

# Meeting Agenda

**Location:** Henderson County Board of Elections  
75 E. Central St.  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

**Date:** October 15, 2024

**Time:** 5:00 PM

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Clay Eddleman (C-D) / Debbie Dante (S-R) / Cindy Ellis (D) / Linda Rebeck (R) / Sharon Pearson(D)

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## Agenda details:

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

**V. Chair Comments**

**VI. Old Business**

**VII. Directors Comments**

**VIII. New Business**

- MAT Plan and Appointments
- Election Day Precincts Plan
- Approval of Absentee Ballots

**IX. Adjournment**

# Welcome

Please Sign In (Name/Organization(optional))

Date: 10/15/24

1. Janie Bilbello NCEIT
2. Yvonne Moffitt
3. Caren Kessler LSWVHC
4. Betsy Beach HCDP
5. Dani Pledders
6. Peri David Dem Vo-Pro
7. Paul Taetsch
8. Janice Parker GOP
9. Paul Rogers CWV
10. Susan Johnston  
Coy Winn NCEIT

PAUL HENDERSON  
Henderson County Board of Elections

Richard Vickris Esq.

Henderson County Board of Elections  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
October 10, 2024  
Special Meeting (w/addendum)

The Board of Elections met for a Special Meeting on October 10, 2024, at 5:11 PM at the Henderson County Board of Elections office at 75 E. Central Street. Members present were Clay Eddleman, Chair, Debbie Dante, Secretary, Linda Rebuck, Sharon Pearson, Cindy Ellis, Members, and Summer Heatherly, Director.

Pledge

Minutes: No approval of Minutes.

Agenda: Special meeting was called by the Chair to discuss Addition of Early Voting Sites.

**Chair Comments.** The NC General Assembly was called into session yesterday regarding the State Board of Elections Resolution Regarding Voting in the 13 Counties Most Affected by Tropical Storm Helene (attached) and to fund emergency voting costs associated with the storm (H 149, attached). The Legislature extended the emergency declaration to 25 counties, increasing the State Board Resolution by 12 counties. Chair was advised yesterday by SBOE General Counsel Paul Cox to stay as close as possible to our previously passed Early Voting Plan.

The Henderson County curfew was lifted this morning therefore the Chair moved to Rescind the adjusted Early Voting Plan passed in the last meeting of 10/8/24. Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chair requested individual voice votes going forward. Passed unanimously. Original One Stop Plan is restored.

Member Dante moved to add two One Stop sites; Etowah Library, 101 Brickyard Road, Etowah, and Upward Bible Baptist Church, 1130 Upward Road, Flat Rock. Linda 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Member Ellis objected due to an email dated 10/10/24, 1:28 PM, from SBOE General Counsel Paul Cox stating we are prohibited from adding additional early voting sites according to his interpretation of H 149. The email was read by the Chair (attached). Chair pointed out that Early Voting locations are required to be a government building per NCGS §163-166.35(c) (attached), so the Church location could not be considered. Member Rebuck disagreed and stated the law did not say you cannot use of a non-governmental building. This may need clarification. Chair read a follow up email from Mr. Cox recommending the Board put the Motion to vote and Members to consider the legality (attached).

Member Ellis stated 7% of Henderson County is without power and it should all be restored by Friday. There is still a State of Emergency in the all the municipalities. Schools will open next Tuesday. Distribution centers were listed and suggested MAT teams go to them. She notes security and poll worker issues if we open 2 new sites and read the "accessibility" requirements per [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov) under Voter Accessibility.

Director stated that the MAT team should be requested and can only go to care facilities and "...disaster shelters and other places where disaster relief is provided..." adding it must be in a disaster area.

Member Dante stated the Etowah Library could potentially draw up to 13,000 voters comprising 5 nearby precincts and the Church could potentially draw up to 15,500 voters comprising 4 nearby precincts. She stated a lot of people lost their cars in the storm or can't use the gas to get to town and she wanted to make it easier for them to vote closer to their homes.

Member Pearson questioned why the suggestion to change the Plan when we all agreed upon it months ago. Additionally, there are costs and poll workers to consider and there isn't enough time to organize when there are 2 other options besides opening additional Early Voting sites, to wit: Absentee by Mail and Election Day voting.

