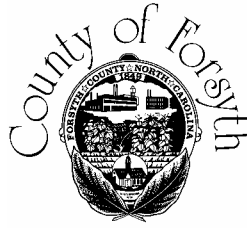


BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.
CHAIRPERSON

Eric Elliott
SECRETARY

John Redding
MEMBER



Kathie Chastain Cooper
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- AUGUST 24, 2004

Present: Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair
Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary
Mr. John A. Redding, Member

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections
Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections
Ms. Pam Craver, Administrative Assistant

Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

Approval of Minutes- August 17 & August 20, 2004

Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes for August 17 & August 20, 2004. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Ballot

Mr. Elliott asked the Director about the Spanish requirements for the ballot. The Director stated that the State Law requires the instructions to be in Spanish. She also stated she will be sending the ballot to the State Board of Elections for approval and for them to translate any parts of the ballot in Spanish that is required by law. Mr. Redding moved to approve the ballot for the General Election. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Session

State Representative Larry Womble spoke to the Board about one-stop sites. He urged the Board to consider adding 3 additional one-stop sites to the 5 sites already approved by the Board in the One Stop Site Plan of Implementation. He suggested sites at the Malloy Jordan Library, the Mazie Woodruff Center, the Lawrence Joel Coliseum and/or the Hanes Community Center. He stated that sites are needed in this area because of transportation problems in addition to handicapped accessibility problems at precinct locations. Mr. Womble states he believes the additional one-stop sites would increase voter turnout. He also urged the Board to consider extended hours at the one-stop

locations as well as weekend hours. Mr. Womble stated there is grant money available for the sites.

Sylvia Pinyan spoke to the Board regarding her concerns about votes being tainted. She also stated that information regarding voting procedures is not readily available to the public. She suggests having hand-outs available at the libraries regarding voting deadlines and procedures. Ms. Pinyan also stated her concern about the General Election and cited several editorials in New York newspapers regarding the elderly being able to vote and electronic voting equipment. She stated she is concerned about electronic voting equipment.

Harold Hairston addressed the Board regarding his concerns about electronic voting equipment. He urged the Board not to use DRE equipment at the one-stop locations for the General Election. He stated if the Board chose to use the DRE machines in the Black community, to give the voter the alternative of a punch card ballot instead should they choose to.

Bill Miller spoke to the Board regarding using the electronic voting equipment at the one-stop sites. He stated he felt there was no need for the machines and he feels the taxpayers should not have to pay for the electronic voting machines at this time. He stated he feels punch cards are a reliable way of voting.

James Knox addressed the Board regarding his having seen problems with voter registration in the past. He states people do not understand how voting works. He also states that citizens assume when they update their driver's license it automatically registers them to vote or updates their voter registration information. He states this leads to confusion. Mr. Knox recommended that the Board of Elections put ads in the paper regarding voter registration. He also stated the Board of Elections should do a better job of getting information to the public, such as registration deadlines, one-stop dates, etc. Mr. Knox also stated he is against adding addition one-stop sites above the 5 sites originally approved by the Board.

Linda Sutton spoke to the Board regarding electronic voting equipment. She stated she is opposed to all DRE machines. She would like to have the punch card option available at the one-stop sites if voters do not want to use the electronic equipment. She also stated she feels the distribution of the one-stop sites are is not done fairly.

Rita Harker stated to the Board she is not in favor of using electronic voting equipment. She states adding addition one-stop sites would be very difficult for the Board of Elections. She states it will be difficult for the Board of Elections to man additional sites.

Bill Whiteheart spoke to the Board regarding the use of electronic voting equipment. He is opposed to using DRE equipment without a verifiable paper trail. Mr. Whiteheart praised the Board of Elections members and staff for their hard work during the elections process.

Joyce McCloy addressed the Board regarding electronic voting equipment. She stated she is against the use of electronic voting equipment without a paper trail and is concerned about the Board of Elections' potential for use of the machines at the one-stop sites. She also stated that 3 minutes per individual is not enough time for the public to voice their opinions.

Dewhitt Rhoades stated to the Board that he is in favor of using the punch card voting system and is against changing this method of voting. He also stated he is against additional one-stop sites. He stated if the additional one-stop sites are approved, the sites should be more evenly distributed throughout the county.

