

County of Wayne

Board of Elections

Wayne County Board of Elections Board Meeting May 10, 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 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Edwards.

I. Approval of May 10, 2022 meeting agenda

- Ms. Cowan made a motion to approve the May 10, 2022 meeting agenda. Mr. Artis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

II. Ms. Risku provided the Board with an update on the election.

- Current turnout is at 4.56% between absentee by mail and One Stop Early Voting.
- No issues with electioneers or candidates and just a few with voters who refused to vote their assigned ballot.
- Biggest issue has been with Republican observers – but it is an issue statewide. Presumably it is due to a lack of adequate training. Each Observer is given the guidelines upon arrival. They have taken issue with people updating their addresses and with people voting curbside among other things.
 - One was ejected from the Library One Stop site for interfering with a voter trying to place their ballot in the tabulator. She later attempted to return but was not allowed inside.
 - One in Mt Olive has made inappropriate comments to staff and asked to follow one back to the Board of Elections office.
 - Mr. Artis asked about an Observer who was found to be communicating with electioneers. Ms. Risku stated that she was corrected and it hasn't happened again.
 - Mr. Artis asked if Ms. Risku had received complaints from the North Carolina Republican Party. Ms. Risku stated that she has spoken regularly with the North Carolina Republican Party attorney and it appears that the local Observers are complaining to the state Republican Party, not the county party. She also stated that after explanation of the situation, the attorney for the state Republican Party has agreed with her.
 - Ms. Risku stated she was worried about how they will act on Election Day and also worries about losing Early Voting staff as it puts them in an awkward situation.

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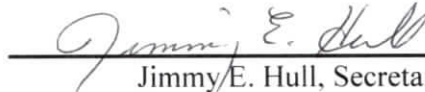
- Mr. Artis asked if this was normal. Ms. Risku stated, no, that she has never had this many issues with Observers and never received calls from either party's attorneys before

III. Absentee by mail ballot application approval:

- Presentation and approval
 - Ms. Risku presented the Board with (3) Civilian improperly executed Absentee ballots that she recommended be disapproved for missing signatures. She noted that the ballots were reissued and staff will attempt to contact the voters later this week.
 - Ms. Risku presented the Board with (44) Civilian, (1) Overseas and (2) Military properly executed Absentee ballots. The ballots were reviewed by the Board. Ms. Cowan made the motion to accept the recommendations of approval and disapproval. Mr. Hull seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- Processing
 - Ms. Risku scanned the ballots into the DS200 Tabulator. The ballots were boxed and sealed by the Board.
- Reconciliation
 - The Board reviewed and signed the *Executed Absentee Ballot list*, *Cover Sheet for List of Envelopes Acted Upon and Approved or Disapproved in Lieu of Signing Individual Envelopes*, and the *Absentee Processing Log*.

IV. Adjournment

- With all business having been conducted, Ms. Hull made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Cowan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.


Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary