

# BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Linda J. Sutton**  
CHAIR

**Frank M. Dickerson**  
SECRETARY

**Jerry D. Jordan**  
MEMBER



**Robert H. Coffman**  
Director of Elections

## FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – October 27, 2009

Present: Linda J. Sutton, Chair  
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary  
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections  
Lamar Joyner, Deputy Director of Elections  
Judy Speas, Office Assistant

Guest: Derwin Montgomery, East Ward Candidate

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### Call to Order

Ms. Sutton called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Board of Elections Conference room.

### Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes for October 20, 2009. Ms. Sutton asked whether there were any suggested corrections or changes. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Absentee Ballots

The Staff recommended 46 absentee ballots for approval and two for disapproval. Ms. Speas stated that the ballots were disapproved for the reasons of no signatures on one and that the envelope was unsealed on the other. The voters were contacted to explain to them that their ballots were rejected and mailed a second absentee ballot. Ms. Sutton asked for a motion to approve the absentee ballots. Mr. Jordan moved to approve the recommendation of absentee ballots by staff. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Other Business

Mr. Coffman and the Board reviewed the current One Stop Transaction Statistics report with detailed daily voter data.

The Board discussed the Duties of Director of Elections document which was tabled at an earlier meeting. Mr. Coffman stated that the document had last been reviewed for changes in 2007. The document states that the Director of Elections is under the general supervision of the members of the Forsyth County Board of

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Elections who are required to follow the directives of the State Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections is held to the General Statutes of North Carolina Election law. Ms. Sutton questioned whether the general statute references of all the numbered entries were relevant. Mr. Coffman agreed to research the relevance of the statutes and report to the board at the next meeting. Ms. Sutton also asked that each Board member review the document in order to suggest recommendations to refine the document. The Board members agreed to review the document and recommend additions and changes.

Ms. Sutton questioned the status of possibly adopting a Memorandum of Understanding document. This document would describe the relationship agreement that the Board of Elections has with the county and state government agencies. Mr. Coffman agreed to research the document for review.

Mr. Coffman reviewed information and the procedure concerning the hand eye audit which is scheduled for the Canvass on November 10, 2009.

Ms. Sutton asked for an update of any complaints regarding problems with Winston-Salem ward addresses. Mr. Coffman stated that Mr. Wright, Elections Training Specialist, was stressing the importance of provisional ballots in the precinct classes in the event of any problems.

Mr. Jordan expressed concerns of a voter's anxiety that his ballot was not secret. Mr. Coffman discussed the fact that absentee ballots are required to be retrievable while Election Day ballots are anonymous. Identifications cards are not required or requested on Election Day, but may be used if offered to search for a voter in the computer or poll book.

Ms. Sutton questioned whether the State Board of Elections officials had responded regarding the question of certifying possible write-in votes in the Municipal General Election. Mr. Coffman stated that the State Board of Elections preferred to review the official return of ballots after Election Day in order to certify the votes. Mr. Dickerson suggested that the Board should rule on the ballots after Election Day and then ask for the State Board's or local county attorney's guidance, if necessary. Mr. Jordan agreed and asserted that the ruling should be in writing. The Board discussed the Notice of Candidacy statement regarding a candidate running as a write-in candidate after losing in a primary. Mr. Coffman stated that all original Notice of Candidacy documents are filed in the office. Mr. Montgomery questioned the Board regarding Election Law GS 163-123 that excludes the participation of municipal and nonpartisan candidates. Mr. Coffman explained the statute.

Mr. Coffman acknowledged that supplies, ballots and equipment were ready for the election.

Mr. Coffman stated that the front area of the precincts needed improved signs. The cost may average from \$70 - \$100 for large 'A' frame placards for each precinct. Mr. Dickerson asserted that the replacement expense seemed worthwhile.

Mr. Joyner stated that the Kids Voting organization would have an on-line operation for the November election from October 27 to November 3. A voter should go to the Kids Voting NC website and choose the county.

Mr. Coffman requested that the Board go into closed session for a personnel matter. Mr. Dickerson moved to enter closed session. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board entered closed session at 4:45 PM.

Adjournment

Ms. Sutton asked whether there was a motion to adjourn after the closed session ended. Mr. Dickerson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM. The next meeting would occur on November 3, 2009 at 4:00 PM in the Board of Elections conference room.

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Linda J. Sutton, Chair

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Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

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Jerry D. Jordan, Member