

Robert Chadeayne

Chairman

Charles Jackson

Vice-Chairman

Yvonne Alexander

Secretary



Mecklenburg County Electoral Board

439 Madison Street | Boynton, VA 23917

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September 10, 2024

Present were Robert P. Chadeayne, Chairperson; Charles Jackson, Vice-Chairperson; Yvonne Alexander, Secretary, and Jason Corwin, Registrar. Guests in attendance: Dr. Melissa Hartman, Southside Democracy; Dr. Earnandette Farrar, Linda Wells, Rick Buchanan, Valaria Seamans, Trudy Gentry, Geraldine Hite, Rob Mickler, Jim Auliso , Occoneechee AARP, William Moore, Ken Morgan, Larry Santore, Gayle Santore, Janice Moore, Wendy C. Moore, James Walker, Brenda Walker, Peggy B. Allgood, Arleene Jackson, Carlton Allgood, Lillie B. Allgood, and Chairs: Jeff Stratford and Wally Hudson.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Chadeayne at 1:00 p.m. to welcome all guests. The agenda was reviewed and adopted. The minutes for August 13, 2024, motioned by Charles Jackson and seconded by Yvonne Alexander to be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Charles Jackson suggested a moment of silence in memory of the victims of 9/11.

Public Comments:

Wally Hudson – Represented the Mecklenburg County Republican Committee opposed Sunday voting:

1. Religious Observance
2. Have 45 days early voting
3. Office Staffing
4. Absentee Ballots already and the two Saturdays prior to election.
5. Presented a letter to the board and it was entered into the record without objection and a copy was attached to the minutes.

Rick Buchanan – Conferred to what Wallie Hudson said and Opposed Sunday Voting also.

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Jeff Stratford – Favored Sunday voting as stated in previous meetings.

Dr. Earnandette Farar - expressed favor of Sunday voting. Also, that we could not base our decision on the fact of religion for everyone did not observe Sunday as their day of worship, for some people worship on Saturdays and other days. We live in a diverse community and need to be fair to all people when making decisions, regardless of race, sex, religion, or political affiliation.

Linda Wells - Opposes Sunday Voting. You have 45 Days to Early Vote.

Larry Santore – Oppose Sunday Voting. Voting is 38 days and 304 hours. Can be done without Sunday Voting. We have the best Registrar and Asst. Registrar and that they need to be able to spend Sunday with their families.

Carlton Allgood – Opposes Sunday Voting. Think Sunday Voting is a Waste of taxpayers' money. She has never missed voting in a Presidential Election, but there was not Saturday or Sunday Voting at one time. She does not oppose early voting.

Valerie Seamans – Opposes Sunday Voting. Feels there is no need for it. Thinks there is a hidden agenda behind it.

Dr. Melissa Hartman, Southside Democracy Center Favor Sunday Voting

- Wants the board to honor the prior commitment to have Sunday Voting
- Believes that all individuals should be afforded every opportunity possible to exercise their right to vote
- Does not believe that there has ever been any hidden agenda behind Sunday voting at all.

Jim Auliso, Occoneechee AARP President Favors Sunday Voting

- Thinks that in the past Mecklenburg County has depressed Minority voting.
- He encourages seniors to be informed.

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- He stated it needs to be called exactly as it is – only two religious leaders encourage minority voting and those two are: The Rev. Al Sharpton and Rev. William Barbour. At no time do you hear Rev. Franklin Graham encouraging it. Rev. Sharpton and Rev. Barbour have a slogan Souls for the Polls, and they push to get people to vote.
- Mr. Auliso stated that if finances were a problem, then he suggested that to charge the candidates 20.00 per political sign left out after 30 days.
- He further stated that a poll tax should be started for the embarrassing Confederate flag flying on Highway 58.
- The AARP does not endorse any political party. He said not having Sunday Voting was truly a way of Voting Depression for Minorities in Mecklenburg Counties, other localities were having it.

Trudy Gentry wants to know is Sunday the only day that minorities can only get out - she sees them up and down the road other days all over the place.

Ann G. Miller – Favors Sunday Voting

Brenda Walker – Opposes Sunday Voting - said last election not many people showed up, a waste of taxpayers' money.

William Moore – Opposes Sunday Voting - was in the Navy. They had difficulty voting. There was no Early voting or Sunday voting. As he expressed it was unnecessary and felt like everyone had ample time to vote with early voting.

Yvonne Alexander requested that the agenda be amended and that the Board decide concerning whether there will be Sunday voting during this Presidential Year. Ms. Alexander stated that the Board needed to redirect their attention to other needs and not spend every meeting discussing Sunday voting.

Motion made by Ms. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Jackson: To hold Sunday voting during this Presidential year, and the date will be selected by the Registrar. If it is not

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well attended, there will be no further Sunday voting. The Registrar shall make a recommendation to the Electoral Board regarding continuation.

A role call was taken Ms. Alexander – Yes; Mr. Jackson No; Mr. Chadeayne No.

The Motion failed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ø Recount Update

A ballot was not recounted by hand – the registrar had to go up to Goochland and explain the difference in our number by one.

John McGuire is the Republican Candidate for the 5th Congressional District.

Officers of Elections – We will look at the Assignments in closed sessions in October.
Need to Look at reassignments of some chiefs and assistant chiefs.

New Seals or Solutions – have a New Bag and Seal to replace the Banker Box (Replaces Envelope 3-5).

Absentee Tracking – The registrar can track those individuals that consistently request absentee ballots and returns them in person but there is not anything we can do about it at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presidential Preparation and Updates

Write in Candidates

South Hill will have Write in for Mayor and Town Council

Lacrosse will have Write in for Town Council

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Absentee by-mail – Early Voting Starts September 20, 2024

1012 Ballots prepared to go out.

Pre-Processing – will start 1 week early.

Officers of Elections Letters will be sent out for training dates.

L & A Testing

Ballot Order – 76 Style

Test Deck September 17 and 18

Voting System Security Letter

Mr. Jackson made a motion to accept the new bags with the seals to replace the bankers' boxes, Ms. Alexander Seconded. Motion carried.

VRAV MEETING

Mr. Corwin and Mrs. Terry attended. Found to be very Informative. Got to see a new voting machine. Was impressed. Plan to invite the vendor to come down in 2025 to show the machine to the Board.

Next meeting October 8, 2025. 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Alexander motion to adjourn. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion. Adjourned at 2:31 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Yvonne S. Alexander, Secretary