

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**J. Eric Elliott**  
CHAIR

**Linda J. Sutton**  
SECRETARY

**Jerry D. Jordan**  
MEMBER



**Robert H. Coffman**  
Director of Elections

### FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- OCTOBER 16, 2007

Present: J. Eric Elliott, Chair  
Linda J. Sutton, Secretary

Absent: Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections  
Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant

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#### Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM.

#### Approval of Minutes- August 21, 2007

The Board reviewed the minutes. Mr. Elliott stated there was a typo. Ms. Sutton moved to approve the minutes with the correction of the typo. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Approval of Absentees

There were 4 absentees recommended for approval by staff. Ms. Sutton moved to approve the 4 absentees. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Pollworker Training Review

The Board and Staff discussed the pollworker training. Mr. Coffman stated the training was going well. He stated that each class consists of approximately 20-30 pollworkers.

#### Pollworker Background Check Discussion

The Board and Staff discussed the feasibility of doing background checks on pollworkers. Mr. Elliott stated he read an article about a pollworker in Illinois who was discovered to be a registered sex offender and was working at a polling place located at a school. Mr. Coffman stated it would be time consuming to check the background of every pollworker, but the staff could do it if necessary. Mr. Elliott suggested Mr. Coffman speak with Lori Sykes, Assistant County Attorney, regarding the feasibility of checking pollworkers on the sex offender registry.

### One-Stop Voting Preparations Including Same Day Registration

Mr. Coffman stated the one-stop voting area is completely set up and ready to go.

Mr. Coffman stated the staff has been trained for same day registration. He also stated that the registration will be done at the Board of Elections office by Board of Elections staff. He stated there will be advertising on our website regarding same day registration and the newspaper is writing an article about it.

### KidsVoting Meeting Review

The Board and Mr. Coffman attended a breakfast meeting on October 16, 2007 regarding the KidsVoting program. The Board and Staff stated they were very pleased with the outcome of the meeting. Mr. Coffman stated he supported the program. The Board and Staff will continue the necessary steps to have the program implemented in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

### Other Business

The Board and Staff discussed the 17 Republican pollworker vacancies. The Staff have potential pollworkers to fill the vacancies. The Board would like to contact the Republican Party Headquarters to get approval on the 17 prospective pollworkers. Mr. Elliott asked the staff to contact Bill Miller, President of the Forsyth County Republican Party, to find out who to contact at the headquarters for pollworker approval.

Mr. Elliott asked Mr. Coffman about the possibility of getting a sign placed outside the door of the Cooper-Cardwell Voting Room. Mr. Coffman stated he would talk to General Services to see if it can be done.

Mr. Elliott asked about the status of a voter who was removed from voter registration due to a felony report from the State Board of Elections. The voter wrote a letter to the Board of Elections stating he was not a felon and requested a hearing. Mr. Coffman stated there have been several attempts to contact the voter to set up a hearing but he has not returned the calls.

Mr. Coffman stated that Don Wright, attorney for the State Board of Elections, visited the Board of Elections office recently. He stated that Mr. Wright met with the Deputy Director of the Forsyth County Department of Social Services regarding the lack of compliance with state statute regarding voter registration. It was explained to the DSS Deputy Director that the DSS staff must have each person fill out a voter form, even if it is the declination. He stated the voter registration applications and declinations are far lower than any other county in N.C. The Director of DSS stated his staff did not like having everyone fill out the forms and

they would not be required to do so. Mr. Coffman explained that the State Board of Elections may file a lawsuit regarding this issue.

Mr. Coffman stated that there has been a Notice of Challenge filed regarding the residency of a candidate. Mr. Coffman stated the paperwork was not filed in a timely manner. Mr. Coffman stated there are 4 ways to challenge:

- 1) One must challenge voter registration by 25 days before the election;
- 2) During Absentee voting and One Stop Voting a challenge can be presented;
- 3) On election day a challenge can be presented if the voter is at the precinct at the time the challenge is submitted;
- 4) There can be a challenge of the election results if done prior to canvass.

Mr. Coffman stated there is a new process for challenging a candidate's residency. The challenge has to be submitted within 10 days after the filing period ends.

Mr. Elliott stated the Board is unable to review the merits of the challenge since it was not filed in a timely manner. The Board requested that Mr. Coffman send a letter the challenger regarding the challenge not being submitted in a timely manner.

The Board and staff discussed same day registration. Mr. Coffman stated an individual must live at the residence for at least 30 days prior to the election.

Mr. Elliott asked Mr. Coffman about the Board getting business cards. Mr. Coffman stated the staff will get them business cards.

#### Adjournment

Ms. Sutton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

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J. Eric Elliott, Chair

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Linda J. Sutton, Secretary

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Jerry D. Jordan, Member