



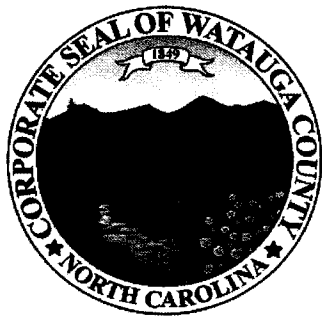
WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

JUNE 10, 2025

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2025
4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS
5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
6. FINAL VOTING EQUIPMENT PURCHASE RESOLUTION
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. ADJOURNMENT



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County Board of Elections

The Watauga County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Watauga County Administration Building located at 814 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. Board Members in attendance: Chairperson Michael Behrent, Members Eric Eller, Leta Councill and Elaine Rothenberg, and Secretary Matthew Walpole. Also attending: Elections Director Matt Snyder and Deputy Director Donna Houck.

June 10, 2025

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michael Behrent called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE

All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2025

Member Eller moved approval of the Minutes of May 13, 2025. Seconded by Member Rothenberg. Approved by 5-0 vote.

4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS

Director Snyder reported 117 new registrations, bringing totals to 43,393 active/inactive voters, and 36,898 active voters. Member Eller moved approval of the report pending review. Seconded by Member Rothenberg. Approved by 5-0 vote.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Grant funds resulting from Hurricane Helene damage may still be available to us. We have roughly \$16,000 extra spending resulting from the Hurricane still unpaid, and an additional roughly \$16,000 in projected spending for preparation against future natural disasters, based on our Helene experience. Director Snyder will pursue grant possibilities.

Transportation to the State BOE Conference in Wilmington in July is in flux. Members may have to provide their own transportation.

The new County BOE members will be appointed on June 24th, but not sworn in until July 22nd, due to conflicting legislative requirements. In case of Electoral Emergency during the Interregnum, it is presumed that the outgoing Board will shoulder the burden of responsibility.

Candidate filing opens July 7th for municipal elections.

The storage facility situation is still unsettled, with new equipment delivery on the horizon. County employees have been unwilling or unable to provide a timeline to the BOE stating a schedule by which

such facilities may be available. Member Eller moved that Director Snyder draft a resolution to be sent to the County Commissioners addressing the issue, to include a timeline of required BOE actions preparatory to the municipal elections, and a deadline for county action, after which the BOE would be authorized to spend necessary funds for storage to adequately protect the expensive new electoral equipment, and such protected records as are legislatively required. The motion was seconded by Member Council. Approved by 5-0 vote.

6. FINAL VOTING EQUIPMENT PURCHASE RESOLUTION

Director Snyder presented the Final Voting Equipment Purchase Resolution, for formal signing by Chair Behrent.


7. PUBLIC COMMENT


There was no public comment per se, but the Board took the opportunity at the end of this session to recognize Chair Behrent for his even-handed non-partisan guidance through stressful periods encompassing Covid, Hurricane Helene, and the first major equipment purchases/upgrades in two decades. We have been fortunate to have had his leadership.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Member Eller moved to adjourn, seconded by Member Rothenberg. Approved by 5-0 vote.


Michael Behrent, Chair


Leta Council, Member


Elaine Rothenberg, Member


Matthew Walpole, Secretary


Eric Eller, Member


Matthew Snyder, Director

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE JUNE 10, 2025

Helene Grant Funding

Storage area — no real progress

Conference — van?

July 22 at Noon not June 24

Travel to Elections Group's Emergency Management / Election Administration Conference

Candidate filing opens July 7 at 8am

Board Member Appointments

- Current Board Members- Current board members' terms end upon the appointment of the new board members per SB382. However, the requirement for the new board to be sworn in July 22 is still in law, and a board cannot act before being sworn in. Accordingly, there will be a gap in time when there is no county board between June 25 and July 22. If there is any business that must be taken care of by your board before July 22, be sure that your current board plans to meet and conduct that business before June 24.



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THE ADOPTION AND ACQUISITION OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners, with the approval of the Watauga County Board of Elections, may adopt and acquire only a voting system of a type, make, and model certified by the State Board for use in some or all voting places in the county at some or all elections in accordance with G.S. 163-165.8;

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections must recommend the adoption and acquisition of any voting system by the Watauga County Board of Commissioners after completing the requirements in G.S. 163-165.9(a);

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections must recommend to the Watauga County Board of Commissioners which type of voting system should be acquired by the county, pursuant to G.S. 163-165.9(a)(1);

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections has witnessed a demonstration in the county of the type of voting system being recommended, and has also witnessed a demonstration of at least one other type of voting system certified by the State Board of Elections as required by G.S. 163-165.9(a)(2);

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections has successfully tested the proposed voting system during a public, simulated election on May 27, 2025, coordinated with the State Board of Elections, to satisfy the requirements of G.S. 163-165.9(a)(3)(b);

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections has requested and received approval from the State Board of Elections to replace the current voting system, pursuant to G.S. 163-165.9(b)(3).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watauga County Board of Elections hereby recommends the Watauga County Board of Commissioners to adopt and acquire the following certified voting equipment pursuant to G.S. 163-165.9(a)(1):

Voting Type: DS300 and Express Vote (Hand marked paper ballots with ballot marking device for ADA compliance)

Vendor: ES&S / PRINTELECT

Number of Units 31 DS300 and 28 Express Votes

EVS 6.3.0.0 Election Management System Laptop

Voting System Cost to County: \$319,730.25

Adopted this the 10th day of June 2025.

