

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
February 20, 2024

Board Chair Barry Cheney called the meeting to order at 8:15am. Member Jason White appeared remotely. The minutes from the February 13 meeting were approved unanimously.

41 absentee ballot applications were approved unanimously, with two being from overseas, one military, 16 CIV applications with completed acceptable ID exception forms, and 22 CIV applications with ID.

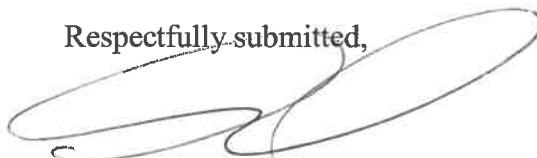
The Board unanimously passed an update to judge appointments, to replace one name each for early voting and election day, due to resignations. Director Amanda Duncan also informed the Board of two absentee ballots having been received from voters who have since passed away, due to data from the state. Notification will go out to the last known address for each, with the status of the two ballots to be determined at canvass.

Duncan reported the state had provided a memorandum about the regulation of firearms at polling sites. As earlier directed by the Board, Duncan will ask representatives for each host location about their preferences on the subject prior to the November election.

Duncan then presented a proposed budget for the 2024/2025 year, which was unanimously approved for submittal to the County Commissioners. In the context of that discussion, the subject of the appearance of having only one person deliver ballots from early voting sites to the Board office at the end of early voting days, with or without being followed by any interested poll observers or others. Also discussed was the need for providing clear and transparent communication to the public about the process involved in the transport of ballots to the Board. Possible changes mentioned included paying for two persons to deliver the ballots jointly, or having clear communication between a solo delivery person and anyone who may want to follow in a second vehicle. The Board decided to consider this issue further, to discuss at a future meeting.

There being no other items of business, Chair Cheney then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Hood, Secretary