



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

County Courthouse 842 West King Street Boone, North Carolina 28607

County Board of Elections

May 12, 2026

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 13, 2026
4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS
5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
6. 2026 GENERAL ELECTION EARLY VOTING PLAN
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. ADJOURNMENT



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The Watauga County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Watauga County Administration Building located at 814 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. Board Members in attendance were Chairman Perry Yates, Members Leta Council, Elaine Rothenberg, Pam Cline (via Zoon) and Secretary Terry Cirone. Also attending: Elections Director Matt Snyder.

MAY 12, 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 13, 2026

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

4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS

There were three hundred and six (306) new registrations from March 2, 2026, to May 12, 2026. There are a total of 44,336 voters in Watauga County of which 37,686 are active. Member Rothenberg made a motion to accept the report, pending review, and the motion was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 5-0.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Snyder provided an update on the disbursement of Hurricane Helene funds and reimbursement monies for the county.

He also reported that the State Auditor's office has requested information on 2025 election costs as well as 2022 and 2024 General Election costs. The cost information required was very specific and detailed.

This year there was a Legislative day where one half of the County Election Boards got to meet with their jurisdictional legislative representatives. Director Snyder along with the Director's from Ashe and Avery County met with State Representative Pickett and then State Senator Hise. They focused on three items. First, was to move the voter provisional canvass from Friday to Tuesday after election day which was well received. Second was closing the polls early for early voting, prior to 7:30 on election night. The request for 60 million to modernize the SEIMS system was regarded less positively.

The summer conference will be held in Greensboro on August 9th through August 11th.

Director Snyder briefed the board on staff continuing efforts to get assistance from ASU in providing poll workers as well as dissemination of voter information utilizing their Civics Fellowship Program.

Director Snyder provided an update on the proposed BOE budget including an hourly increase for poll workers. A significant discussion ensued because BOE staff pay increases were not supported by the County Commissioners. The BOE members made it clear to Director Snyder and his staff that their performance over the years has been exceptional and that they have the Board's unequivocal support.

There was also a discussion concerning the use of the Rec Center during the last election. The noise and activity level during voting was distracting and several complaints were received about it. Director Snyder will be reaching out to determine if the Center could control activities when voting is taking place to reduce those concerns. There were some suggestions made by the Board for Director Snyder to present to the Rec Center personnel so that this location can still be used on Election Day.

There was also a lengthy discussion about Prediction Markets and betting on legislative races. Some boards in different states have developed and signed resolutions indicating that they would not participate in Prediction Market betting concerning election outcomes. Director Snyder offered to reach out to the County Attorney for his thoughts on the issue and to see if that is something that he could possibly be drafted.

6. 2026 GENERAL ELECTION EARLY VOTING PLAN

Director Snyder presented the proposed 2026 Early Voting Schedule which the Board then reviewed. The sites and times presented are the same as have been previously used in the past elections. Member Council made a motion to accept that plan as presented which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 5-0.

6a AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

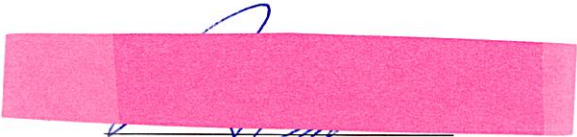
Member Rothenberg presented a draft resolution to the Board titled RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASS LEGISLATION EXTENDING CERTAIN ELECTION DEADLINES. By way of background, she explained that several other NC County BOEs had submitted similar resolutions to the NC Legislature requesting amendments to statutory deadlines concerning when voters must require certain information to their County Board; to the statutory deadline to count provisional official ballots; and to the statutory deadline to announce the tally of absentee ballots. After a considerable discussion and comments from Board Members, Chairman Yates made a motion to table the Resolution until revisions to it could be made and reviewed at the next monthly BOE meeting. Member Council seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was not public comment at the meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

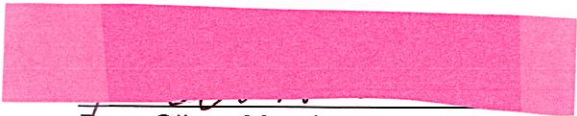
Member Cline made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 5-0.



Perry Yates, Chairman



Terry Cirone, Secretary



Pam Cline, Member



Leta Council, Member



Elaine Rothenberg, Member



Matthew Snyder, Director

Proposed 2026 General Election Early Voting Schedule

Watauga County voters may use any Early Voting site

October 15 - 16 8am – 7:30pm

October 19 - 23 8am – 7:30pm

October 26 - 30 8am – 7:30pm

October 31 8am – 3pm

SITES (ALL HAVE THE SAME SCHEDULE)

1)Watauga County Administration Building

814 W. King Street

2)Blowing Rock American Legion Building

333 Wallingford Street, Blowing Rock

3)Deep Gap Fire Department

6583 Old US 421 S, Deep Gap

4)Meat Camp Fire Department

4797 NC HWY 194

5)Plemmons Student Union – App State

263 Locust St (Parking lot on Howard St)

6)Western Watauga Community Center

1081 Old US HWY 421, Sugar Grove