

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 March 14, 2023

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

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

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

I. Approval of the March 14, 2023 Agenda

1. Ms. Cowan made a motion to remove item #4 under Director Update, Records Retention, from the agenda due to Mr. Neal's absence. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Hull made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Artis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2023

1. Mr. Artis made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting. Ms. Cowan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

III. Director Update

1. **List Maintenance:** Staff has completed biennial list maintenance which sent mailings to voters who have not voted in the last two federal elections and the National Change of Address mailing. The NCOA attempted to contact voters whose voter registration did not match their current USPS address. Approximately 3,900 inactive voters were removed at the first of the year per statute.
2. **Voter ID:** Currently in a holding pattern as the North Carolina Supreme Court is rehearing the Voter ID case it decided last year. Staff is preparing in case the law is re-implemented.
3. **Conferences:** NCSBE conference for Board members and staff will be August 13-15, 2023, location to be determined. Ms. Risku and Mr. Sullivan will be attending the North Carolina Association of Directors of Elections Conference in New Bern March 26-28, 2023.
4. **Biweekly Payroll Transition:** The County is migrating to a biweekly payroll. Staff and Board members will be paid every two weeks instead of once a month.
5. **City of Goldsboro Election Schedule:** The City of Goldsboro is discussing the possibility of amending their charter to change their election method from Non-partisan Primary to Non-partisan Plurality. Ms. Risku attended a meeting in February and will attend a town hall tonight. Mr. Hull asked how the conversation was started and the cost of a primary election. Ms. Risku stated that the late Mayor Chuck Allen started the conversation before his health declined. The primary will likely cost around \$50,000 and that the City will be billed for the cost. Mr. Wright and Mr. Artis commented on the increasing costs of elections each cycle. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Wright discussed the importance of maintaining neutrality in the discussion as it is up to the Goldsboro City Council to decide their method of election.
6. **Town of Fremont Redistricting:** The Board of Alderman are meeting this evening to discuss the proposal and plan to vote on March 21, 2023. Shapefiles will be sent to the Board of Elections once approved. Staff will then update geocode accordingly.

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7. **2023-24 FY Budget:** Ms. Risku is currently working on the budget which will include four elections. Mr. Wright asked what happens with leftover funds. Ms. Risku informed him that any unused funds are returned ~~back~~ to the County's general fund balance. The Board of Elections usually gives back a significant amount each year. For example, in 2020 the Board approved using leftover HAVA funds to pay towards the debt service of election equipment.
8. **2023-24 Election Calendar:** Ms. Risku reviewed the calendar with the Board and noted that it is an internal working document for their planning purposes. Typically, municipal elections have low absentee participation so there will likely be less absentee meetings this cycle.

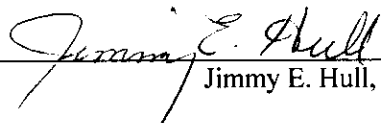
IV. **Public Comment:** Barbara Dantonio, 152 Parks Rd, Goldsboro, NC 27534 presented to speak. She reiterated to the Board her title as a liaison for Democracy NC.

V. **Board Comments**

1. Mr. Wright asked if the Board of Elections ever conducted a "retreat" akin to the one the City of Goldsboro recently conducted. Ms. Risku replied in the negative. He also asked if the potential pay raise for the Board will be backdated. Ms. Risku stated she based on the way the budgeting process works that that is unlikely..
2. Mr. Edwards thanked the staff for their hard work in increasingly polarizing times.

VI. **Adjournment**

1. With all business having been conducted, Ms. Cowan made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.



Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary