

## October 22, 2019

The Cumberland County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections Office for a 1:00PM Absentee Meeting.

**Present:** Floyd Johnson, Chairman  
Irene Grimes, Member  
Helen Nelson, Member  
Linda Devore, Secretary  
Bobby Swilley, Member  
Terri Robertson, Director

**Staff:** Angie Amaro and Vicki Hilburn

Chairman Floyd Johnson called the meeting to Order at 1:00PM, and presented the Agenda.

**ACTION:** Member Grimes moved to add to the agenda an item for special appointment of Chief Judges and Precinct Judges for the November election only. Seconded and passed unanimously.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded and passed unanimously.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore submitted minutes of October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval. Approved unanimously.

Vicki Hilburn reported 331 one-stop votes as of 5:00PM yesterday. We have a total of 20 absentee ballots for consideration. Eighteen ballots have no irregularities--seven civilian, seven military, and four overseas absentee ballots. Five of the military ballots and the four overseas ballots were received by email and have been duplicated. The final two civilian ballot envelopes were signed by the voter on the wrong line.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to approve the 18 ballots presented without irregularities. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Secretary Devore expressed concern that the red X on the ballot envelope indicating where the voter must sign is small and indistinct. Suggest it should be larger and redder since this is the most common error we see on absentee ballots.

**ACTION:** Member Swilley moved to approve the two ballots with voter signature on the wrong line. Seconded.

Chairman Johnson inquired whether we contact voters who sign in the wrong place on their returned ballot envelope. Director Robertson responded that we would have to send them a new ballot.

Director Robertson expressed the need for the Board to be consistent in how we handle irregularities of the same kind from election to election. The State Board is working on a re-design of the ballot envelope, which should be ready for 2020 elections.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved that we submit a recommendation to the State Board to include in the new design a larger and more prominent red X on the ballot envelope on the line for voter signature.

Director Robertson suggested that we may be able to ask our printing office to adjust the size of the red X on the ballot envelope. They are printed locally.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore amended her motion to include a request to our county printing office to make the red X as large as practical when printing the envelopes.  
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Member Swilley commented that he will always lean towards approving a ballot. He will not look at the ballot envelope to look for ways to decline it, but always look for ways to approve it.

**ACTION:** Member Grimes moved to approve the two ballots with voter signature on the wrong line.  
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Director Robertson recommended a list of three Chief Judges and an additional eleven Precinct Judges for appointment for the November election only. These are needed to fill temporary vacancies.

Chief Judges: CC07, CC10, CC30

Precinct Judges: CC01, CC03, CC16, CC20, CC28-2, CC30, CL57-1, CU1A, HM3, LI65, WA-2

**ACTION:** Member Swilley moved to approve the Chief Judges and Precinct Judges as recommended for the November election only.  
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Director Robertson reported that a list of precinct assistants will be presented at our October 29 meeting. We need many more precinct workers for 2020. Training will begin in January.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:39PM.

Submitted by,



Linda Devore, Secretary

Elizabeth Russell  
Chairman

Bobby J. Smiley  
Member

Terri S. Robertson  
Director

Jessie C. Grimes  
Member

Helen d. Nelson  
Member