



MONTGOMERY COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2024

5:30 PM

The Montgomery County Board of Elections (BOE) met September 10, 2024, at 5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

Minutes from the August 13th board meeting were approved. Member Dree Wynkoop made a motion to approve minutes, Member Debbie Burris seconded the motion. All members approved and the motion was passed.

Board Meeting Agenda was approved. Secretary, John Adams made a motion to approve agenda and Member Dree Wynkoop seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Director, Rhonda Johnson presented the Director of Elections report: The Elections website has all the current information regarding the delay in absentee ballot mailings.

Supplies have been packed for two county outreach events.

In honor of Constitution Day, on Tuesday September 17th, Deputy Director, Kimberly Walter will be available to Montgomery Community College students to assist in registering to vote and apply to become a student assistant or a precinct official. The college will provide set up for the Board of Elections at the flagpole, we will be at this location from 11:00 until 1:30.

The second event will be held on Wednesday, September 18th at the Montgomery County Senior Center. This will be an outreach event to assist with voter registration or assist voters in filling out absentee request forms.

Mat Team has been scheduled to come in for a refresher training prior to visiting the Poplar Springs rest home. The board was also informed of the steps taken for the residents at the rest home.

Introduction was made of the new Deputy Director Kimberly M. Walter. The Board was informed of new location of Deputy Director's office and that part-time staff would be located upfront. Director also shared of new county policy to have new employees complete a background check and the need to have them fingerprinted if they haven't done this before.

The Director of Elections shared information about the delay in printing and mailing out absentee ballots. She explained that due to the candidate Robert F Kennedy Jr being removed from the ballots there is a considerable delay in receiving ballots to mail to voters. We will have to reorder ballots and begin mailing them when the state gives the go ahead on that process.

Chairperson Teddi Benson questioned the Director as of the cost of reprinting the ballots. If that cost fell on the County or the State? Director Johnson responded that the cost would fall on the county and that the cost is approximately \$15,000.

The incorrect ballots were labeled "Do Not Use" and stored in the basement away from any areas that would be used in assembling absentee ballots. These incorrect ballots will be destroyed as soon as possible.

Update on Albert Hudson:

He has contacted the Director and let her know his intentions of moving his wife and their dogs to a location in Star. Currently there is no address for this location, Kyle at the 911 office is working with Mr. Hudson on obtaining the correct address.

He remains registered at the current address until the moving process is complete, including the assignment of the correct address for the new location. The board was informed that poll workers or other voters in that precinct can challenge his registration, at that point the board can deem his registration as in valid.

Mr. Hudson plans on a write in nomination for Mayor.

Secretary, John Adams spoke of previous discussions concerning Mr. Hudson were focused on his registration due to Candidacy, not address for registration alone purposes.

Old Business

Director Johnson presented all members and party chairs with the updated list of Precinct Officials for the General Election and Early Voting. All agreed.

Member Medley wanted a list verifying the date BOE staff spoke to each Precinct Official verifying voting site assignments. Chairperson Benson asked why Virginia Shaw had a question mark by her name and Director Johnson let her know that Mrs. Shaw's husband was not well and she was going to get back to the Director about her availability to work the election.

Member Dree Wynkoop had a question that was presented to her by a member of the public concerning the backup precinct location for the Wadeville precinct. Wadeville Baptist Church Fellowship hall was mentioned in a newspaper article as being the backup location for this precinct. A Deacon of that church approached Member Wynkoop and expressed his concern that this information was not known to the current church members. Members Wynkoop and Medley requested the office staff make contact with this and all polling site emergency locations to verify and update all information concerning emergency processes in using the site. Director Johnson agreed and assured the board that this process would take place by her staff as soon as possible.

Public Comment

No public represented for comment.

New Business

Chairperson Benson went over New Business. The first Absentee meeting has been adjusted due to ballots being mailed out later. Member Medley requested the minutes reflect a prior decision by the board that if 5 or fewer absentees were available for approval the meeting could be cancelled and the 5 or fewer returned ballots would be added to the next meeting totals to be

reviewed. Director Johnson was asked how many absentee ballot requests the office had received and she replied there had been twenty.

Chairperson Benson then wanted to discuss the matter of pre-recorded meetings being made available to the public per County Manager's approval. The county manager contacted Chairperson Benson and let her know the recordings included excessive inappropriate conversation, as a result the pre-recorded meetings would not be made public. Recommendations from Chairperson Benson to all board members were to be mindful of conversations during the meetings going forward, if you have a comment you need to make that you do not wish all to hear use a handwritten message instead.

Secretary, John Adams asked when cords would be covered or rerouted to enter the room through the ceiling and Director Johnson said that would be taken care of in the next week.

Motion was made to adjourn by Member Tasha Medley, Member Dree Wynkoop seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Time of Adjournment: 5:55 pm

<u>Jeddi Benson</u>	CHAIR
<u>[Signature]</u>	SECRETARY
<u>Dee J Wynkoop</u>	MEMBER
<u>Debbie C Burns</u>	MEMBER
<u>Tasha Myers</u>	MEMBER