

**Montgomery County**

**Board of Elections**

 Karen Blair, Chairperson

John Adams, Vice Chair

Debbie Burris, Secretary

###  Dree Wynkoop, Member

 Tasha Medley, Member

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**August 9, 2022**

 **5:30 p.m.**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections (BOE) met Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at

5:30 p.m. at the BOE Office at 327 Main St in Troy, NC. Present were: John Adams, Debbie Burris, Dree Wynkoop, Tasha Medley and Karen Blair. Also present was the Director of Elections, Rhonda Johnson.

Karen Blair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The agenda was approved for the August 9, 2022 meeting. John Adams made the motion to approve the agenda and Tasha Medley seconded the motion.

The minutes from January 18, 2021 were approved.

Dree Wynkoop motioned to approve the minutes and John Adams seconded the motion.

Karen told the board members that she had contacted and talked to principles at the Montgomery Community College as well as the Montgomery Central High School.

Both were very excited about the BOE conducting voter registration drives in September, at their schools.

Tracy Britt and Ann McClain from the high school asked that the registration drive be held during lunch hours of 11:00am and 1:00pm. Chad Bledsoe with the community college suggested 10:00am until 12:00 noon. The principals asked that no reference be made to political parties at the registration drives. No conversations about parties, no shirts, buttons, logos of any kind. Karen suggested that the board members go to each school 30 minutes earlier and stay 30 minutes longer. This would allow set up and take down time of supplies. Everyone agreed with that.

The board discussed having 2 or 4 people stationed at each registration table. After some discussion it was decided that the board would see how many people they could get to volunteer to help with the registration drive and then determine how many people would sit at the tables. It was decided that there would be 2 registration tables at the college since it is a larger school with separate areas. It was decided that 1 table would be set up at the high school.

Karen Blair suggested that the board give the registrants some kind of token for becoming a new voter. John Adams mentioned giving away the ink pens that the registrant uses to register. The pens are nice and they have our logo on it. Everyone agreed. Rhonda told the board she would try to find some stickers that say “I registered to Vote” to give to the new registrants. It was discussed that the board of elections office would make some signs, memos and posters for the registration drives. The Democrat party chairperson, Jennifer Thompson volunteered to help with graphic design of posters should we need it.

Tasha Medley asked that the registration drive be offered to the Learning Academy in Troy also. Karen Blair said she would reach out to the school.

John Adams talked to the board about the new voting equipment that we have received. He told the board how much faster and more secure the new equipment is.

He stated that he would like to see a public demonstration offered. He also stated that the board of elections needs to let the local newspaper know of the new equipment.

The board discussed at length the early voting days and hours for the early voting in October of 2022. It was suggested that the BOE have Sunday voting to allow more time for voting. Which Sunday during the early voting period, was discussed. Board members discussed how Sunday voting had been tried in the past but there was a very low turnout of voters. Other members stated that Sunday voting should be tried again so we could see if voters would come out. Jennifer Thompson, Democrat party chair, spoke up to say Sunday voting should be tried again. She said that it would help the workers at Jordan lumber who have to work a lot. It was discussed that the hours should be 1pm until 5pm to allow BOE workers and voters to go to church before and after any voting. It was put to a vote to have same hours as the May Primary for early voting with the addition of Sunday, October 22 from 1pm until 5 pm. Three board members voted yes and two board members voted no. The One Stop plan was Non unanimous.

The board was informed that now the NCSBOE would decide our early voting days, hours and locations. After more discussion on Sunday voting and how it may not be feasible for this election, the board put the early voting plan back to a vote. October 20, 21, October 24-28, October 31 – November 4. 8am until 7:30pm voting. One Saturday, November 5, 8am until 3pm. John made a motion, Dree Wynkoop seconded all agreed to the One Stop plan. Tasha asked that in future even year elections she would like to discuss possible Sunday voting. John stated that he felt like presidential elections should be the only time for Sunday voting but there would be future discussions about it.

With no further business at hand, and no other comments, John Adams moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Dree Wynkoop. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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