

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023 – 5:00 PM  
PROVISIONAL/ABSENTEE MEETING**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:00 pm at the Board of Elections Office, 240 Cherokee Camp Road, Reidsville.

Board Members Present: Ophelia Wright, Chair; Sarah Totten, Secretary; Nelson Cole, Member; Thurman Hampton, Member; and Tom Schoolfield, Member.

Staff Members Present: Paula Seamster, Director and Kathy Clark, Senior Deputy Director.

**ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chair Wright.

Chair Wright welcomed the Board members and those that were viewing the meeting from their homes via Zoom.

**ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM #3 – ABSENTEES**

The Director reported that there were 3 absentee ballots to be reviewed. She added that 11 absentee ballots had been approved by the Board so far.

The Board reviewed the 3 absentee ballots that had been received into the office, date stamped when received, and the ballot envelopes reviewed by staff to make sure the requirements were met for eligibility. Once the Board reviewed the envelope the envelopes were opened and the Board reviewed the CIV numbers on the ballots and the envelopes to make sure they matched.

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Schoolfield to approve the 3 absentee mail in ballots. The motion carried unanimously.**

The absentee ballots were inserted into the DS-200 voting machines.

**Member Hampton moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to close out the Supplemental Absentee DS200 machine. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board approved 14 absentee mail in ballots overall. The Board of Elections mailed out 32 absentee mail in ballots and 14 absentee mail in ballots were received back into the office.

**ITEM #4 – PROVISIONAL BALLOTS**

The following provisional ballots were presented to the Board for approval or disapproval:

6 each Provisional ballots for individuals that did not live inside the city limits of the six municipalities.

Staff recommended that these provisional ballots not be approved.

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**Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to disapprove the 6 provisional ballots received for individuals that lived outside the city limits of the six municipalities. The motion carried unanimously.**

4 each Provisional ballots for individuals that were not registered to vote in Rockingham County. The DMV Provisional Research Report was reviewed by staff to make sure that none of the individuals were listed. The Director presented the DMV Provisional Research Report to the Board for its review.

Staff recommended that these provisional ballots not be approved.

**Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Cole to disapprove the 4 provisional ballots received for individuals that were not registered to vote in Rockingham County. The motion carried unanimously.**

1 each Provisional ballots for an individual that voted out of precinct. The Director stated that this individual walked to the precinct and it was too far to walk to the correct precinct to vote. She asked that the Board approve this provisional ballot. The individual received the correct district ballot to cast his/her vote.

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to approve the 1 provisional ballot received for an individual that voted out of precinct. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Director then presented 2 each Provisional ballots that had Photo ID Exception forms.

The Board reviewed the Photo ID Exception forms for both provisional ballots.

**Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Hampton to approve the 2 provisional ballots that had Photo ID Exception forms. The motion carried unanimously.**

The provisional ballots that the Board approved were then opened to confirm that the ballots inside did in fact match the precincts. The provisional ballots were inserted into the DS-200 voting machine.

**Secretary Totten moved, seconded by Member Hampton to close out the Provisional DS200 machine. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Supplemental Absentee form was prepared for the North Carolina State Board of Elections and signed by the Rockingham County Board of Elections members.

**RECOUNT**

The Director informed the Board that she had received an email from the North Carolina State Board on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 listing municipalities that may need to have a Recount due to the cast votes being less than 1% different between candidates. She stated that the City of

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Reidsville, District B contest for the second and third place candidates were less than .52% and recommended that the Board conduct a Recount on this contest.

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to hold a recount for the City of Reidsville, District B Contest on November 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Board of Elections office.**

Member Schoolfield stated that he had confidence in the Board of Elections count and knew that it was accurate.

**Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1 with Member Schoolfield voting no.**

**ITEM #4 – ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:49 p.m. **Member Cole, seconded by Secretary Totten to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Paula P. Seamster, Director

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Ophelia Wright, Chair