

Eddie L. Edwards III  
Chairman

Charles Wright  
Secretary

Nicki T. Artis  
Member

# County of Wayne

## Board of Elections

Bridgette C. Cowan  
Member

Jimmy E. Hull  
Member

Anne C. Risku  
Director

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### Wayne County Board of Elections Board Meeting July 18, 2023

Eddie L. Edwards, III, Chairman  
Jimmy E. Hull, Member  
Nicki T. Artis, Member (absent)  
Anne Risku, Director

Charles Wright, Secretary  
Bridgette C. Cowan, Member  
Andrew Neal, Staff Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mr. Edwards. Ms. Risku administered the Board Member Oath of Office to Mr. Hull, Ms. Cowan, and Mr. Wright and the Chairman Oath of Office to Mr. Edwards in accordance with NCGS 163-30(e).

**I. Approval of the July 18, 2023 Agenda**

1. Ms. Cowan made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Hull seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**II. Organization according to NCGS 163-31(e)**

1. Ms. Cowan nominated Mr. Wright to serve as Secretary. Mr. Wright nominated Ms. Cowan to serve as Secretary and she declined the nomination. Mr. Hull seconded Ms. Cowan's nomination of Mr. Wright and the vote was unanimous.

**III. Approval of June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

1. Ms. Cowan made a motion to approve the June 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Hull seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**IV. Director Update**

1. **Board Member Information:** Ms. Risku presented and reviewed information related to the responsibilities of Board Members.
2. **Meeting Schedule:** Ms. Risku presented the Board with an updated meeting schedule.
3. **Voter Photo ID:** Ms. Risku presented the Board with NCSBE's information with respect to the implementation of Voter Photo ID.
4. **One Stop Plan:** Plans for October and November elections are due by August 4<sup>th</sup> so the Board will need to meet prior to the deadline to vote on the plans.
5. **Precinct Official Appointments:** The Board will meet on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to select the 2023-2025 appointees.
6. **Temporary Positions:** The BOE is looking to hire temporary workers for the next several election cycles.
7. **Intern:** Ms. Risku introduced the Board of Elections' intern who has been in the office throughout the summer as part of the County's summer intern program.
8. **Candidate Filing:** Almost 50 candidates have filed so far. Candidate lists and Campaign Finance reports are all available on our website and are updated regularly.

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**V. Public Comment:**

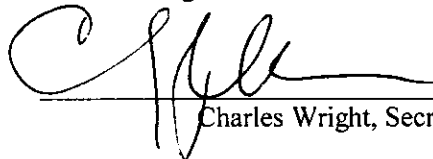
1. Barbara Dantonio, 152 Parks Rd, Goldsboro stated she was happy to see the turnout at the meeting and thanked the Board for posting demographic information on the website.

**VI. Board Comment:**

1. Mr. Hull stated he was thankful to be on the Board another term.
2. Ms. Cowan thanked the members of the public for attending and encouraged them to continue attending meetings and to reach out as needed.
3. Mr. Wright raised concern with proposed legislation that would allow up to 12 Observers in a Polling Place at the time and would allow them to record voters inside the Polling Place. He asked if there was an update to how those functions would impact the voting process. Mr. Neal stated that the bill is not statute yet but there are various provisions about what is and isn't acceptable. He also stated that if passed there is also the possibility of a legal challenge to the law. Mr. Wright stated that there are provisions in the law to charge Precinct Officials for certain actions related to Observers inside the Polling Place and asked about recourse for Precinct Officials who feel threatened by Observers. Mr. Neal stated that law enforcement is always an option if an individual feels threatened. Mr. Wright asked about the possibility of submitting a letter to the General Assembly that would express the Board's collective opinion on the matter as has been done by other Boards of Elections. Mr. Edwards stated he would prefer to wait until litigation has commenced before taking such action. Mr. Wright reiterated his opinion that the Board should be proactive in addressing the matter with the General Assembly.
4. Mr. Edwards thanked everyone for attending and spoke to the value of the electoral process to democracy.

**VII. Adjournment**

1. With all business having been conducted, Mr. Edwards adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.



Charles Wright, Secretary