Mr. Redding stated the Board previously approved a Plan of Implementation for 5 one-stop locations for the General Election. He stated he would be willing to make a motion to disapprove additional sites. Mr. Redding also stated that if the Board approved the proposed 3 additional site locations, why not place sites in other areas of the county as well in order to be fair. Mr. Redding stated he would not support additional sites. Mrs. Cooper stated a plan was adopted in August, 2004, for 5 sites.

Mr. Elliott stated if there is access to funds, he is not opposed to trying to have additional sites. The Director stated she has already requested funds for 2 sites and has not received an answer from the State Board of Elections.

Mr. Redding read, verbatim, the law regarding one-stop sites and their locations and stated the Board of Elections is acting within the law. Mr. Redding stated that he believes to approve the suggested sites; it would discriminate against others in the county.

Mr. Elliott stated he has no problem with trying for funds for additional sites.

Mr. Elliott moved to request grant money for 3 additional one-stop sites for the General Election at Mallory/Jordan Library, Carver School Road Library and a third site to be named later. Mrs. Cardwell seconded the motion. The motion was 2-1 in favor of additional sites.

Leasing of Equipment for One-Stop Sites

Mr. Elliott stated he had received nearly 10 emails from citizens who are opposed to using DRE equipment in the General Election. Attached is a list of those who emailed Mr. Elliott. He stated most were not aware of the Board's earlier discussion regarding DRE equipment. Mr. Elliott explained that the Board had asked the State Board of Elections if DRE machines with a paper trail could be used and was told that they are not certified for use in NC. He stated the Board is only discussing leasing and not purchasing DRE equipment for the one-stop locations. He stated the Board is not discussing the use of DRE equipment at the precincts for the General Election. He stated voters have the option to vote punch card by mail absentee if they do not want to use the DRE equipment at the one-stop sites. Mr. Elliott stated the Board has discussed the pros and cons of DRE equipment.

Mr. Redding stated the Board will come to the point where they have to make a decision about new voting equipment. He states he was originally against the DRE machines, but after doing research, he is impressed with the electronic machines. Mr. Redding stated that NC law will not allow punch cards to be used after January 1, 2006 and the Board will have to purchase new equipment. He explained that by the Board waiting to make the purchase, they are working to find the best, most accurate equipment available.

The Director states she does not recommend using the WinVote equipment for the one-stop sites as she has some concerns about this particular voting system. She has recommended using Diebold's DRE system for the one-stop sites. She stated she would rather use an optical scan system instead of WinVote. She explained that she has a proposal from Diebold for leasing optical scan equipment. She has contacted another vendor but has not received a call back. She stated that she still supports a DRE voting system for purchase for future elections.

Mr. Redding moved to lease the number of WinVote machines necessary for the one-stop sites. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Elliott wants it posted at the one-stop sites that a vote can be cast by punch card ballot if the voter does not want to use the DRE machine.

Other Business

Mr. Elliott stated the Board of Elections should do more advertising regarding voting and voting procedures. Mr. Redding stated he would like to see the public lobby for newspapers to run voting ads as a public announcement. Mrs. Cooper is going to contact newspapers and television stations to get more publicity about registration and voting.

The Director stated that staff would be meeting with the group CHANGE on August 30, 2004, regarding the precinct audit they conducted. The staff will go over the concerns with CHANGE and discuss solutions.

The next Board Meeting which is an absentee meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2004.

Adjournment

Mr. Redding moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Elliott seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

s:/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s:/ Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary

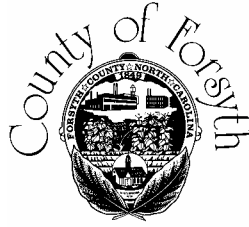
s:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member

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August 24, 2004

List of those who emailed Mr. Elliott in opposition of using DRE equipment in the 2004 General Election:

Joyce McCloy, Winston-Salem, NC

Rae Stoll

Richard Stimpson, High Point, NC

Debra Weiner, Chapel Hill, NC

Tom Bailey, Greensboro, NC

James Appleton, Cary, NC

Andy Silver, Hillsborough, NC

Pamela Smith, San Francisco, CA