

Cumberland County Board of Elections
Absentee Meeting
Feb 24, 2026

Chair Devore called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

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

Others in attendance: Director of Elections Angie Amaro, Staff Members Mitzie Roberts, Shameerah Dixon, Josh Dovi, and Assistant County Manager Tufanna Bradley.

ACTION: Member Grimes made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Member Edmonds and approved unanimously.

Shameerah Dixon presented for board consideration the following 42 absentee ballots: 23 civilian ballots without exception forms, 17 civilian ballots with an ID exception form, 2 military ballots received electronically.

DS200 count was 43 prior to consideration of absentee ballots at this meeting.

ACTION: Member Eldridge made the motion to approve the 2 military ballots received electronically. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson and approved unanimously.

ACTION: Member Edmonds made the motion to approve the 17 civilian ballots with ID exception forms. The motion was seconded by Member Eldridge and approved unanimously.

ACTION: Member Johnson made the motion to accept the 23 civilian ballots without exception forms. The motion was seconded by Member Edmonds and approved unanimously.

A total of 42 absentee ballots were approved.

The board members performed the ballot duplication process for the ballots received electronically.

DS200 count: 85

Director Amaro reported that Matt Stone, our Field Support Specialist, told us that it will take up to 4 hours to shut down the Early Voting machines due to the new software.

Staff Member Josh Dovi presented to the board the machine certifications of the election day DS200 tabulators, and ExpressVotes. The new software has been loaded and all testing proved accurate. The only noted issue that Josh observed was the machines feeding the ballots slower.

ACTION: Member Grimes made the motion to approve the machine certifications for the election day, the provisional, the transfer, ExpressVotes, and high speed DS850 tabulator. The motion was seconded by Member Edmonds and approved unanimously.

ACTION: Member Grimes made the motion to appoint the 231 election day officials as recommended by Director Amaro. The motion was seconded by Member Edmonds and approved unanimously.

Chair Devore brought attention to some staffing and appointment concerns at the Stoney Point early voting site. Member Eldridge voiced her concerns about the first day of early voting and the several days that followed that there was not a chief judge assigned to the site, and the initial confusion caused among the Stoney Point judges and assistants. One of the judges working there had not been on the appointment list we approved.

Director Amaro explained she had to scramble at the last minute to move some personnel around to staff Stoney Point. A chief judge was moved from their appointed site to Stoney Point. The Director stated the issues were addressed and corrected by the following week including the appointment of a chief judge.

Chair Devore provided board members with a written statement from the unappointed judge at Stoney Point, describing the confusion. The unappointed judge was appointed nearly a week later, though board members were not informed. The chief judge served at Stoney Point for nearly a week while being appointed at a different site.

Next, Member Grimes addressed the board members with her concern about the Cliffdale early voting site with the posting of the signs of the 50-ft boundary line. There was confusion about a tent that may have been within the boundary with the remeasuring of the 50-ft boundary. Also, there was discussion about whether the newly adopted policy had been distributed to all the early voting chief judges about the 50-ft boundary and the enforcement ability of restrictions of campaigning beyond this boundary.

Chair Devore recessed the meeting at 10:50 am.
Chair Devore resumed the meeting at 10:57 am.

Chair Devore asked that the Director make the site coordinators aware of the change in policy for enforcement of 50' buffer zone that the board approved at our earlier meeting, but not beyond.

Member Johnson asked that the budget proposal be clear that the staff pay raises and new positions are the higher priority over the precinct officials pay raises.

The Director clarified that the first priority of the pay increases would be for staff, second the new staff positions, and third for the precinct officials pay raise.

ACTION: Member Grimes made a motion to approve the budget as presented by Director Amaro. The motion was seconded by Member Edmonds and approved unanimously.

Next, the Director gave a brief update on the Dennis Smith Protest. Two pieces of returned certified mail sent to his address in Godwin. Also, there was a brief online change of address for 6 minutes, then changed back. This information has been sent to the state.

The Director reported that our website will no longer be able to upload pdf documents due to ADA compliance issues. Lastly, the Director discussed that the county intends to shut down our Facebook page. Board members discussed possible transfer of control of the County Board of Elections Facebook page, or if it is possible to start a new Facebook page for the County BOE that our staff maintains.

ACTION: Member Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:29am. The motion was seconded by Member Eldridge and approved unanimously.

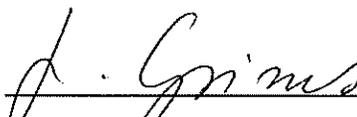
Respectfully submitted,



Brenda M Eldridge
Secretary



Chair Linda Devore



Member Irene Grimes



Member Derek Edmonds



Member Ryan Johnson