

Mecklenburg Board of Electors

October 12, 2021

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. Mr. Corwin led us in a brief prayer.

The proposed agenda was agreed to with modification to include discussion of poll books under the November election.

The minutes of September 14, 2021 were approved as presented.

November Election – Turn out for in-person voting has begun to pick-up. Yesterday 583 people voted and today 620 have voted as of the meeting time. Mr. Corwin has employed James Garner to process voters over the next two weeks to relieve office staff to prepare for election day. 468 Absentee ballots have been issued and 348 marked ballots have returned.

Mr. Corwin inquired of the board whether we wanted to supply pens to electors for election day? The consensus of the board is that while Covid is still a concern, we should provide pens to voters as a precaution. Mr. Corwin will order the required number of pens.

Officer training begins next week. Training sessions will be conducted in the Registrar's office. There will be twenty stations set-up in classroom style and the precincts have been divided into groups whereby we can accommodate all of our Officers of Election. The plan is to record the first training session and upload it to You-tube. Information regarding access will be distributed to the Officers of Election giving them an additional resource to prepare for election day.

The only precinct staffing issue we have is 902, Cherry Hill. Eugene Brandon has requested he be removed as the Chief; he is however willing to work this election if needed. We have a number of poll workers signed up that live in the vicinity of the precinct who can be assigned, based upon completing training. We will have to identify candidates for Chief and Assistant Chief for the future.

Mr. Corwin reported that he has received a report that there may be a possible slow-down in mail delivery during the election period due to volume. The advisory suggested that Registrars be aware and make plans to prepare for such an event. A brief discussion followed regarding possible options available.

Regarding poll books, Mr. Corwin advised that he is ordering new longer power cables and charging bricks for the poll books. This is being done to ensure that most all circumstances at a precinct can be accommodated to keep our equipment fully charged and minimize potential problems. The software has been upgraded to fix the startup issues we experienced in the June primary. When the laptop or the tablet is turned on, they should come up without regard to the Wi-Fi settings. We have discovered that our poll book software has an incredible back-up capability built-in. We had an incident where poll book data was inadvertently deleted. With vendor assistance, all of the data was recovered in less than 30 minutes. Procedures will have to be developed to impose a lockout period for all equipment around elections to preserve the recovery capability.

Law Updates – A new requirement requires pre-processing of absentee ballots. In the week preceding election day, we will have to pre-process ballots. The plan is to bring in the CAP personnel, with

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representation of each party, between 5:00 and 5:30 PM to process the ballots received to date. Observers will be allowed during this period. The expectation is that this should be accomplished within 30 to 45 minutes; which is outside normal business hours and will not create any disruption to normal business.

Transposing ballots, is a process whereby an emailed military ballot is received and an Officer of Election transcribes the non-machine-readable email ballot onto an official machine-readable ballot. Mr. Corwin is requesting that we in Mecklenburg County not do this. Instead, we hand count the ballots using the original documents and report the results as manually counted results. After discussion, a motion was made: "That all emailed military ballots received, shall not be transcribed or transposed by any Officer of Election. Such ballots shall be hand-counted from original documents only as a function of the normal canvass process." Motion seconded. After discussion, the vote was to unanimously adopt the motion.

Redistricting, the process is continuing. Mr. Corwin reported that the maps he has seen continue to keep Mecklenburg County wholly within each of the political district boundaries.

VCU partnership meetings are being held and Mr. Corwin is participating. Plans for developing a secure website for election officials to automate processing of issues and reporting such as FOIA, email issues, phishing events, etc. are proceeding.

The next meeting will be Election Day November 2, 2021 at 1:00 PM at the new office location.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary