

## **Mecklenburg County Electoral Board**

**April 14, 2020**

### **Approved Minutes**

Present were Jeanne M. Capello Chair, Robert P. Chadeayne Secretary, Yvonne Alexander, and Jason Corwin Registrar

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Capello at 1:01 PM. Ms. Alexander led us in a brief prayer.

The proposed agenda was agreed to without modification.

The minutes of February 11, 2020 were approved as presented.

Mr. Corwin reported that he has calculated the direct costs of the March Primary to be \$27,147.59 and has reported this to the state for reimbursement. He indicated that based upon previous experience we should see approximately a 40% reimbursement rate.

Mr. Corwin also reported that he has received requests for and sent out 213 absentee ballots for the May election to date. This is a significant increase over previous elections, driven primarily by concerns over the Coronavirus. It appears our outreach to voters is working along with the Facebook presence we have. Feedback from candidates has been positive both for our effort to educate voters as well as the response achieved.

Based on comments from the Governor's office, there is a strong likelihood the May 5, 2020 election date will be changed. The Governor is considering moving the election to November however, this will be addressed by the Legislature on or before April 22, 2020. We do not have specific guidance regarding protocols or if any procedural change will be required as yet. The board had a number of questions and concerns regarding a date or procedural change and potential implications of such a decision that they discussed. Mr. Corwin indicated that we have adequate staff to cover the five polling locations in the event of a date change or not. There is a supply of personal protection equipment available for our poll workers. As information becomes available Mr. Corwin will notify board members.

Ms. Alexander reported that she was contacted by a poll worker who replaced an individual who resigned two years ago. This person is now concerned, because the individual who resigned is seeking to return as a poll worker, and doesn't want to be replaced. After some discussion the consensus is that the individual who wants to come back submit an application with the Registrar to be reappointed as an Officer of Elections. Based upon the needs of the precinct and the Chief's staffing requirements the board can consider reinstating this individual. Mr. Corwin doesn't want to discourage any individual who wishes to be an Officer of Elections because there is always a need for workers and we do not wish to convey a message to the contrary.

Mr. Corwin reported that June 23, 2020 is now a dual primary. There are three candidates in the Republican Primary for U. S. Senate. There are four candidates in the Democratic Primary for 5<sup>th</sup> District House of Representatives.

There was much discussion regarding this primary predicated on the Governor's executive orders to restrict public gatherings due to the Coronavirus and the ensuing confusion regarding changing of dates and processes.

In conclusion, Mr. Corwin Presented a proposed ballot order for the primary containing two ballot styles. Time is running out for us to prepare as in-person absentee voting will begin May 8, 2020 and we have to place our ballot order soon.

Motion - to approve the proposed ballot order for the June 23, 2020 Primary Election of 8,500 U. S. Senate ballot style 1 and 6,000 5<sup>th</sup> District ballot style 2. Motion Passed.

Mr. Corwin will be contacting polling locations to reserve the date for the primary. He will also notify the Chiefs and poll workers to determine staffing requirements and availability. Arrangements for setting up the CAP voting machine to accommodate in-person voting will be done.

In light of recent legislative changes, the polling hours for the June primary and November election will not be changed, they remain 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Any change will have to come from the next legislative session due to technical reasons.

Mr. Corwin will order commemorative pins for the November election in June.

Mr. Corwin reported that he had to submit next fiscal years budget in February. As he had done previously, the budget submitted was for the next fiscal year plus a four year look ahead so that the Supervisors could plan for future capital expenditures such as new pollbooks and voting machines, etcetera.

Mr. Corwin reviewed election supplies he proposes to order. In particular, he is looking to order new 30 x 60-inch plastic tables and chairs for five precincts. In addition, some more plastic "A" frame signs and inserts. It was discussed that the sign inserts should have directional arrows for both left and right.

The office relocation. The planning board has expressed some concern regarding the proposed elevator for handicap access. The proposal now on the table is to extend the rear driveway for additional parking and access. A ramp will be constructed from the rear on the north side to the front door. Consensus was that we will accept these changes so as not to delay the relocation date.

Mr. Corwin discussed a proposal of developing an online training portal for Officers of Election using the Google classroom platform. He indicated that he gained some first hand experience with this platform because the Mecklenburg School System is using it for remote distance learning during the Coronavirus shutdown.

As there is no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 PM.

The next meeting will be on June 2, 2020 at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary