

Eddie L. Edwards III
Chairman

Jimmy E. Hull
Secretary

Nicki T. Artis
Member

County of Wayne

Board of Elections

Bridgette C. Cowan
Member

Charles Wright
Member

Anne C. Risku
Director

Wayne County Board of Elections Special Board Meeting February 15, 2022

Eddie L. Edwards, III, Chairman
Nicki T. Artis, Member
Charles Wright, Member
Anne C. Risku, Director

Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary
Bridgette C. Cowan, Member
Andrew Neal, Staff Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mr. Edwards.

- I. Approval of February 15, 2022 meeting agenda
 - Mr. Hull made a motion to approve the February 15, 2022 meeting agenda. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- II. Approval of 12/14/2021 meeting minutes
 - Mr. Artis made a motion to approve the 12/14/2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- III. Update on Legislation and Redistricting
 - Mr. Neal advised the Board that the North Carolina Supreme Court ordered the North Carolina General Assembly to redraw maps for US House, NC House, and NC Senate. Maps are due to the three judge appellate panel by February 18, 2022. Those maps can be appealed but all appeals must be entered by February 23, 2022. Candidate filing resumes February 24, 2022. If maps are appealed back to the North Carolina Supreme Court, it is possible that the election schedule could change again.
- IV. One Stop early voting plan for the May 17, 2022 primary election
 - Staff recommendation:
 - Ms. Risku presented the Board with a staff recommended schedule of 2 sites with a total of 306 voting hours. She noted that this plan was created with the caveat that the State Board required plans be submitted prior to the conclusion of candidate filing making it difficult to gauge possible turnout numbers as it is unknown which contests will be on the ballot. This is an increase over one site for 113 hours in 2014 and 119 in 2018. The primary elections in 2014 and 2018 had turnouts of 23% and 33%, respectively. Staff recommended an additional Saturday and Sunday outside of what is required. 2014 had no additional weekend hours and 2018 had one Sunday. Based on turnout, one site would likely be sufficient but staff is recommending a

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second site in Mt. Olive since the Town's delayed municipal elections will take place in this election.

- Board Discussion:

- Mr. Artis asked for Ms. Risku to restate the turnout data. Ms. Risku noted that more voters voted in 2014 even though it had a lower percentage turnout because of the nature of the contests on the ballot. 2014 had US Senate contests in both parties while 2018 only had a State House contest in the Democratic Party Primary and one local nonpartisan race.
- Mr. Edwards stated that he felt the staff recommendation was more than adequate considering there are currently so many unknown variables.
- Ms. Cowan stated that she would like to add an additional Sunday hour but was okay with shifting the hours from 11am-2pm to 12pm-3pm in order to gain consensus.
- Mr. Artis asked Ms. Risku for Sunday turnout data and the costs associated with Sunday voting. Ms. Risku stated that there was no Sunday voting in 2014, 15 voters in a three hour period in 2018 and that although not the same type of election, over 2000 voters voted on Sunday in the 2020 primary election. She estimated the cost of roughly \$1,000 in wages for staffing both sites for three hours on Sunday.
- Mr. Wright and Ms. Cowan both expressed support for 11am-3pm on Sunday but were okay with 12pm-3pm. Mr. Edwards stated he felt 12pm-3pm was a good modification to the staff's recommended plan.

- Public Comment: No members of the public were present and no public comments were submitted prior to the meeting.

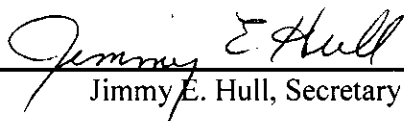
- Board Vote:

- Ms. Cowan made a motion to accept the staff recommended schedule with the modification of hours on Sunday, May 8, 2022 from 11am-2pm to 12pm-3pm. Mr. Hull seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The Board and Ms. Risku signed the *One Stop Implementation Plan Signature Sheet*.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Wright made a motion to extend the Board's 2 minute public comment limit to 4 minutes. Mr. Neal informed Mr. Wright that today's meeting was a special meeting and only items noticed could be discussed so his motion should be made at the next meeting.

V. Adjournment

- With all business having been conducted, Mr. Hull made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Cowan seconded the motion; the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.


Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary