

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 15, 2024 – 10:00 AM  
SPECIAL MEETING**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Friday, March 15, 2024 at 10:00 am 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 Polly Makins, Deputy Director.

**ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chair Wright.

Chair Wright welcomed the Board Members, those present, and those watching via Zoom.

**ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**ITEM #3 – 2024 SECOND PRIMARY EARLY VOTING PLAN APPROVAL**

The Director gave her recommendation for the 2024 Second Primary Early Voting Plan which was the minimum regulations from the North Carolina State Board of Elections. Early Voting would begin on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and run through Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Elections office only. She stated that there would be two races or contests on the ballot: NC Lieutenant Governor and NC Auditor and added that there will not be any local races/contests on the second primary ballot.

Voting will be held at the Board of Elections Office  
240 Cherokee Camp Road

**April 25, 2024 – May 11, 2024**

Thursday, April 25, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Friday, April 26, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Monday, April 29, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Tuesday, April 30, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Thursday, May 2, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Friday, May 3, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Monday, May 6, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Thursday, May 9, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Friday, May 10, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
Saturday, May 11, 2024 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

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Member Schoolfield asked if there would be any local contests on the ballot. The Director responded no.

**Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Cole to accept the Director’s recommendation on the 2024 Second Primary Early Voting Plan.**

Member Hampton asked if the Republican voters in the county were being offered a fair opportunity to vote. Member Schoolfield responded that the thought the time would allow for all the Republican voters to vote.

**Upon a vote on the motion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Member Cole suggested that staff develop a budget and to make management aware if more funds may be needed for the second primary. He suggested including steps to minimize the cost factors. The Director responded that she thought she had enough funds to cover the cost of the second primary election.

**Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Schoolfield to formulate a discussion to the Board of Commissioners on the Board of Elections possibly seeking additional funds. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM #4 – 2024 SECOND PRIMARY ELECTION PRECINCT SITES**

The Director informed the Board that she would like to keep all 15 precinct sites open for the Second Primary Election to cause less confusion on the voters. She stated that if voting sites were combined a notice would have to be mailed to all the affected voters as well as advertised in the newspaper in addition to the normal advertisement of the 2024 Second Primary Election. The Director stated that staffing would be cut to cover each precinct site but she did not think it would cause any issues for the precinct officials. According to the NC State Board of Elections they are expecting voter turnout at 30% of those that voted in the 2024 Primary Election.

**Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to accept the Director’s recommendation for Election Day to keep all 15 precinct sites open with reduced staffing. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM #5 – ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:27 a.m. **Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Hampton to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Paula P. Seamster, Director

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Ophelia Wright, Chair