is how the public is aware of the termination recommendation and only why her side is all the people know. The full truth is yet to be known.

So, I am resigning as Republican Board Member effective immediately.

Dree Thomas Wynkoop