

Henderson County Board of Elections
Minutes of Board Meeting
October 25, 2024
Special Meeting

The Board of Elections met for a Special Meeting on October 25, 2024, at 9:00 AM at the Henderson County Board of Elections office at 75 E. Central Street. Members present were Clay Eddleman, Chair, Debbie Dante, Secretary, Linda Rebeck, Sharon Pearson, Cindy Ellis, Members, and Summer Heatherly, Director.

Pledge

Agenda: **Approve Early Voting Sites, Chief Judges & Judges**

Per Senate Bill 132, Early Voting Sites/Helene Counties, which was passed 10/24/24.

Minutes: None approved.

Chair Comments.

S132 passed yesterday mandating 1 early voting site per 30,000 registered voters in the 13 effected Helene counties. Days and hours to be from 10/24/24 to 11/2/24, same hours as the current early voting site at our office. Director has secured the recommended sites. Chair requests a motion.

Member Rebeck moved to adopt the 2024 Additional Early Voting Sites which included Flat Rock Village Hall, Fletcher Town Hall and Etowah Library with same hours as our current early voting site. Ellis 2nd. Member Dante suggests that we substitute The Justice Center in place of Flat Rock Town Hall. Chair reminded Board that there will be 2 Election Day sites in that area for voters of Bat Cave (Gerton Fire Department & The Justice Center) and that the bridge may open this Saturday. Director's call with Emergency Management & Gerton Fire Chief assured her that they will help anyone who wishes to vote on Election Day, which most wish to do, and that everyone can now get out of Bat Cave. Member Pearson asked how opening 3 sites will be accomplished. Director states we will have to use some Election Day equipment. We will not use early voting equipment or transfer early voting staff to the new sites so this will not affect the efficiency of the office site. There will be 1 check-in table, 2 Express Votes and 1 tabulator, 3 poll workers, and 1 Chief and 2 Judges. It is possible there will be lines.

Director states we have voted 24,858 people in 6 ½ days, which is an average of 3,585 voters per day, or 450 voters per hour, in 1 site, with the longest wait being 20 minutes. Buncombe, with 10 sites, and Transylvania with 2 sites, both have an average wait of 1 ½ hours. There have been few negative comments and the majority of comments on social media are positive.

Member Dante moved to amend the motion on the floor and substitute The Justice Center for Flat Rock Town Hall. Linda 2nd. Dante believes Flat Rock Town Hall is too close to the main office site showed a county map with the potential sites circled.

Vote on Amendment: Chair- No, Pearson-No, Ellis-Yes, Rebeck-Yes, Dante-Yes. Motion to Amend passed with a bipartisan majority vote.

Vote on Main Amended Motion: Passed unanimously.

Member Rebeck moved to accept the Judges: Chief Judges Susan Mangrum, Norie Sanchez and Dwain Haynes, and Judges Mary Jo Brown, David Buckingham, Dorothy Calloway, Mary Krokowski, Bruce MacDonald and Beth Ann Pensiero.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Albinah Slante
Secretary

Approved Disapproved

Cory Eise
Chairman

Approved Disapproved

Sharon Pearson
Member

Approved Disapproved

Jana Beluch
Member

Approved Disapproved

Cindy Ellis
Member

Approved this the 29 day of October, 2024.