

Henderson County Board of Elections  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
October 22, 2024

The Board of Elections met on October 22, 2024, at 5:06 PM at the Henderson County Board of Elections office at 75 E. Central Street. Members present were Clay Eddleman, Chair, Debbie Dante, Secretary, Linda Rebeck (via Zoom), Sharon Pearson, Cindy Ellis, Members, and Summer Heatherly, Director. Staff present: Aaron, Vicki, Mary K., and Nancy Graham.

Pledge

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

Minutes: Chair read the Addendum to the 10/10/24 minutes. Rebeck moved to accept the Addendum to the minutes as read. Pearson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Chair would like to add to 10/15/24 minutes, page 3, end of the first sentence, *...and all agreed*. Member Ellis would like to add on page 1, bottom, 1) end of first sentence, *...if approved by the Board by a bipartisan majority*, and also on page 2, first paragraph, second sentence Member Ellis would like to strike *...stated through was*. It should read *Member Ellis reiterated the basis of the Board's decision due to underutilization of the sites in previous elections (see minutes of 4/29/24)*.

Pearson moved to approve the 10/15/24 minutes as amended above. Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Directors Comments: **Early Voting, MAT, Election Day**

Early voting numbers are record breaking. Yesterday, Monday, the third day of EV there was only a line in the morning and they were voting 420 voters per hour. In 2020, the fourth day of EV with 4 sites open only voted 3,700 total. As of 5:00 pm today, our fourth day of EV, 1 site has voted 16,527 total including 1100 curbside. There may have been an 8–10-minute wait to get to the parking area, but there was no line to enter the voting enclosure. Due to some complaints regarding the traffic being backed up on Old Spartanburg Hwy, the Director has adjusted the traffic plan. Other than that, she has received very few complaints and most voters were complimentary on the ease, organization, and knowledge and friendliness of the staff. There are 18 check-in stations (including 2 curbside and 2 registration check-ins), 60 Express Vote ballot marking devices, 2 tabulators and 12-14 curbside spaces. Director will craft a press release for the State to send out announcing the amazing numbers of people that are voting at one site with little to no wait times. Director has had some calls asking if the precincts will be open on Election Day and she reassured them all 35 precincts will be open.

The Chair wanted to publicly thank Commission Chairman Rebecca McCall for her support.

Member Ellis asked Director if she had received any calls from voters that they cannot get out to vote and her response was no.

The MAT team went to Edneyville Library from 10am to 3pm on 10/21 and 10/22 and helped 3 voters with Absentee requests. Because the State BOE attorney stated that ballots cannot be transported, the Director will send out a new MAT flyer with corrections. Director spoke to Gerton Fire Chief and Bat Cave area is not getting mail delivery and there are 25 persons still cut off completely and are getting supplies via ATV runs. The state is trying to get information from the Post Office regarding mail delivery. Director states ATV's are being used get to the Gerton Fire Department and volunteers from the Sheriff's Department will transport voters via ATV's to the Gerton Fire Department precinct on Election Day.

Member Dante moved to open Gerton Fire Department and The Justice Center as Early Voting sites using the Mat schedule of 10/25 on Saturday, 10/26. Rebuck 2<sup>nd</sup>. Director states about 50% of Bat Cave residents have relocated and 179 out of 932 voters in that precinct have voted early to date. Member Pearson states they have 2 options to vote; Mat team applications and mailing the ballots or Election Day. Member Dante asked if no mail is running in Bat Cave, how will they receive the mailed ballot. Director states the mobile postal unit delivers mail to the Gerton Fire Department so the voter can have their ballot mailed and pick it up there. If requested, the MAT team can pick up the voted ballots and bring them to the office. Vote: Chair-No, Ellis-No, Pearson-No, Rebuck-Yes, Dante-Yes. Motion failed.

Chair understands there was interest in opening Etowah Library for early voting and questions if our resources are better spent in Bat Cave or Etowah. Director believes if we open the Etowah Library for early voting we could reach more voters. The MAT was scheduled at Etowah Library on 10/30 and 10/31, but the deadline for requesting Absentee ballots is 10/29. Member Dante moved to open Etowah Library as an early voting site on 10/30 and 10/31 from 10am to 3pm (as per the MAT schedule). Linda 2<sup>nd</sup>. We would have to change the locks and set up 2 Express Votes, 1 check-in station, 1 curbside station and 1 tabulator. Regarding poll workers, we could use some of the 26 MAT members that we recently appointed, but they would need training. Vote: Passed unanimously.

Chair moves to recess for 5 minutes.

Recess: 6:35 pm

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Reconvene: 6:40 pm

New Business. **Approval of Absentee Ballots.**

Teams- Ellis & Dante, Pearson & Vicki (R employee). Member Dante will review and initial all approved ballot envelopes.

Absentee tabulator # 1 (#18365) seal # 203889 was removed and ballot box was empty.  
Begin Public Count :420  
Absentee tabulator # 2 (#18361) seal # 230880 was removed and ballot box was empty.  
Begin Public Count: 403  
Total : 823

Staff opened envelopes and scanned ballots into scanner. Staff: Aaron, Mary K, Nancy.

Member Pearson moved to recess until tomorrow, 10/23, at 1 pm. Ellis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

Absentee tabulator # 1: Ending Public Count: 468.

Absentee tabulator # 2: Ending Public Count: 485

Adorned: 8 pm.

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October 23, 2024

Reconvene: 1:10 pm

**Approval of Absentee Ballots (continued)**

Teams- Ellis & Dante, Pearson & Tabitha Capps (R employee). Member Dante will review and initial all approved ballot envelopes.

Staff opened envelopes and scanned ballots into scanner. Staff: Chastity, Mary K, Ethan Rhodes.

Absentee tabulator # 1: Starting Public Count: 468.

Absentee tabulator # 2: Starting Public Count: 485

Exemptions approved 53

Unable to photocopy -

Lack of transportation -

Lack of birth certificate or documents -

Work or school schedule -

Lost or stolen

Natural Disaster -

816 Civilian

9 Military

36 Overseas

53 Exception Forms

914 ballots approved

Absentee tabulator # 1 (#18365) sealed #230888, ballot box seal # 55773110.

Public Count: 1000

Absentee tabulator # 2 (#18361) sealed # 230887, ballot box seal # 55773109.

Public Count: 737

Total: 1737

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 PM.

Alborah Dante  
Secretary

Approved  Disapproved

Clay Eddle  
Chairman

Approved  Disapproved

Sharon Pearson  
Member

Approved  Disapproved

Linda Rebeck  
Member

Approved  Disapproved

Cindy Ellis  
Member

Approved this the 29 day of October, 2024.