

Cumberland County Board of Elections

Board Meeting (Organizational)

July 22, 2025

Newly appointed Board Members, staff, and visitors assembled at Noon for the swearing-in ceremony of the 2025-2027 term of the Board of Elections:

- Linda Devore, Chair, sworn in by the Honorable Superior Court Judge Robbie Hicks
- Derek Edmonds, Member, sworn in by the Honorable District Court Judge Frances Britt
- Brenda Eldridge, Member, sworn in by the Honorable Superior Court Judge Robbie Hicks
- Irene Grimes, Member, sworn in by the Honorable District Court Judge Frances Britt
- Ryan Johnson, Member, sworn in by North Carolina Representative Diane Wheatley

The Invocation was offered by Pastor Jon Wixtrom, Church of The Open Door, Fayetteville, NC.

The Organization Meeting was called to order by Chair Devore at 12:10 PM.

In attendance: Director of Elections, Angie Amaro, staff member Mitzie Roberts, and Assistant County Attorney Helen Nelson.

Chair Devore proposed adding to the agenda a consideration to extend the filing period for Stedman and Linden per the new resolution passed by the State Board of Elections when an insufficient number of candidates have filed for all the available seats, five additional filing dates may be added to the schedule for those select races.

ACTION: Member Eldridge moved to approve the agenda with the proposed addition offered by Devore. Seconded and approved unanimously.

New Business:

Chair Devore opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

ACTION: Member Johnson nominated Bree Eldridge as Secretary. With no other nominations the floor is closed, and a vote is taken. Eldridge was elected unanimously.

Chair Devore opens discussion to consider the time and date of regular monthly meetings for the Board of Elections. Discussion of members' availability and preferences followed.

ACTION: Member Grimes moved to set regular monthly meetings for the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Chair Devore opened discussion for the Delegation of Duties to the Director with a brief overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Director and the Board. Grimes brought up several items for discussion. Devore responded with suggested changes to Items #22 and 27.

ACTION: Member Eldridge moved to adopt the Delegation of Duties with the drafting changes suggested to Item #22, to read, "Ensure that the Board of Elections website is current and complete with public information related to election calendars, meeting notices, and board updates," and to add a "d" to the word delegate(d) in Item #27. Second by Johnson. Approved 4-1 (Grimes opposed).

Devore opened discussion for the Public Comment Policy and provided a brief overview of what is entailed in this policy established for regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

ACTION: Member Grimes moved to adopt the Public Comment Policy as presented. Seconded and approved unanimously.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2025 meeting. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Chair Devore opened discussion of the new resolution passed by the State Board of Elections for election contests where an insufficient number of candidates have filed to all of the seats available for selected races. The decision is up to the county Board of Elections to reopen for five days just for the offices that have insufficient of candidates. The Linden and Stedman town commissioner contests meet these criteria, with fewer candidates than positions available on the ballot. Discussion proceeded among board members, the Director, and County Attorney as to their concerns.

ACTION: Member Eldridge moved to approve an extension of 5 days to file for the town commissioners' races in Stedman and Linden. Second by Johnson. Approved 4-1 (Edmonds opposed)

Director Amaro presented the Director's Report that included discussion of the following week's training in Wilmington for all Board Members.

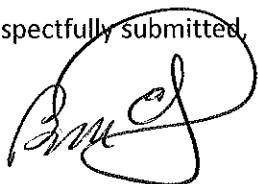
Amaro also reported that the Registration Repair Project initiated by the State Board has identified 4984 active and inactive voters in Cumberland County who must provide identification numbers for their voter registration records.

Amaro recognized IT specialist, Bill Helms for his 23 years of dedicated service to the Cumberland County Board of Elections. Bill's replacement is Josh Dovi, and he has been training with Bill for one week.

Director Amaro reminded Board Members of the deadline for the November Early Voting Plan is August 8th. Chairman Devore stated the early voting plan will be addressed at a meeting on August 5th at 9:30AM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 PM.

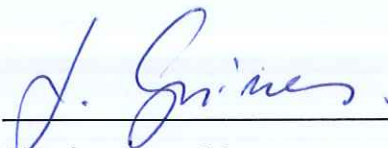
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BME', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Brenda M Eldridge
Secretary



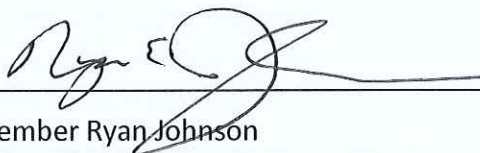
Chair Linda Devore



Member Irene Grimes



Member Derek Edmonds



Member Ryan Johnson