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of Michael Behrent.

Michael Behrent, Chair
Watauga County Board of Elections



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WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections must recommend the adoption and acquisition of any voting system by the Watauga County Board of Commissioners after completing the requirements in G.S. 163-165.9(a);

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections must recommend to the Watauga County Board of Commissioners which type of voting system should be acquired by the county, pursuant to G.S. 163-165.9(a)(1);

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections has witnessed a demonstration in the county of the type of voting system being recommended, and has also witnessed a demonstration of at least one other type of voting system certified by the State Board of Elections as required by G.S. 163-165.9(a)(2);

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections has requested and received approval from the State Board of Elections prior to replacing any voting system, pursuant to G.S. 163A-165.9(b)(3);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watauga County Board of Elections hereby recommends that the Watauga County Board of Commissioners adopt and acquire the following certified voting equipment pursuant to G.S. 163-165.9(a)(1):

Voting Type: Balotar Ballot on Demand (Hand marked paper ballots with ballot marking device for ADA compliance)

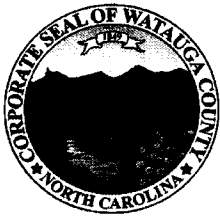
Vendor: ES&S / PRINTELECT

Number of Units 12 Balotars

**Voting System Cost to County: \$71,570
(not including shipping)**

Adopted this the 10th day of June 2025.


Michael Behrent, Chair
Watauga County Board of Elections



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A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THE ADOPTION AND ACQUISITION OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners, with the approval of the Watauga County Board of Elections, may adopt and acquire only a voting system of a type, make, and model certified by the State Board for use in some or all voting places in the county at some or all elections in accordance with G.S. 163-165.8;

WHEREAS, the cost to acquire a new voting system is substantial.

WHEREAS, the lifetime of the new voting system is impacted by the care in which it is maintained.

WHEREAS, the average age of our election officials is over seventy years old.

WHEREAS, the volume and weight of the voting systems and supplies has continued to grow over the years.

WHEREAS, ensuring the correct items are delivered to the correct voting sites is critical to operations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watauga County Board of Elections hereby recommends that the Watauga County Board of Commissioners adopt and acquire the following voting equipment.

Vendor: PRINTELECT

Number of Units 19 VC EZ CART 3000 @ \$1,875 each

Vendor: CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Number of Units 2 VC EZ CART 3000 @ \$1,600 each

Voting System Cost to County: \$38,825

(not including shipping)

Adopted this the 10th day of June 2025.

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Michael Behrent, Chair
Watauga County Board of Elections



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS RELATING TO THE DELIVERY AND STORAGE OF NEWLY PURCHASED VOTING EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Elections is in the process of purchasing new voting equipment;

WHEREAS, the current equipment storage area is inadequate for the new equipment and the new equipment cannot be received until adequate storage is secured;


WHEREAS, the costs to taxpayers for the new equipment is significant;

WHEREAS, Acceptance Testing of the new equipment must take place before equipment training can begin;

WHEREAS, Training must be completed before Logic and Accuracy testing for the 2025 elections can begin in early September and must be completed before the Mock Election can begin;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watauga County Board of Elections authorizes staff to expend funds for alternative equipment storage if the remodeling of the current storage area is not complete by August 1, 2025.

Adopted this the 10th day of June 2025.



Michael Behrent, Chair
Watauga County Board of Elections

Request for Replacement of County Voting System

The WATAUGA County Board of Elections ("Board"), having met on MAY 13, 2025 hereby seeks the approval of the State Board of Elections to replace its voting system, or a portion thereof. Before approving the adoption and acquisition of any voting system by the board of county commissioners, the county board of elections carried out the following steps, which are documented on this form.

STEP 1: DEMONSTRATION

The county board must witness a demonstration of the recommended voting system plus at least one other certified voting system not currently used in the county. The demonstration can take place in the county, at a site designated by the State Board, or by virtual means.

- The demonstration should be organized as part of a public meeting with invitations sent to the county board of commissioners, the county manager, the county attorney, and the political parties in the county.
- The county board should give public notice of the demonstration and meeting, as it does for all other board meetings.
- A majority of county board members voting on the recommendation must have witnessed a demonstration. All five members of the county board of elections should attend a demonstration if possible.