Chair indicated he saw no reason to open additional sites. Vote must be a bipartisan majority showed Pearson-Nay, Rebuck-Nay, Ellis-Nay, Dante-Yea. Motion failed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Deborah Dante

Secretary

Approved  Disapproved

Ce Eya

Chairman

Approved  Disapproved

Cindy Ellis

Member

Approved  Disapproved

Sharon Pearson

Member

Approved  Disapproved

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Member

Approved this the 22 day of OCTOBER, 2024.

**Addendum 10/15/24:** Member Rebuck states that her intent was to vote in favor of the Motion to add 2- One Stop sites to the Early Voting Plan as she Seconded the Motion and also spoke in favor of the Motion.

Henderson County Board of Elections  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
October 15, 2024

The Board of Elections met on October 15, 2024, at 5:00 PM at the Henderson County Board of Elections office at 75 E. Central Street. Members present were Clay Eddleman, Chair, Debbie Dante, Secretary, Linda Rebuck, Sharon Pearson, Cindy Ellis, Members, and Summer Heatherly, Director. Staff present: Aaron, Chastity, Mary K., and Nancy Graham.

Pledge

Agenda: Rebuck moved to approve agenda. Pearson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Minutes: Rebuck moved to accept the minutes of 10/8/24. Pearson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Member Ellis requested an addition to the 10/10/24 minutes in the second paragraph to add "days and hours" after .... *moved to Rescind the adjusted Early Voting Plan.*

Member Rebuck states that her intent was to vote in favor of the Motion to add 2- One Stop sites to the Early Voting Plan as she Seconded the Motion and also spoke in favor of the Motion. Chair suggests an addendum be added to the 10/10/24 minutes stating such. Rebuck moved to approve the 10/10/24 minutes as amended above. Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Chair Comments.

The next 2 Board meetings will be held in the office reception area due to the Early Voting use of the warehouse. There is space for 13 visitors (4 R & 4 D, then anyone). It will be also on Zoom.

Old Business:

Member Rebuck read Attorney Paul Cox's email of 10/11/24 (attached) reversing his statements to county directors in the 13 emergency declaration areas that they were not allowed to add any Early Voting sites. We are now able to add Early Voting sites to our Early Voting Plan; if approved by a bipartisan majority of the board.

Member Dante countered the following arguments against adding early voting sites.

- 1) Attorney Cox reversed his instructions to not add early voting sites and we are now allowed to add sites;
- 2) Early voting sites must be a governmental building so the Church offered as a site would be ineligible per NCGS§ 163-166.35(c). See letter from SBOE Attorney Lindsey Wakely dated 3/14/22 stating **a county may use non-governmental buildings for EV sites, so long as those sites provide space for electioneering and** the State Board finds that other equally suitable sites were not available. Additionally, the Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 and the State Board's Emergency Resolution states the addition of early voting sites does not have to be approved by the State Board, but passed by a bipartisan vote and a Resolution of Findings sent to the State;

- 3) Too costly. The NC General Assembly passed the Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 ([S.L. 2024-51](#)) and allocated 5 million dollars for the SBOE for disaster expenses.
- 4) Not enough workers to staff EV sites. The State Board's Emergency Resolution allows out of county poll workers to be hired.
- 5) Too late to plan and open an EV site. The State's Resolution allows the County Board to determine the days and hours of EV sites so the opening could be delayed.

Member Dante's conclusion is that there is no valid reason to not open additional EV sites and moves to add Flat Rock Town Hall, Etowah Library and Fletcher Town Hall as early voting sites. Rebeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. Member Ellis reiterated the basis of the Board decision regarding the reason for not supporting more EV sites was due to underutilization of the sites in previous elections (see minutes of 4/29/24). Also, displaced voters will be served by the MAT team, most roads are now open, and all 35 precincts will be open on Election Day. Member Rebeck states our situation now is not normal circumstances. Member Pearson states our prior discussions were about trying to help displaced voters trapped or in shelters and this does not help that situation. She questions how opening additional early voting sites will reach those people. Chair states we want to look at this in a view of the overall election and moves to postpone the Motion until after discussion of the rest of the agenda. Pearson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

