

Eddie L. Edwards III

Chairman

Nicki T. Artis

Secretary

Bridgette C. Cowan

Member

Jimmy E. Hull

Member

Charles Wright

Member

Anne C. Risku

Director

County of Wayne

Board of Elections

Wayne County Board of Elections

Special Meeting

November 28, 2023

Eddie L. Edwards, III, Chairman

Jimmy E. Hull, Member

Charles Wright, Member

Anne Risku, Director

Nicki T. Artis, Secretary

Bridgette C. Cowan, Member

Andrew Neal, Staff Attorney

The meeting was held at the properly noticed date and time and a quorum was present. Mr. Edwards called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Mr. Hull made a motion to recess the meeting until 4:15 p.m. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The Board returned from recess at 4:15 p.m.

I. Approval of the November 28, 2023 Agenda

1. Mr. Hull made a motion to approve the November 28, 2023 meeting agenda. Ms. Cowan seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

II. Early Voting Schedule March 5, 2024 Primary Election

1. Consideration

- a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with data and the rules regarding Early Voting plans.
- b. Mr. Edwards opened the floor for discussion.
- c. Ms. Cowan stated that she wanted Saturday and Sunday voting included in the plan.
- d. Mr. Hull and Mr. Artis expressed opposition to voting on Sundays.
- e. Mr. Edwards stated his preference for compromise on a unanimous plan and suggested using the 2022 Primary plan as a template.

2. Public Comment

- a. Barbara Dantonio, 152 Parks Rd., Goldsboro, NC 27534 stated that she supported Sunday voting because of voters' work schedules and that the Board should leave religion out of the conversation.
- b. Sylvia Barnes, 1708 Laurel St., Goldsboro, NC 27530 spoke on her support for Sunday voting as "Souls to the Polls" was an important function of the NAACP.

3. Board Comment

- a. Mr. Hull stated he wasn't making a religious argument; he was simply opposed to voting on Sunday.
- b. Ms. Cowan stated the Board should adopt a plan with as many options as possible so that everyone could participate. She lamented efforts by some to prevent certain people from voting.
- c. Mr. Wright asked Mr. Hull if he was open to compromise. Mr. Hull stated, yes, he had a personal position but would work with the Board.
- d. Mr. Artis opposed being open only for three hours on Sunday. He stated he felt the cost was too great for such a small amount of hours.
- e. Mr. Edwards offered longer hours on one Sunday and one additional Saturday.
- f. Mr. Wright and Ms. Cowan expressed support for 12-5pm on both days. Mr. Artis stated that was an acceptable compromise.

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4. Ms. Cowan made a motion to approve an Early Voting plan for the March 5, 2024 Primary Election that included 4 sites: the Wayne County Public Library, The Maxwell Center, the Mt. Olive Train Depot, and Fremont Town Hall open 8:00 am – 7:30 pm on weekdays from February 15th – March 1st, 12:00 - 5:00 pm February 24th and 25th, and 8:00 am-3:00 pm on March 2nd. Mr. Hull seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

III. Public Comment

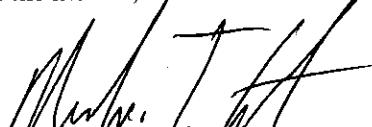
1. Sylvia Barnes, 1708 Laurel St., Goldsboro, NC 27530, asked for clarification on how Board Members are selected.
2. Linda Wilkins-Daniels, 210 Chancery Dr., Goldsboro, NC 27530, asked for an explanation on the inactive voter process.
3. Sylvia Barnes, 1708 Laurel St., Goldsboro, NC 27530, asked for information on how Boards of Elections ensure voters do not vote in two different states.

IV. Board Comments

1. Mr. Wright explained to Ms. Wilkins-Daniels the difference between being an inactive voter and a removed voter.

V. Adjournment

1. With all business having been conducted, Ms. Cowan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The Board adjourned at 5:13 p.m.



Nicki T. Artis, Secretary