



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

MARCH 6, 2026

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 3, 2026
4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
5. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS
6. ADJOURNMENT



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The Watauga County Board of Elections met on Friday, March 6, 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, and Pam Cline. Secretary Cirone was not in attendance. Also attending: Elections Director Matt Snyder, Deputy Director Donna Houck, Elections Specialists John Hill and Brad Henderson.

MARCH 6, 2026

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Yates called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE

All present pledged allegiance to the flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 3, 2026

Member Councill moved to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2026, meeting which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved by a 4-0 vote.

4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Snyder reported that yesterday two (2) bi-partisan teams conducted a hand to eye recount for two (2) Precincts Election Day precincts picked by the NCSBE. The precincts were Boone 3 and North Fork. The hand-to-eye counts matched the machine tabulator tapes.

He also reported that there was a Provisional Ballot put in Election Day tabulator. Director Snyder recommended that if the provisional ballot is approved, that the ballot not be retrieved and thus require having to do a manual edit but instead note the plus one (1) for Election Day voter history and minus one (1) Provisional voter history at the canvass meeting

During early voting an individual voted a ballot style based on their address as it is in system. However, upon speaking with the voter and doing some additional review, Staff found that the voter's address put them in a different precinct. BOE Staff contacted the voter and they came in and voted a provisional ballot that matched their actual assigned precinct. The voter indicated that they have a problematic address, so much so that she has trouble with governmental agencies recognizing the address. To correct the additional vote, we will need to do a board challenge of the voter's early voting ballot at the Friday Canvass Board Meeting.

5. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Director Snyder then briefly explained the procedure for voting on Provisional Ballots. Staff has previously reviewed the Provisional Ballots and made recommendations on their approval/non approval, but the BOE members can vote regardless of the recommendations. The Provisional Ballots are separated into categories based on the reason for their being provisional. When large groups of Provisional Ballots are reviewed, they can be voted on by the Board as a slate.

The Board then began the process of reviewing the ballots. The first group reviewed was under the category DL/SSN which included voters flagged under the statewide ballot repair project. There were two (2) provisional ballots in this category. Member Cline made a motion to approve both provisional ballots which was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the NO ID Provided-Exception-Reasonable Impediment which had four (4) provisional ballots. Members first reviewed the ID Exception forms. Member Cline made a motion to approve all exception forms which was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 4-0. By approving the exception forms the provisional ballots by extension were approved.

The next group reviewed was the ID Not Provided-Exception-Religious Objection which had one (1) ballot. Members reviewed the ID Exception form and Member Rothenberg made a motion to approve the ID exception form which was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 4-0. By approving the exception forms the provisional ballot by extension was approved.

The next group reviewed was the ID Not Provided-No Exception Form/Return with ID which had four (4) provisional ballots. Director Snyder informed the Board that two voters had returned to the BOE office with a Photo ID and that two (2) voters had not returned. Member Cline made a motion to approve the Provisional Ballots of the two voters who had provided photo IDs and to not approve the Provisional Ballots of the two voters who had not provided photo IDs which was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the Incorrect Party which had two ballots. Upon review by Staff, it was determined that one voter indeed voted the correct ballot (Non-Partisan) and the other voter based on their voter registration information did not vote the correct ballot. Member Rothenberg made a motion to approve the Provisional Ballot as recommended by Director Snyder and not approve the Provisional ballot which was for the incorrect party. The motion was seconded by Member Cline. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the No Record of Registration which had nine provisional ballots. After review by staff the voters of these ballots were either active in other NC counties other than Watauga or registered to vote in Watauga County after the February 6, 2026, registration cutoff date. Member Council made a motion to not approve all nine Provisional Ballots which did not have the required proper registration and Member Rothenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the Previously Removed which had eight (8) provisional ballots. One voter was removed after being inactive for two (2) federal elections but had no record of having established residency outside of Watauga County. This provisional ballot was recommended to be approved by Director Snyder. The other seven (7) voters' provisional

ballots, who were removed from the Watauga registration rolls due to being active in other NC counties, were not recommended to be approved by Director Snyder. Member Council made a motion to approve the one (1) provisional ballot recommended by Director Snyder and not approve the seven (7) provisional ballots not recommended for approval. Member Rothenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was Unrecognized Address (Geocode Issue) which had one ballot. Staff investigated and recommends that this provisional ballot be approved. The Geo Code issue will be corrected after Canvass. Member Rothenberg made a motion to approve this provisional ballot which was seconded by Member Cline. The motion passed 4-0.