#### New Business:

**MAT Plan and Appointments.** See attached Proposal for MAT Team General Election 2024. They can go to emergency shelters and Relief Centers and other sites in the community. They may not go door to door. Member Dante cites [S.L. 2024-51](#), Part IX, Sec. 9.1(a)(7), ...*The county board, by bipartisan majority, shall establish guidelines for the operation of multipartisan teams to assist any eligible voter in requesting and casting an absentee ballot.* Guidelines: Day 1 at the site MAT will help with Absentee Ballot requests. Requests are brought to the office, scanned, validated, labels printed and ballots, return envelopes and instructions inserted into an envelope to be delivered to the site the next day. Discussion on how to get the word out regarding MAT locations and schedules included the Sheriff's Dept app, Henderson County Communications Officer Mike Morgan (radio & print), flyers in libraries, post office, grocery stores, FEMA Center on Asheville Hwy, school system text alert, political parties newsletters. Rebeck moved to accept the MAT Plan and the 13 Republican and 13 Democrat appointments. Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

**Election Day Precinct Plan.** See attached Proposed Election Day Polling Place Changes. Chair reviewed Plan and conditions warranting transfer. Member Pearson moved to accept proposed election day changes. Rebeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. Member Dante moved to amend the motion as follows: Hire bipartisan teams for Armory and Atkinson precincts to direct voters to the transfer precinct. Director states they will have to take an Oath. Linda 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Vote on Amended Motion to accept Election Day Changes passed unanimously.

Director will issue letters to the 9,014 affected voters and signs will be placed at the closed precincts before Election Day, informing voters of the transfer.

Postponed Motion to add 3 early voting sites is called back to the floor. Member Dante withdrew her motion. She states the MAT plan that includes Gerton Fire Dept 2 weekends in October along with the other sites scheduled may be sufficient to reach out to the displaced voters. All members agreed.

Rebuck moves for a 5 minute recess. Pearson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Recess: 6:14

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Reconvene: 6:22

**Approval of Absentee Ballots.**

Absentee tabulator # 1 (#18365) seal # 203879 was removed and ballot box was empty.

Begin Public Count :118

Absentee tabulator # 2 (#18361) seal # 230896 was removed and ballot box was empty.

Begin Public Count: 98

Total : 216

Ballots were approved by two teams:

Linda and Sharon and Debbie and Cindy. Chair opened envelopes and staff scanned ballots into scanner.

550 ballots - not including 56 ID Exemption Forms

Exemptions approved 56.

Unable to photocopy - 31

Lack of transportation - 3

Lack of birth certificate or documents - 1

Work or school schedule - 2

Lost or stolen - 3

Natural Disaster - 8

Rebuck moved to recess until tomorrow at 1 PM as we have 300 more absentee ballots to approve. Pearson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Recess: 8:00 PM

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Reconvene: 10/16/24 1 PM

Approval of ballots.

511 Civilian

2 Military

37 Overseas

56 Exception Forms

606 ballots approved

1 pending cure approved

607 approved

Absentee tabulator # 1 (#18365) sealed #230889, ballot box seal # 55773108.  
Public Count: 420  
Absentee tabulator # 2 (#18361) sealed # 230880, ballot box seal # 55773107.  
Public Count: 403  
Total: 823

Member Dante moved to request to speak regarding the MAT. Rebuttal 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously. Dante stated she thought it was a hardship for the voter to come back a second day to receive and vote their ballot and could it be completed in one trip. Director spoke to State and MAT can receive and deliver completed ballots. MAT purpose is not to set up mini One Stops. Voter can take ballot and mail it or drop it off at their election day precinct, or fill it out on site and MAT will deliver to office. Carrying a supply of blank ballots to the site would not be secure and verification would be extremely difficult in a same day scenario. Director is waiting for direction from the State and doesn't feel comfortable making guidelines without State instructions. A Memo addressing this may be out shortly. Director was asked what other counties are doing with their MAT's.

Recess while Director makes some phone calls. 3:31 PM

Reconvene: 3:37 PM

Director spoke to Polk and Transylvania county Directors and they confirmed that ballots cannot be given out without verification- must verify, scan, print label and secure ballot in envelope.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Albina Dante

Secretary

Approved  Disapproved

Clay Eddle

Chairman

Approved  Disapproved

Cindy Ellis

Member

Approved  Disapproved

Sarah Pearson

Member

Approved  Disapproved

Member

Approved this the 22 day of OCTOBER, 2024.



