

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
Board Meeting
July 19, 2022**

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

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

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

I. Approval of July 19, 2022, meeting agenda

- Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the July 19, 2022 meeting agenda. Mr. Hull seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

II. Approval of meeting minutes from June 14, 2022

- Mr. Hull made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for June 14, 2022. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

III. Director updates: Ms. Risku updated the Board on the following matters.

- Candidate filing/Ballot preparations: Two candidates filed for Soil and Water Supervisor. Staff is currently waiting on a resolution passed by the County Commissioners to place a sales tax referendum on the ballot.
- ExpressVotes: The purchase process has begun. The price matched the quote exactly. They should arrive sometime in August and then staff will schedule a public demonstration with precinct officials. AutoMarks have been prepped to be traded in.
- NCSBE summer conference information: The conference will be held virtually August 30-31.
- Absentee Envelopes: Due to changes in legal verbiage, new envelopes had to be ordered. Supplies are limited but staff has secured sufficient supply.

IV. Early Voting schedule – midterm general election

- Update and discussion: Ms. Risku presented the Board with her proposal for 3 sites: Maxwell Center, Wayne County Public Library and the Mt. Olive Train Depot with each site being open all 17 days including 3 Saturdays and 2 Sundays. 3 sites meets the legal requirements and would provide 489 hours of early voting. Mr. Artis stated that he had not heard back from his contact in regards to a site in the northern part of the county

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but was not prepared to vote today. Mr. Hull stated that looking at the numbers a fourth site would be overkill especially since the Maxwell Center covered 45% of voters in the 2020 election. Mr. Artis asked for the 2020 numbers at Pikeville. Ms. Risku stated that it was the third busiest site and that the Board will have to consider more locations in the 2024 election. Mr. Hull stated that he looked all over the northern part of the county and there was not a sufficient location. Mr. Artis stated that maybe the Board could use a church.

- Public comment on early voting (4-minute limit)
 - Linda Harper, 210 Bayleaf Dr, Goldsboro, stated that an early voting plan that doesn't provide a site north of Goldsboro is unacceptable and that gas prices are too high for people to travel to Goldsboro. She also stated that churches have problems with Sunday voting.
 - Barbara Dantonio, 152 Parks Rd, Goldsboro, stated that she was speaking as a representative of Democracy North Carolina and that she and the organization were supportive of the plan as presented. She also stated that the large amount of weekend and evening hours should be sufficient for voters to vote early.

V. Public comment (4-minute limit)

- Linda Harper, 210 Bayleaf Dr, Goldsboro, stated that having worked with disabled voters it is inconvenient to let anyone help them vote. She stated that the law as previously enacted was correct as many disabled voters don't know anything about the candidates and she doesn't agree with people helping them vote. She also stated she intended to work with children to help them know who to vote for.

VI. Board comment

- Mr. Artis, Mr. Wright and Mr. Edwards welcomed Ms. Risku back. Mr. Edwards stated that the staff worked seamlessly in Ms. Risku's absence and that was a testament to good leadership.
- Ms. Risku thanked the Board and informed them that they would need to have a special meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 to vote on a One Stop plan. Mr. Wright asked for an explanation of the process. Ms. Risku stated the Board can accept her recommendation or amend it. But if the vote is not unanimous, the dissenting members would need to submit their own plan to the State Board who would then choose a plan for the County.

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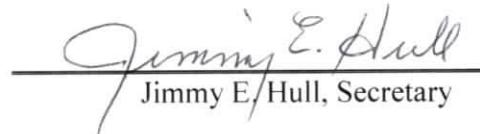
Bridgette C. Cowan
Member

Charles Wright
Member

Anne C. Risku
Director

VII. Adjournment:

- With all business having been conducted, Mr. Artis made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.



Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary