

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton
CHAIR

Frank M. Dickerson
SECRETARY

Jerry D. Jordan
MEMBER



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – March 4, 2010

Present: Linda J. Sutton, Chair
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections
Lamar Joyner, Deputy Director of Elections
Judy Speas, Senior Office Assistant

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes for February 2, 2010. Ms. Sutton entertained a motion for approval of the minutes. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendations for Vacant Positions

The Board received and discussed the hiring recommendation of an Office Assistant position from Mr. Coffman. Mr. Dickerson moved to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. The Board also received and discussed the hiring recommendation of the Department IT Support Technician position from Mr. Coffman. Mr. Jordan moved to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Primary Ballot

Mr. Coffman explained that he is waiting for approval of the Primary Ballot by the State Board of Elections. The State Board had received a challenge of the use of a nickname of a statewide candidate. The question was whether the nickname could be considered to be a title. Ms. Sutton entertained a motion for approval of the ballot after discussion was completed. Mr. Jordan moved to accept the Primary Ballot pending approval of the State Board of Elections after the challenge is resolved. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Coffman explained that Libertarian Party voters would only receive a non-partisan ballot in the Primary Election because there were no Libertarian candidates on the Primary ballot. The Unaffiliated voter, or course, would be able to receive either the Republican or Democratic ballot in the Primary Election. The precinct workers would be trained with this information.

E-Poll Book Update

Mr. Coffman explained that 114 e-poll book laptops and printers were purchased after the February Board meeting. The implementation of this equipment would help eliminate election day errors and automate voter history. This was accomplished because of the Board members' approval of the transfer of funds in the current fiscal year budget. The Forsyth County Budget Manager was able to recommend the purchase as a continuation of services already provided. Precinct workers will be provided with additional training in the operation of e-poll books before the Primary Election. Mr. Coffman explained that the use of e-poll books would be a cost saving measure for future budget years as the use of paper poll books would be eliminated, although there would be a cost for printer cartridges.

Other Business

Ms. Sutton welcomed Joycelyn Johnson, former Winston-Salem East Ward Council Member. Ms. Johnson spoke of two matters of concern before the Board members.

Ms. Johnson explained that her first concern involved the 2010 Primary Election list of candidates on the Forsyth County Board of Elections' website. Since the list does not contain the candidate names that received no primary opposition, a voter may be unaware of their candidacy. Mr. Coffman stated that the office would be able to place an additional list of General Election candidates on the website. Secondly, Ms. Johnson expressed concern about voters who have moved from their precinct or county and yet have not updated their registration. In particular, Precinct 405, Sims Recreation Center which contains registrants from Winston-Salem State University and Precinct 601, Piedmont Baptist College which contains registrants from the Forsyth County Detention Center. Ms. Johnson stated that there are many voters in the precincts that should probably be purged from the voter registration lists. The result is that the voter statistics of each election show a low percentage of voter activity, giving an unfair perception of voter involvement. Mr. Coffman explained that the State Board of Elections' uniform procedure is to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters and to update the addresses and other data of remaining voters. Voters are routinely removed who are deceased, have been convicted of a felony or have a change of address out of county and state, etc. Mr. Coffman stated that the office also sends the voter two mailings after they have missed two Federal Elections as a list maintenance procedure. The voter's record would change to Inactive status and be removed one year later if there is no voter confirmation. The new procedure of the National Change of Address post card with the postal service has been implemented and is improving the situation of removing registered voters. Mr. Coffman also explained that the Census will provide a new opportunity for redistricting and the list maintenance process.

Ms. Sutton thanked Ms. Johnson and welcomed her suggestions.

Adjournment

Ms. Sutton stated that the next Board of Elections meeting will be an Absentee meeting on April 13, 2010 at 1:00 PM in the Board of Elections Conference Room. Mr. Coffman stated that there would also be a mandated quorum of the Board members at the Annual Elections Training Seminar on March 31 and April 1, 2010. Ms. Sutton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dickerson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

Jerry D. Jordan, Member