# Absentee Meeting Ballot Reconciliation

Election Date: November 5, 2024

Location: Henderson County Board of Elections

Date: 10/15/24

Time: 5:00 pm

START PUBLIC COUNT	#18361 - 98 #18365 - 118
TOTAL APPROVED BALLOTS (SEIMS report attached)	CEV - 511 MIL - 2 OVR - 57 = 607 ARR - 56 + 1 PL
END PUBLIC COUNT	420 + 403 = 823

Chair Signature: Craig Eddles

Member Signature: Lisa Pelzick

Member Signature: Sharon Pearson

Member Signature: Albrook Dante

Member Signature: Cindy Ellis

Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Seal # Removed from DS200: \_\_\_\_\_ Seal # Applied to DS200: <sup>65-</sup> 230889

Seal # on Blue Ballot Box: <sup>61-</sup> 55773107  
55773108

#18361 - 230896

#18365 - 230879



Resolution to move LOCATIONS of precincts for General Election Day November 5, 2024

§ 163-128. Election precincts and voting places established or altered. (a) Each county shall be divided into a convenient number of precincts for the purpose of voting. Upon a resolution adopted by the county board of elections and approved by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections voters from a given precinct may be temporarily transferred, for the purpose of voting, to an adjacent precinct. Any such transfers shall be for the period of time equal only to the term of office of the county board of elections making such transfer. When such a resolution has been adopted by the county board of elections to assign voters from more than one precinct to the same precinct, then the county board of elections shall maintain separate registration and voting records, consistent with the procedure prescribed by the State Board of Elections, so as to properly identify the precinct in which such voters reside.

Armory Precinct – National Guard

Move to Hillendale Elementary School Gym

2025 Spartanburg Hwy

40 Preston Ln

1.6 miles

Atkinson Precinct – Atkinson Elementary School

Move to Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2510 Old Kanuga Rd

409 E Patterson St

0.9 miles

Bat Cave Precinct – Bat Cave Fire Dept

Split Precinct – Gerton Fire Dept (other side of bridge)

267 Gerton Hwy

4975 Gerton Hwy

3.6 miles

Bat Cave Precinct – Bat Cave Fire Dept

Split Precinct – Justice Academy (this side of the bridge)

267 Gerton Hwy

234 St Paul's Rd

4.9 miles

HV-3 Precinct – Whitmire Activity Center

Move to American Legion Building

310 Lily Pond

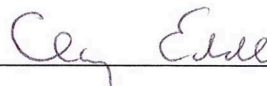
216 4<sup>th</sup> Ave W

0.4 miles

Approved this the 15 day of October 2024

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

By:



Chair

## October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Press Release:

Early voting is set to begin this Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at our office at **75 E. Central Street in Hendersonville**. The Board of Elections office will serve as the only Early Voting site and we are ready to accommodate, and we look forward to opening our doors to the voters of Henderson County!

What can voters expect?

- 16 voter check-in stations
- 58 ExpressVote voting machines
- 4 tabulators
- Ample parking
- 15 handicap parking spaces
- 12 Curbside voting spaces
- Shuttles available to assist voters
- Ample poll workers willing assist with any need
- 1 safe and secure site

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office. If you need a schedule for Early Voting, you can find that on our website under the Early Voting menu.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!

Henderson County Board of Elections

75 E. Central Street, Hendersonville, NC • (828) 697 - 4970

# OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2024:

Following the devastation of Hurricane Helene in Henderson County, we have been receiving a lot of questions regarding the impacts on the upcoming 2024 General Election. We hope this will clear up a lot of those questions.

## **EARLY VOTING:**

- Early voting will begin on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Henderson County Board of Elections Office at 75 E. Central Street, Hendersonville, NC. For a complete schedule please use the link below:  
<https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/elections/page/135561/doc1.pdf>
- All traffic entering the Board of Elections during the early voting period, must turn right into our office. To prevent traffic incidents at the intersection of Spartanburg and Old Spartanburg Highway, with cooperation with our local law enforcement, we are preventing all traffic from turning left onto Old Spartanburg Highway from Spartanburg Highway. You will need to utilize Brooklyn Avenue or Shepherd Street to access Old Spartanburg Highway in order to gain entry into the Board of Elections. Please plan accordingly.

## **ABSENTEE VOTING:**

- To help alleviate some of the concerns regarding mail accessibility after Hurricane Helene, the North Carolina State Board of Elections has provided an emergency resolution that will allow for absentee ballots to be issued, in-person, at our office. If you have **ANY** concerns about your ability to vote in-person during this election or if have previously requested an absentee ballot that is now lost or damaged, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office.

Henderson County Board of Elections

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