The next group reviewed was the Unreported Move category which had four (4) ballots. All voters were registered to vote in Watauga County. Three (3) of the four (4) provisional voters received the correct ballot style. One provisional ballot was not in the correct precinct so only some of the ballot could be approved. Director Snyder recommended that three (3) of the four (4) provisional ballots be approved and the one provisional ballot from the incorrect precinct be partially approved and remarked. Member Rothenberg made a motion to follow Director Snyder's recommendations and Member Cline seconded the motion. It passed 4-0.

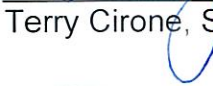
The Board then reviewed the group of Provisional Ballots in the category Incorrect or Out of Precinct which were the majority of the Provisional Ballots. First, Member Council made a motion to approve all the partial Provisional Ballots in this category which was seconded by Member Cline. The motion passed 4-0. Then, as Director Snyder had explained earlier in the meeting those ballots were reviewed and then a ballot re-marked using the correct ballot style for the voter's correct precinct and allowing votes only in the races that they were eligible to vote in. After the ballots were re-marked, they were placed in the DS300. This process was followed for 132 partial provisional ballots.

There were a total of 166 Provisional Ballots cast. Fifteen (15) were approved, 132 partial provisional ballots were approved and nineteen (19) ballots were not approved. After all the ballots were submitted, the report tapes were printed out and signed by the BOE Members as required.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Member Cline made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 4-0


Perry Yates, Chair


Terry Cirone, Secretary


Pam Cline, Member


Leta Council, Member


Elaine Rothenberg, Member


Matthew Snyder, Director

COUNTY: WATAUGA
PROVISIONAL VOTERS STATISTICS BY RESULT
ELECTION: 03/03/2026 - 03/03/2026 PRIMARY

Vote Count	Total
NOT APPROVED	19
PARTIAL	132
APPROVED	15
Grand Total:	166

COUNTY: WATAUGA
PROVISIONAL VOTERS STATISTICS BY VOTING REASONS
ELECTION: 03/03/2026 - 03/03/2026 PRIMARY

Provisional Voting Reason	Vote Count	Reason (Not Approved or Partial)	Total Ballots
DL/SSN PROVISIONAL	APPROVED		2
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			2
ID NOT PROVIDED - EXCEPTION -REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT	APPROVED		4
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			4
ID NOT PROVIDED - EXCEPTION -RELIGIOUS OBJECTION	APPROVED		1
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			1
ID NOT PROVIDED - NO EXCEPTION FORM/RETURN WITH ID	NOT APPROVED	ID NOT PROVIDED	2
	APPROVED		2
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			4
INCORRECT PARTY	NOT APPROVED	WRONG PARTY BALLOT	1
	APPROVED		1
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			2
INCORRECT PRECINCT	PARTIAL	VOTING OUT OF PRECINCT	131
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			131
NO RECORD OF REGISTRATION	NOT APPROVED	NOT REGISTERED	9
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			9
PREVIOUSLY REMOVED	NOT APPROVED	REMOVED	7
	APPROVED		1
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			8
UNRECOGNIZED ADDRESS (GEOCODE ISSUE)	APPROVED		1
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			1
UNREPORTED MOVE	PARTIAL	OTHER	1
	APPROVED		3

Provisional Voting Reason	Vote Count	Reason (Not Approved or Partial)	Total Ballots
Provisional Voting Reason Total:			4
Grand Total:			166