

**Orange County Board of Elections
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**Minutes
February 7, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.**

Present: Jim White, Chair
Kathy Knight, Secretary
Jamie Cox, Member
Tracy Reams, Director

Call to order: Chairman White called the Board meeting to order. There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Board concerning items not on the agenda.

James Weathers, Chief Judge; Mary Cooper, UNC Student Body President and Linda Convisor, Director of UNC Local Relations were present to provide input and recommendations for the May Primary one-stop early voting sites.

Approval of Board Minutes: Mr. Cox moved and Ms. Knight seconded the motion to approve the January 3rd, 2012 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report: Director Reams provided:

- Voter Registration Statistical Report
- Year-to-Date Budget Report
- Campaign Finance Compliance Report
- Legacy Voter Registration Scanning Project Update
- 2012 Election Calendar
- 2012-13 Annual Operating Budget Schedule
- 2012 Polling Place Changes
- Director's Annual WPPR Work Plan

Voter Registration Statistical Report:

The director presented the voter registration statistical report showing a total of 102,724 registered voters.

Year-to-Date Budget Report:

The director provided the monthly budget report and reported sufficient funds to carry out the work of the Board.

Campaign Finance Compliance Report:

The director provided an updated list of candidate campaign reports received to date. The director reported that the non-compliant committees have been sent a 5-day notice.

Legacy Voter Registration Scanning Project:

The director reported that a total of 31,039 out of 48,094 legacy registrations signatures have been scanned and attached to date. The staff started the task on May 12, 2011 and will continue scanning until project complete.

2012 Elections Calendar:

The director provided pertinent annual Board meeting schedule in addition to absentee and election meeting dates.

2012-13 Annual Operating Schedule:

The director provided the budget schedule for Board review and asked for Board to provide input on budget request for services exceeding those currently offered.

2012 Polling Place Change:

The director reported that Coker Hills Precinct polling location, Church of the Reconciliation will be undergoing extension renovations and will be unavailable for the 2012 Elections. Recommendations from Board members and Party Chairs were considered and Phillips Middle School was the favored site submitted.

Director's Annual WPPR Work Plan:

The director presented work objectives for her annual work planning and performance review.

Board Discussion:

One-Stop Voting Locations:

The Chair opened the floor to discuss one-stop voting sites and hours for the May 2012 Primary Election. All present participated in the discussion with the Board and director.

Mr. White and the director reported on their site visit to Rams Head Dining Hall on February 6th. Mr. White reported he is in support of setting up an early voting site at Rams Head because it is a central spot for students and a large concentration of Orange County residents work near the site.

The director reported her concerns with voter confusion locating voting enclosure parking in a 3 story underground parking deck and issues with curbside voting. Issues being curbside voter being able to notify precinct officials in voting enclosure of the need to vote curbside and the length of time it will take the precinct official to complete the voting process due to the distance from the curbside voting space to the voting enclosure.

Ms. Knight stated her desire to visit the site before any decisions are made and that the Board should make all sites accessible to the public not just a specific group.

Mr. Cox stated his desire to visit the site and examine thoroughly any options available to set up a site on campus due to the high concentration of voters located near the campus.

The Board discussed parking fees for voters and the possibility of a 3rd party paying for voter parking. The director reported that Don Wright was contacted and that per G.S. 163-129 voters should not be charged for parking and funds cannot be accepted from a 3rd party to facilitate voting. The Board asked the director to contact Don Wright, SBOE Counsel and ask that he discuss parking arrangements with the UNC Counsel and provide opinion.

The Board unanimously agreed to hold a special meeting at Rams Head on Tuesday, February 14 at 3:30 p.m. to allow all members to access the site and to officially act on early voting sites and hours for the May Primary and 2nd Primary (if necessary). The director reported that Mt. Zion AME Church approved the request to setup an early voting in the fellowship hall.

Board Actions:

Ms. Knight made a motion and Mr. Cox seconded the motion to temporarily move the polling location for Coker Hills from the Church of the Reconciliation to Phillips Middle School for elections held in 2012 due to extensive renovations at the church. The motion passed unanimously. Media advertisement and voter cards will be mailed to all voters in Coker Hills to notify them of the change in polling location.

Other Board Discussion:

The Board requested that the 2012-13 budget request include funds to facilitate 5 early voting sites for the 2012 November General Election.

The Board discussed the Constitutional Amendment that shall be on the May Primary Ballot. The Board's opinion is that it should not be permissible to ask the voters to vote on a constitutional amendment without having the full text of the amendment on the ballot and does not believe it is compliant with the statutes. The Board directed the director to contact the SBOE to let them know they oppose the wording and ask the SBOE to reconsider the language that shall appear on the ballot due to the language being insufficient.

The Board deferred acting on the director's annual WPPR until the next scheduled Board meeting.

The Board discussed the April 4-5 SBOE conference to be held at the Sheraton RTP. All Board members will attend. Registration forms and fees will be submitted on behalf of the Board.

Adjournment: Mr. Cox moved and Ms. Knight seconded the motion that the Board adjourn. The motion passed and the Board adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Special Board Meeting: February 14, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.