

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
November 27, 2024

Board Chair Barry Cheney called the meeting to order at 3pm.

The Board unanimously approved minutes from the meetings of November 15 and November 21. Then the abstracts were signed for the machine recount on the NC Supreme Court race, as well as the report on the Division of Soil and Water Conservation race.

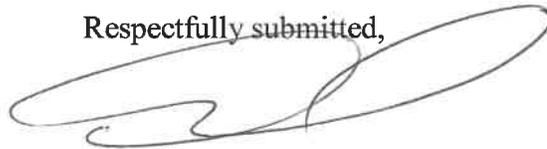
The Board then conducted a hearing on the protest filed by NC Supreme Court candidate Jefferson Griffin. As an initial action, the Board took notice of a written argument received from counsel for candidate Alison Riggs. A copy of this written submission was provided to Blair Cody, counsel for candidate Griffin, who was present live at the hearing. Amanda Duncan was sworn and testified as to the facts underlying the one vote being protested because the voter had died prior to election day as well as the three votes being protested because a mailing sent to their addresses had come back undeliverable. Counsel for Griffin asked some questions on cross examination, then provided oral argument to the Board on behalf of his client.

After deliberation, the Board determined that substantial evidence existed to support the conclusion that that was an irregularity in the one vote being counted even though the voter had died before election day, and further to support the conclusion that the legitimacy of this vote could sway the election when combined with any other irregularities found in other counties, given the close margin between the two candidates. The Board did not find substantial evidence of any irregularity with respect to the other three protested votes, since the process for confirming their addresses has not yet run its course. A second mailing has gone out to the addresses in question, but the time frame for that process to conclude still has weeks to go. The County Board shall refer its decision to the State Board for any potential remedy.

The decision of the Board shall be commemorated by written order, to be prepared by the County Attorney.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W. Hood', written over a large, loopy scribble.

David W. Hood, Secretary