



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

County Courthouse ♦ 842 West King Street Boone, North Carolina 28607

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2026
4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS
5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ABSENTEE ENVELOPES
7. RESOLUTION OF DELEGATION OF ABSENTEE PREPARATORY DUTIES
8. ADJOURNMENT



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County Board of Elections

The Watauga County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the County Courthouse at 842 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. Board Members in attendance were Chairman Perry Yates; Members Leta Councill, Elaine Rothenberg, Pam Cline and Secretary Terry Cirone. Also attending were Elections Director Matt Snyder and Deputy Director Donna Houck.

February 10, 2026

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Perry Yates called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE

All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2026

Member Cline moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2026, meeting which was seconded by Member Councill. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS

There were one hundred and sixty-two (162) new registrations from January 13, 2026, to February 10, 2026. There are a total of 44,585 voters in Watauga County of which 38,170 are active. Member Councill made a motion to accept the report, pending review, and the motion was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 5-0.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Snyder provided the following information:

- There is a candidate for the Watauga Board of Education that is moving from the area and will not be eligible to hold that office and it is too late in the process to change the ballot to pull that candidate's name. Director Snyder provided the board with a printout of section 163-294.1 which provides how votes for such a candidate are handled. Those votes are disregarded and the vote will be determined by the remaining candidates.
- Logic and Accuracy testing on the DS300s were performed. During the testing there was a problem identified in one of the machines. It cannot be resolved and the manufacturer will be sending us another machine. It will have been tested and in place prior to the Primary.
- Ballot on Demand issues appear to have been corrected.

- The North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) and the North Carolina State Board of Elections are currently working in tandem on a three-phase plan to modernize the Statewide Elections Information Management System (SEIMS). State Auditor Boliek will chair the bipartisan, 22-member commission. Of note is that Director Snyder and Michael Behrent will represent Watauga County on the Commission.
- Voter Registration has ended.

6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ABSENTEE ENVELOPES

There were three (3) civilian and three (3) overseas ballots that had been received. None of the civilian ballots had exception forms. A motion to approve all ballots received and to accept the total number of six (6) as provided by the DS300 was made by Member Rothenberg and seconded by Member Council. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

7. RESOLUTION OF DELEGATION OF ABSENTEE PREPARATORY DUTIES

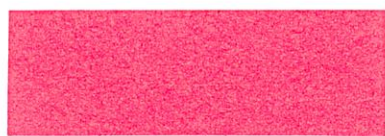
This resolution would allow the Watauga BOE staff to perform some preparatory steps for the March 3, 2026 Primary. The Board then reviewed the Resolution and a brief discussion ensued. Member Council made a motion to approve the Resolution which Member Rothenberg seconded. The motion passed 5-0 and the Resolution was signed by Chairman Yates.

8. ADJOURNMENT

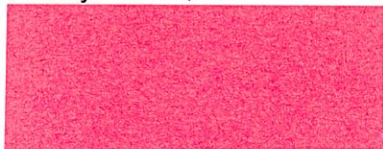
Member Council made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 5-0.



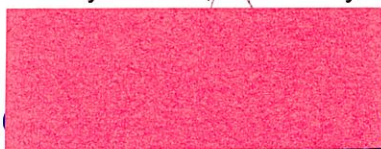
Perry Yates, Chair



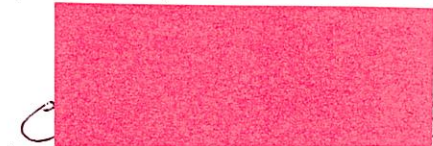
Terry Cirone, Secretary



Pam Cline, Member



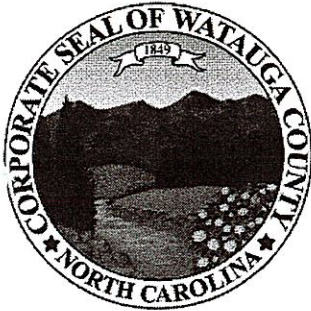
Leta Council, Member



Elaine Rothenberg, Member



Matthew Snyder, Director



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RESOLUTION OF DELEGATION OF ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING PREPARATORY DUTIES

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections shall hold meetings prior to each election to act upon absentee ballots cast in accords with NCGS 163 Articles 20 and 21.

WHEREAS, North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) Numbered Memo 2020-25 allows for delegation of preparatory work prior to each meeting to board staff members.

BE IT THERE RESOLVED, the Watauga County Board of Elections delegates the following preparatory steps to be completed by the staff of the Watauga County Board of Elections for the Primary held on March 3, 2026.

- Inspect the absentee ballot envelopes to make an initial determination as to ensure it is properly executed
- Inspect the absentee ballot envelopes for deficiencies
- Inspect voter's photo ID or Photo ID Exception Form for deficiencies
- Contact voters with deficiencies within one business day of receiving their deficient envelope(s) and follow cure procedures as required by NCSBE
- Sort absentee ballots envelopes into the following categories after initial review: recommended approval, recommended disapproval, envelope curing pending, photo ID cure document pending and board review needed
- Report with the number of absentee ballots in each category for reconciliation

I, Perry Yates, Chairman of the Watauga County Board of Elections, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Watauga County Board of Elections on the 10th day of February, 2026.



Perry Yates, Chairman
Watauga County Board of Elections

Attest:



Matthew Snyder, Director
Watauga County Board of Elections