



ORANGE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Absentee Meeting
Orange County Board of Elections
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 – 5 PM

Present: Jamie Cox, Chair; Shawnee Seese, Secretary; Clare Brennan; Elvira Mebane; Jason Roberts; and Rachel Raper, Director

Call to order:

Jamie Cox, Chair called the meeting to order.

Approval of Board Minutes:

Ms. Seese moved and Mr. Roberts seconded the motion to approve the minutes as submitted for meetings held on September 29, 2020; October 6, 2020; and October 13, 2020 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report:

Director Raper provided:

- One-Stop Ballots Cast to Date
- Absentee By-Mail Ballots Cast to Date

One-Stop Ballots Cast to Date:

The director reported 38,806 one-stop ballots have been cast as of Monday, October 26.

Absentee By-Mail Ballots Cast to Date:

For consideration at the cancelled October 20 absentee meeting, the director reported 2,955 civilian absentee ballots, 132 overseas absentee ballots, and 9 military absentee ballots for which approval is recommended. For the October 27 absentee meeting, the director reported 3,936 civilian absentee ballots, 102 overseas absentee ballots, and 17 military absentee ballots for which approval is recommended. There are seven civilian absentee ballots for which rejection is recommended due to the witness not signing. These voters have been contacted and ballots reissued.

Board Actions:

The Board performed meaningful quality control of staff recommendations with a bipartisan review of 500 civilian absentee ballot envelopes returned October 13 – October 19. Mr. Roberts moved and Ms. Seese seconded a motion the Board approve 2,955 civilian absentee ballots. The motion was unanimous.

After bipartisan Board review of all duplicated ballots received by October 19, Ms. Seese made a motion and Mr. Roberts seconded a motion to approve 132 overseas and 9 military absentee ballots. The motion was unanimous.

The Board performed meaningful quality control of staff recommendations with a bipartisan review of 750 civilian absentee ballot envelopes returned October 20 – October 27. Mr. Roberts moved and Ms. Brennan seconded a motion the Board approve 3,936 civilian absentee ballots. The motion was unanimous.

After Board review of envelopes recommended for disapproval, Ms. Brennan made a motion and Ms. Mebane seconded a motion to disapprove seven absentee ballots missing witness signatures. The motion was unanimous.

After bipartisan Board review of all duplicated ballots received by October 26, Ms. Mebane made a motion and Mr. Roberts seconded a motion to approve 102 overseas and 17 military absentee ballots. The motion was unanimous.

The Board assisted staff open approved absentee ballot envelopes and observed staff insert ballots into the DS850 central tabulator. A Durham County ballot was among approved ballots, having arrived in an Orange County envelope as no Durham County envelope was found. Another envelope contained no ballot. Mr. Roberts made a motion and Ms. Seese seconded a motion the Board amend the previous motion and approve 3,934 civilian absentee ballots. The motion was unanimous.

The ballots were inserted into the DS850 central tabulator. The ending tabulator count was 22,252; one less than expected. Director Raper recommended the container return envelopes be searched by staff the following day to ensure a ballot had not been inadvertently left in an envelope.

Adjournment:

Mr. Roberts moved and Ms. Seese seconded the motion the Board adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: November 2, 2020 at 5 pm