

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, September 7, 2022
9:00AM

I. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Susan Cuthrell called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Board Members Present: Chair Susan Cuthrell, Secretary Jeanette Deese, Member Dale Gillikin, Member Gerald Godette, and Member Lucia Bond

Staff Members Present: Director Caitlin Sabadish

Others Present: Lynn Carraway; Carteret County Votes Count Committee (CCVC), Stephanie Krzich; CCVC, Barbara Smith; CCVC, Yolanda Lozano; citizen, Kathy Leary; CCVC, Barbara Thomas; citizen, Lori Nash; citizen, Dianne Tetreault; CCVC, Deborah Worley; CCVC

II. Approval of Agenda

Secretary Deese made a motion to approve the September 7, 2022 regular meeting agenda as presented. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Lynn Carraway addressed the Board and gave a summary of a conference that select members of Carteret County Votes Count (CCVC) attended in Missouri. She also noted that Cast Vote Records (CVR) should be publicly available to for citizens to audit and requested that the data or the ballots of the 2020 Election not be destroyed on or after September 24, 2022.

Stephanie Krzich presented data from Jason Jehorek to include analysis of nationwide absentee mail-on ballots with a comparison from 2016 to 2020 and pointed out her suspicions of the high volume of absentee by mail nationwide in the November, 2020 General Election and also suspicions concerning absentee by mail margin of victories in relation to political party registration statistics.

Barbara Smith summarized a presentation given by Tina Roberts, clerk recorder from Mesa County, Colorado, at the election integrity summit which claimed acts of voter fraud and election result manipulation. She expressed concerns about the validity of the voting machines and pleaded with the board to act against voter fraud.

Yolanda Lozano expressed her confidence in the County Board of Elections and supports them in all that they do to train precinct officials, educate the public, and ensure that our elections are secure and lawful.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Director Sabadish presented the minutes from the August 3, 2022 Regular Meeting. Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended to amend the motion under item ten (X) with Member Godette making the motion to adjourn and the motion to adjourn being seconded by Member Bond and to approve the August 3, 2022 Closed Session minutes as presented. Member Bond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. MAT Appointments

Director Sabadish made appointment recommendations to the Board for the Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT) for the November, 2022 General Election to include Mary Ann Mehan (D) and Ray Waldbusser (R) as the primary members and Caren Saman (U) and Jack Butler (U) as the secondary members. Secretary Deese made a motion to appoint the MAT members as recommended by staff. Member Gillikin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Director's Report

a. Ballot Order Summary

Director Sabadish presented the ballot order quantities for the November, 2022 General Election and noted that voter history by precinct was taken into consideration when generating the order and ballots were ordered at one hundred percent (100%) of registered voters in the County as required by the State Board of Elections in Numbered Memo 2022-10.

VII. Board Comments

Chair Cuthrell opened the floor for Board comments. No formal action was required by the Board.

Member Bond

Member Bond expressed her appreciation for the public and their interest and involvement in the election process. Member Bond also noted that she feels confident in the election systems and took an oath to serve every member of the community regardless of party. As a Board of Elections member, she noted that she has confidence in the County Board and the State Board concerning accurate and fair elections.

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese noted that the State Board of Elections Conference was one of the best she has attended and the sessions were very relevant. Secretary Deese

thanked the members of the public for speaking and shared that she is confident in the voting systems that Carteret County has in place and several audits are conducted by the Board of Elections to ensure accurate tabulation. She noted that the County Board of Elections are limited in choosing the voting equipment that is used because only NCSBE certified equipment is allowable. Secretary Deese also noted that the increase of absentee by mail ballots in 2020 was largely due to the COVID pandemic and that more registered democrats and registered unaffiliated voters requested more absentee ballots than registered republicans.

Member Godette

Member Godette expressed his appreciation for the members of the public that are getting involved in the elections process and coming to speak at the Board of Elections meetings during public comment. Member Godette noted that he is confident in the voting process and the tabulators that are used in Carteret County noting that there have been no discrepancies in the audits in his time serving as a Board Member. Member Godette added that the State Conference was well put together, but could have been more user friendly.

Member Gillikin

Member Gillikin thanked the public for their interest and for speaking. Member Gillikin gave the public a summary of the State Board of Elections conference and noted that the conference was very informative and addressed important topics like precinct safety and relationships with law enforcement.

Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell thanked the members of the public for speaking and encouraged them to come and work as a precinct officials. Chair Cuthrell expressed that she is confident in the voting systems and processes in place in Carteret County and is confident that the tabulators are counting correctly because of the audits that are performed by the Board of Elections before and after each election. Chair Cuthrell also noted that the State conference was well conducted and informative.

VIII. Closed session in accordance with GS 143-318.11 (1) for the purpose of discussing personnel and performance reviews

Secretary Deese made a motion to move to closed session in accordance with GS 143-318.11 (1) for the purpose of discussing personnel and performance reviews. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Return to Open Session

Member Gillikin made a motion to return to open session. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Member Godette made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Member Bond and the motion was passed unanimously.

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Jeanette Deese, Secretary

Dale Gillikin, Member

Gerald Godette, Member

Lucia Bond, Member