

Robert C. Jackson

Chairman

Nicki T. Artis

Secretary

Tristian K. Beard

Member

# County of Wayne

## Board of Elections

Eddie L. Edwards

Member

Charles Wright

Member

Anne C. Risku

Director

### Wayne County Board of Elections

#### County Canvass

November 14, 2025

Robert C. Jackson, Chairman

Eddie L. Edwards, Member

Tristian K. Beard, Member

Anne C. Risku, Director

Nicki T. Artis, Secretary

Charles Wright, Member

Andrew Neal, County Attorney

The meeting was held at the properly noticed date and time, and a quorum was present. Mr. Jackson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Jackson recessed the meeting until 11:15 a.m. due to Mr. Wright's absence. Mr. Jackson reconvened the meeting at 11:15 a.m. and recessed it again until 11:30 a.m. Mr. Jackson reconvened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Mr. Wright arrived to the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

#### I. Approval of the November 14, 2025 Meeting Agenda

- a. Mr. Beard made a motion to approve the November 14, 2025 meeting agenda. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### II. Approval of October 28, November 4, November 6, and November 7 Meeting Minutes

- a. Mr. Artis made a motion to approve the October 28, November 4, November 6, and November 7, 2025 meeting minutes.

i. Mr. Wright stated that he thought there was a typographical error on the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and that he objected to the minutes' depiction of the Early Voting discussion at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Artis and Mr. Beard asked for clarification of Mr. Wright's objections. Mr. Wright stated that he wanted the minutes to reflect two separate votes – one on sites and one on dates and times. Mr. Beard responded that he made one motion that covered both aspects of the plan and that the minutes accurately reflect his motion. He stated that there was only one vote on the plan as a whole – not two – and that the minutes are correct. Mr. Wright stated that even though the minutes state he expressed support for three sites and only disagreed with voting on Sunday, he wanted the minutes to show two separate votes. Mr. Neal responded that the minutes must reflect what happened in the meeting and that Mr. Wright is objecting to the process after the fact. He told Mr. Wright that he could make a motion to amend the minutes if he felt they were inaccurate.

ii. Mr. Wright made a motion to amend the October 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes to add a second vote on the three sites included in the March 3, 2026 Primary Early Voting schedule. No one seconded the motion, and no vote was taken.

b. Mr. Beard seconded Mr. Artis' motion, and the motion was approved 4-1. Mr. Jackson, Mr. Artis, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Beard voted in favor of approving the meeting minutes as written. Mr. Wright voted against.

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### III. Ballot Challenge Hearings: There were none.

### IV. Manual Edits: There were none.

### V. Signing of Supplemental Abstracts

- a. The Board signed the *Supplemental Certificates of Executed Absentee Ballots* and *Supplemental Abstract*.

### VI. Signing of Final Pollbook of Absentee Voters

- a. The Board signed the *Final Pollbook of Absentee Voters*.

### VII. Canvass of November 4, 2025 Municipal and Sanitary District Election

- a. The Board reviewed the November 4, 2025 Municipal and Sanitary District Election.
- b. Mr. Beard made a motion to canvass the November 4, 2025 Municipal and Sanitary District Election. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### VIII. Public Comment

- a. Carolyn Woodley-Horne, 550 W. New Hope Rd., B4, Goldsboro, NC, 27530 requested information on candidate challenges and voter turnout.
  - i. Mr. Jackson directed Ms. Woodley-Horne to staff after the meeting.

### IX. Board Comments

- a. Mr. Artis thanked Ms. Risku, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Neal for their work during the election cycle.
- b. Mr. Jackson thanked staff for a successful election. Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Risku for her assessment on increased turnout over the 2021 election.
  - i. Ms. Risku stated she felt enthusiasm carried over from last year's election and confusion about the sheriff's race being on the ballot this cycle contributed to the uptick in turnout.
- c. Mr. Wright made comments on several issues.
  - i. He stated he wanted to discuss the order of the agenda, specifically by having public comments after information has been presented to the Board. He stated the public should be able to ask clarifying questions of the Board or staff. Mr. Jackson stated he felt that having Board Members or staff answer questions during the public comment section will lead to long question and answer sessions. He also stated that the public is welcome to follow up with Board Members or staff with any questions or concerns after the meeting. Mr. Artis stated he would like to leave the public comment section as is. Mr. Wright brought up a situation when he was serving as interim chair and had to stop a member of the public from asking questions during the public comment section. He stated it was unfair for Ms. Risku

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to give information to the Board and for the Board to ask her questions, but the public not be allowed to ask her questions. Ms. Risku replied that she will answer questions from the public if directed to by the Chair. Mr. Wright stated he wanted to move the public comment section to another part of the meeting. Ms. Risku informed the Board that no one has ever asked for the public comments to be placed at a certain point on the agenda, and any member can ask for changes once the agenda is sent to them prior to every meeting. Mr. Neal reminded Mr. Wright that he can also make a motion to amend the agenda during the meeting. Mr. Wright responded to Mr. Neal that he didn't want the agenda to be arbitrary based on who was in the room.

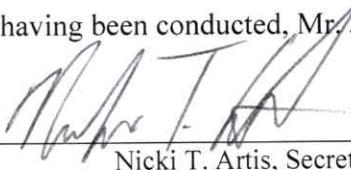
- ii. Mr. Wright then stated that the Board needed to be careful what they discussed with each other or Ms. Risku prior to meetings. He stated it is inappropriate and business needs to be done in public. Ms. Risku clarified that Board Members can talk to her or each other at any time as long as there are no more than two members in the conversation.
- iii. Mr. Wright stated he had an issue with the public being welcomed into the staff's breakroom at certain times but not at others – he wants the Board to make a regular policy. Mr. Jackson said that the Board should leave that up to Ms. Risku. Ms. Risku stated that the doors to the kitchen are closed because there are confidential things beyond those doors - it is not malicious. Mr. Wright said he wanted the staff's breakroom left open to the public at all meetings. Mr. Jackson reiterated letting staff come up with a policy. Mr. Wright stated he will address it again later.

**X. Closed Session**

- a. Mr. Beard made a motion to enter closed session
  - to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of an employee; and
  - to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body
- b. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. The Board entered closed session at 12:15 p.m.
- c. Mr. Edwards made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. The Board returned to open session at 12:45 p.m.

**XI. Adjournment**

- a. With all business having been conducted, Mr. Jackson adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.



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Nicki T. Artis, Secretary