



ORANGE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

208 S. Cameron St. PO Box 220 Hillsborough, NC 27278
Telephone: (919) 245-2350 Fax: (919) 644-3318 Email: vote@orangecountync.gov

Orange County Board of Elections
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – 5 PM

Present: John Sims, Chair; Elvira Mebane, Secretary; Ann Brooks, Member; Jamie Cox, Member; David Kolbinsky, Rachel Raper, Director; and Teresa Young, Deputy Director

Call to order:

John Sims, Chair called the meeting to order and led a moment of silence. Mr. Sims invited a member of the public from the audience to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Chair Sims opened the floor to allow public comment. No one present wished to address the Board.

Approval of Board Minutes:

Mr. Kolbinsky moved and Ms. Mebane seconded a motion to approve the December 2, 2025 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report:

Director Raper provided:

- Office Updates
- Year-to-Date Budget Report
- Voter Registration Statistical Report
- Registration Repair Project

Office Updates:

The director provided the Board with an informational pamphlet outlining key details for the March 3, 2026 Statewide Primary and Orange County Schools Board of Education election.

The director reported 179 absentee ballots had been transmitted to voters beginning January 12, 2026: 41 civilian absentee ballots, 131 overseas absentee ballots, and seven military absentee ballots.

The director provided the Board with an informational handout describing the upcoming Logic & Accuracy testing and the Mock Election, including the purpose of each process, how testing is conducted using test ballots and scripts, how results are verified, and key security and chain-of-custody safeguards for voting equipment.

Year-to-Date Budget Report:

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

Voter Registration Statistical Report:

The director presented the voter registration statistical report showing 111,783 registered voters. Registered voters increased by 911 since December 2, 2025. Of note, 782 17-year-old voters who will be 18 by the November 3, 2026

General Election were registered on January 2, 2026 in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 163-59.

Registration Repair Project Report:

The director reported that 1,120 Orange County voters remain on the Registration Repair Project List; 517 voters have repaired their registrations.

Board Discussion:

The Board welcomed new member, Ann Brooks. Ms. Brooks recently served as an Election Day judge at the Coker Hills precinct and an early voting official at the Chapel of the Cross site.

The Board discussed surveying voters to collect feedback on the voting experience.

The Board discussed the virtual conference conducted by the State Board of Elections on January 26 – 27. The director will send information as it becomes available.

Efland Precinct Election Day Voting Location

The Board discussed relocating the Efland precinct Election Day polling location from the Efland Ruritan Club to the Efland-Cheeks Community Center, approximately 1.8 miles away. The director reviewed the rationale for the proposed change, including facility consistency, cost savings, voter familiarity, and logistical efficiency, and shared turnout comparisons demonstrating the Community Center’s capacity. The director also reviewed planned voter notification efforts, including a bright orange postcard mailing and newspaper notice.

Ms. Mebane moved and Ms. Brooks seconded a motion to move the Efland precinct Election Day polling location to the Efland-Cheeks Community Center effective immediately. The motion passed unanimously. The director will send a letter thanking the Efland Ruritan Club for its service as a voting location.

Consider and Appoint Early Voting Officials in Support of the for the March 3, 2026 Primary and Orange County Schools Board of Education Election:

The director discussed the office’s process for administratively recommending early voting officials. The office received lists of recommendations from the Democratic and Republican parties and surveyed all election officials from the November 5, 2024 and November 4, 2025 elections regarding their willingness to serve during early voting, including preferred location and shift. Early voting official recommendations are made based on party affiliation, prior service and training, availability, and expressed preferences for shift and location.

Ms. Mebane moved and Ms. Brooks seconded the motion to approve the slate of early voting official appointments as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Ms. Mebane moved and Ms. Brooks seconded the motion the Board adjourn. The motion was unanimous.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: January 27 at 5 pm