Cumberland County Board of Elections Board Meeting (Special Meeting) August 5, 2025

The Invocation was offered by Member Derek Edmonds.

The Special Meeting was called to order by Chair Devore at 9:30 AM.

Members in attendance: Devore, Edmonds, Eldridge, Grimes, Johnson

Others in attendance: Director of Elections Angie Amaro and Deputy Director Vicki Hilburn, and members of the public.

ACTION:

Member Grimes moved to approve the agenda. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Chair Devore opened the discussion of early voting plans and reminded everyone that we already have a unanimous vote for the primary in October to use the BOE location only in place. Next the discussion for the early voting plans for the election in November was considered and it was explained if a unanimous vote is not achieved the proposed voting plans will be sent to the State Board of Elections. They will then make the decision as to which voting plan will be selected for Cumberland County.

Chair Devore presented the resolution that has been received from the Fayetteville City Council. This resolution requests an early voting site be opened at Cliffdale Rec Center in addition to the Board of Elections Headquarters voting site. The voting plans that have already been approved 4 to 1 in the previous meetings were reviewed and explained to those attending for the public.

Member Grimes opened up discussion of how the Board of Elections will be reimbursed for the cost of an additional site. It was discussed how the General Fund will receive payment, which will then be routed to the Board of Elections to account for the cost of an additional early voting site.

Chair Devore explained the state statutory requirement of the Section (Titled Early Voting) 163 166-35 with the same language used in Section A and used again in Section C. The state statute is summed up as the State Board of Elections may adopt a plan if the county cannot come to a unanimous decision and that voting locations do not disproportionately favor any political party, racial or ethnic group, or candidate.

Chair Devore next provided a breakdown of the early voting plans that have been voted on in previous meetings. On June 23rd, a plan that included the BOE headquarters only for the regular 2 ½ weeks with 8am to 3pm on the final Saturday received a 4 to 1 vote. On June 10th, a plan that used Kiwanis Rec Center in lieu of BOE Headquarters location from 8 to 5pm each day with 8am to 3pm the final Saturday. Along with the Kiwanis site an additional site added at Cliffdale Rec Center from 12pm to 7pm each and 8am to 3pm the final Saturday. The Kiwanis and Cliffdale plan received a 4 to 1 vote.

ACTION:

Member Grimes made motion for an early voting plan to include the Board of Elections Headquarter M-F, 8am to 5pm and last Saturday, along with an additional site added at Cliffdale Rec Center M-F, 12pm to 7pm and last Saturday. (The Motion was seconded by Member Edmonds) The motion was not unanimous. The vote was 2-3. Devore, Johnson, and Eldridge voting against.

New Business:

Chair Devore opens up discussion of municipal transfers. The issue addressed is when the city boundaries don't match up with the precinct lines. Because of this issue, some of these precincts on the outer boundaries become split. So, the few voters that are within the city are transferred to their neighboring precincts. This has been done for many years prior. Next, Director Amaro briefs the board on what these municipal transfers all entail.

City of Fayetteville Primary and General Election:

From Judson-Vander Precinct to Cross Creek 02 Precinct - 86 voters

From Pearce's Mill 2C Precinct to Cross Creek 11 Precinct - 294 voters

From Pearce's Mill 3 Precinct to Cross Creek 11 Precinct - 7 voters

City of Fayetteville Primary Only:

from Eastover 01 Precinct to Cross Creek 02 Precinct – 395 voters

Eastover Sanitary District in the Municipal General Election:

From Judson-Vander Precinct to Eastover 01 Precinct - 3 voters

Town of Hope Mills Municipal General Election:

From Pearce's Mill 2C to Cross Creek 11 - 41 voters

From Hope Mills 2B to Hope Mills 2A - 189 voters

From Pearce's Mill 2A to Hope Mills 3A – 8 voters

Town of Falcon Municipal General Election:

From Black River (G7A) Precinct to Falcon Town Hall – 174 voters

ACTION:

Member Grimes made a motion to transfer all voters requested by Director Amaro in the aforementioned list of municipality transfers. Motion is seconded and approved unanimously.

Next, Director Amaro introduced the new hire Josh Dovi who has replaced newly retired Bill Helms. Josh spoke briefly to the board and public attendees.

Lastly, Chair Devore reminds everyone that our regular monthly meetings will be the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am. Also, a reminder that there will be a Candidate Challenge hearing next week on Tuesday the 12th at 1pm at the Cumberland County Courthouse.

ACTION:

Member Edmonds moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57am. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda M Eldridge

Secretary

Chair Linda Devore

Member Derek Edmonds

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