

Eddie L. Edwards III

*Chairman*

Nicki T. Artis

*Secretary*

Linda Farmer

*Member*

WAYNE  
COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
CAROLINA

# County of Wayne

## Board of Elections

Jimmy E. Hull

*Member*

Charles Wright

*Member*

Anne C. Risku

*Director*

### Wayne County Board of Elections County Canvass November 15, 2024

Eddie L. Edwards, III, Chairman

Jimmy E. Hull, Member

Linda Farmer, Member

Anne Risku, Director

Nicki T. Artis, Secretary

Charles Wright, 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 11:00 a.m.**

#### I. Approval of the November 15, 2024 Agenda

1. Mrs. Farmer made a motion to approve the November 15, 2024 meeting agenda. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

#### II. Ballot Challenge Hearings

1. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Ms. Beverly Abram.
  - a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Ms. Abram placed an Absentee by Mail ballot in an Early Voting tabulator. Ms. Abram subsequently voted an Early Voting ballot and the absentee ballot needs to be challenged and removed.
  - b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Ms. Abram's behalf and received no response.
  - c. Mrs. Farmer made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mr. Hull seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
2. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Mr. Arrington Jackson Laughlin.
  - a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Mr. Laughlin was deceased prior to Election Day.
  - b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Mr. Laughlin's behalf and received no response.
  - c. Mr. Hull made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mrs. Farmer seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
3. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Ms. Joyce Summerlin Vinson.
  - a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Ms. Vinson was deceased prior to Election Day.
  - b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Ms. Vinson's behalf and received no response.
  - c. Mr. Artis made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mrs. Farmer seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
4. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Mr. Billy A. Thornton.
  - a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Mr. Thornton was deceased prior to Election Day.
  - b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Mr. Thornton's behalf and received no response.
  - c. Mrs. Farmer made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mr. Hull seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
5. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Ms. Pamela Jones Cook.
  - a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Ms. Cook was deceased

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prior to Election Day.

- b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Ms. Cook's behalf and received no response.
- c. Mrs. Farmer made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

6. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Mr. Charles Ray Pippin.

- a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Mr. Pippin was deceased prior to Election Day.
- b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Mr. Pippin's behalf and received no response.
- c. Mr. Artis made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mr. Hull seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

7. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Mr. Senus Lofton.

- a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Mr. Lofton was serving a felony sentence on Election Day.
- b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Mr. Lofton's behalf and received no response.
- c. Mrs. Farmer made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

8. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Mr. Antwan Whitley.

- a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Mr. Whitley was serving a felony sentence on Election Day.
- b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Mr. Whitley's behalf and received no response.
- c. Mr. Artis made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mrs. Farmer seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

9. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Ms. Mary Beth Williams.

- a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Ms. Williams was serving a felony sentence on Election Day.
- b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Ms. Williams' behalf and received no response.
- c. Mr. Hull made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

10. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Mr. Demarkes Tyrell Williams.

- a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Mr. Williams was serving a felony sentence on Election Day.
- b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Mr. Williams' behalf and received no response.
- c. Mr. Hull made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mrs. Farmer seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

11. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Mr. Jamol D. Logan.

- a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Mr. Logan was serving a felony sentence on Election Day.
- b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Mr. Logan's behalf and received no response.
- c. Mrs. Farmer made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mr. Hull seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

12. Mr. Edwards opened the Ballot Challenge Hearing of Mr. Sean Patrick Westmoreland..

- a. Ms. Risku presented the Board with documentation showing that Mr. Westmoreland was serving a felony sentence on Election Day. Mr. Westmoreland voted on Election Day. His ballot is not retrievable but, if sustained, the challenge would remove his voter history.

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- b. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present on Mr. Westmoreland's behalf and received no response.
- c. Mr. Hull made a motion to sustain the challenge. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

### III. Manual Edits

1. Ms. Risku presented the Board with the (7) Same Day Registrants who failed address verification. Mr. Wright made a motion to uphold the administrative challenge and remove their ballots from the official count. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
2. Ms. Risku presented the Board with (1) emergency bin ballot from the Mt. Olive Train Depot Early Voting Site. Their ballot was not able to be read by the DS200 but the curbside voter left before the official returned to their vehicle. Mr. Wright made a motion to determine voter intent for the At-Large Board of Education race for Mr. Tommy Sanders. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Mrs. Farmer made a motion to manually add the ballot with the approved voter intent to the final count. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
3. Mr. Artis made a motion to manually deduct the (18) challenged ballots from the official count. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

### IV. Recess

1. Mr. Edwards recessed the meeting from 12:00pm until 1:30pm.

### V. Signing of the Final Pollbook of Absentee Voters

1. The Board signed the *Final Pollbook of Absentee Voters*.

### VI. Canvass of the November 5, 2024 General Election

1. The Board reviewed the Canvass documents. Mrs. Farmer made a motion to Canvass the November 5, 2024 Election. Mr. Hull seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
2. The Board signed the *Abstract of Votes*.

### VII. Public Comment

1. There were none.

### VIII. Board Comments

1. Mr. Hull, Mr. Artis, Mr. Wright, and Mrs. Farmer all commended the staff for their hard work during the election cycle.
2. Mr. Edwards spoke about the importance of the electoral process and thanked staff members and precinct officials for a safe and orderly election.

### IX. Adjournment

1. With all business having been conducted, Mrs. Farmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hull seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. The Board adjourned at 1:58 p.m.



Nicki T. Artis, Secretary