<p>County Board member 1: <u>Michael Behrent</u></p> <p>Voting Systems Reviewed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5</p>	<p>Demo Location: <u>Watauga Admin Bldg</u> Date: <u>2/25 + 2/26/25</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1</p>
<p>County Board member 2: <u>Matt Walpole</u></p> <p>Voting Systems Reviewed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5</p>	<p>Demo Location: <u>Watauga Admin Bldg</u> Date: <u>2/25 + 2/26/25</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1</p>
<p>County Board member 3: <u>Leta Council</u></p> <p>Voting Systems Reviewed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5</p>	<p>Demo Location: <u>Watauga Admin Bldg</u> Date: <u>2/25 + 2/26/25</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1</p>
<p>County Board member 4: <u>Eric Eller</u></p> <p>Voting Systems Reviewed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5</p>	<p>Demo Location: <u>Watauga Admin Bldg</u> Date: <u>2/25 + 2/26/25</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1</p>
<p>County Board member 5: <u>Elaine Rothenberg</u></p> <p>Voting Systems Reviewed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5</p>	<p>Demo Location: <u>Watauga Admin Bldg</u> Date: <u>2/25 + 2/26/25</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1</p>

STEP 2: PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION

The county board must make a preliminary recommendation to the board of county commissioners as to which voting system should be acquired by the county.

- Official action to preliminarily recommend can be taken as soon as the same meeting during which the demonstration is conducted, provided the meeting is properly noticed. Alternatively, the meeting to preliminarily recommend a voting system may be noticed prior to the demonstration as long as the meeting is held after the demonstration.
- The Board can recommend by resolution, letter, presentation, or other official action.

Following the voting system demonstration, the Board recommended:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	by resolution dated <u>May 13, 2025</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	by letter dated _____ signed by _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	by presentation given on <u>May 20, 2025</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	by nature of an official action taken on _____

that <u>Watauga</u> County adopt and acquire the:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 Voting System
<input type="checkbox"/>	ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 Voting System
<input type="checkbox"/>	ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 Voting System
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5 Voting System

STEP 3: TEST THE PROPOSED VOTING SYSTEM

The county board must either: (1) test the proposed voting system in at least one precinct where the voting system would be used if adopted, or (2) test the proposed voting system in a simulated election.

- County board staff must notify State Board voting systems staff via email (votingsystems.sboe@ncsbe.gov) of its intent to test the recommended voting system.
- The voting systems election management system and the components of the system must undergo Logic & Accuracy testing prior to use in the test election.
- After completing the test election, the county board must determine that the recommended voting system has met the requirements for voting in that county.
- Simulated elections must be conducted in accordance with the Standards for Simulated Election policy.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On <u>May 14, 2025</u> , the county board staff notified the State Board of Elections voting systems staff of its intent to test the recommended voting system.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The recommended voting system was tested on <u>May 27, 2025</u> . The voting systems election management system and all of the components of the system were subject to Logic & Accuracy testing prior to use in the test election.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If tested during a real election, the recommended voting system was tested in _____ one-stop absentee voting site(s) and/or _____ Election Day precinct(s).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Board, having completed its election (real or simulated) in which the recommended voting system was tested, has determined that the recommended system meets the requirements for voting in the county.

STEP 4: SBE APPROVAL

The county board must obtain the approval of the State Board before replacing any voting system, or any portion thereof.

The County Board seeks the approval of the State Board of Elections to replace its current voting system, or a portion thereof, with the following voting system:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5 Voting System | <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 Voting System |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 Voting System | <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 Voting System |

The Board proposes to adopt and acquire the voting system's election management system (EMS) and the following components of the system:

Component Type	Model	Quantity
Precinct Ballot Tabulator (PBT)	DS 300	31
Central Ballot Tabulator (CBT)	N/A	
Ballot Marking Device (BMD)	Express Vote	28
BMD Printer		
Ballot on Demand (BOD) Printers	Ballstar	12

The Board proposes to use the Express Vote ballot marking device and its accessible peripherals to meet ADA requirements to allow for accessible voting.

Along with this request, the County Board is submitting the proposed vendor contract to permit the State Board of Elections to review and approve the terms of the vendor's contract.

THE COMPLETION OF THE FORGOING STEPS IS ATTESTED TO AND THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF VOTING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT IS HEREBY MADE BY:

Board Chair:

Date:

5/21/23

Board Secretary:

Date:

5/21/25

Board Member:

Date:

5/20/25

Board Member:

Date:

5-21-25

Board Member:

Date:

5-21-25

State Board of Elections use only	
The proposed voting system replacement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS <input type="checkbox"/> IS NOT approved.	
Approved by:	Date: 6/3/25

STEP 5: ADOPTION AND ACQUISITION OF NEW VOTING SYSTEM BY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Following SBE approval, the County Board understands that it may then proceed to ask its Board of County Commissioners for the approval and funding to acquire the recommended voting system. The board of county commissioners, with the approval of the county board of elections, may adopt and acquire only a voting system of a type, make, and model certified by the State Board for use in some or all voting places in the county at some or all elections. The board of county commissioners may decline to adopt and acquire any voting system recommended by the county board of elections but may not adopt and acquire any voting system that has not been approved by the county board of elections.