WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2, 2026
4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
5. TABULATE RESULTS FROM EARLY VOTING
6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ABSENTEE ENVELOPES
7. RECESS MEETING
8. TABULATION OF APPROVED ABSENTEE BY MAIL BALLOTS RECEIVED BY 7:30PM
9. APPROVAL OF ABSENTEE ABSTRACT
10. REVIEW OF PHOTO ID EXCEPTION AFFIDAVIT FORMS FROM ELECTION DAY
11. OTHER BUSINESS
12. ADJOURNMENT

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WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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County Board of Elections

The Watauga County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 1:00 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, Aaron Miller, Elaine Rothenberg and Secretary Terry Cirone. Also attending: Elections Director Matt Snyder and Deputy Director Donna Houck.

NOVEMBER 3, 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 NOVEMBER 2, 2026
   Member Miller moved to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2026, meeting which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

4. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
   Director Snyder reported voting had started well at Precinct locations with a minimum of technical issues that were quickly addressed.

5. TABULATE RESULTS FROM EARLY VOTING
   Board members observed as the seals were removed from all early voting DS300's. Voting paper tapes were removed and signed by all Board members as well and the results tabulated but not published or shared with anyone.

6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ABSENTEE ENVELOPES
   There were fifteen (15) civilian ballots, nine (9) overseas ballots and three (3) military ballots that were received by staff. Three (3) civilian ballots had exception forms. After review of the exception forms by all, Member Councill made a motion to accept the three (3) exception forms which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. There was no discussion and the motion passed 5-0.
   After a review of all twenty-seven (27) ballots by the Board, Member Councill made a motion to approve all ballots received and to accept the total number of six hundred ten (610) as provided by the DS300 which was seconded by Member Councill. There was no discussion and the motion passed 5-0.

7. RECESS MEETING
Member Councill made a motion to recess the meeting which was seconded by Secretary Cirone. The motion passed 5-0. The Board then came back into session to address additional business

8. TABULATION OF APPROVED ABSENTEE BALLOTS RECEIVED BY 7:30
There were an additional thirteen (13) civilian and two (2) overseas ballots received by staff prior to the 7:30 PM deadline. Two (2) of the civilian ballots had exception forms. After review of the exception forms by all, Member Councill made a motion to accept the two (2) exception forms which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. There was no discussion and the motion passed 5-0. After review of all fifteen (15) ballots the Board, Member Councill made a motion to accept the total number of six hundred twenty-five (625) as provided by the DS300 which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. There was no discussion and the motion passed 5-0.

9. APPROVAL OF ABSENTEE ABSTRACT
The absentee ballot abstract was printed. Member Rothenberg made a motion to approve the absentee ballot abstract which was seconded by Member Miller. There was no discussion, and the motion passed 5-0.

10. REVIEW OF PHOTO ID EXCEPTION AFFIDAVIT FORMS FROM ELECTION DAY
There were five (5) photo exception affidavit forms from election day to review. After review of the exception forms by all, Member Rothenberg made a motion to accept the five (5) exception forms which was seconded by Member Councill. There was no discussion and the motion passed 5-0.

11. OTHER BUSINESS
There was a discussion concerning an Incident Report received from the Chief Judge at the ASU voting Precinct. Earlier in the day an individual cut in front of the voting line claiming he had class (he was late) and he needed to vote now. When he was informed that he could not just cut in line, he became so disruptive that voting was halted and the App State police were called in to remove the individual. The individual began using his phone to video-record his interaction. He was finally escorted from the voting site. There was a fifteen (15) minute voting delay caused by this disruption.

The discussion focused on whether the BOE should press charges against this individual. Concerns about voter and election worker safety were key as well as setting a precedent for potential future disruptions. North Carolina's State Board of Elections and state statutes make it a crime to disrupt a voting site - whether by intimidation, obstruction, harassment, or other interference.

A call to the County Attorney clarified that if charges were to be brought, they should be brought by Director Snyder at the direction of the BOE. After significant discussion, Secretary Cirone made a motion that Director Snyder move forward with pressing charges against the individual identified in the ASU precinct Incident Report which was seconded by Member Councill. The motion passed 5-0.

12. ADJOURNMENT
Member Rothenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Member Miller. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the BOE is November 10th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

[redacted]

Perry Yates, Chairman

[redacted]

Terry Cirone, Secretary

Leta Councill, Member

[redacted]

Aaron Miller, Member

[redacted]

Elaine Rothenberg, Member

[redacted]

Matthew Snyder, Director

ABSENTEE ABSTRACT

Election Date: November 03, 2026
Election Description: 11/03/2026 GENERAL

(Totals to be added to official Abstracts on Canvass Day)

We the undersigned board chair and board members of the WATAUGA County Board of Elections, do hereby certify that we met at the time specified in G.S. § 163-234(2) and did count the Absentee Ballots returned to the Board no later than 7:30 PM on 11/3/2026, and do further certify that the following is a true and correct tabulation of said Absentee Ballots, the same **TO BE ADDED TO THE OFFICIAL ABSTRACTS ON CANVASS DAY**, by the undersigned:

Contest		Absentee Votes
US SENATE		
Michael Dublin	GRE	4
Roy Cooper	DEM	443
Shannon W. Bray	LIB	7
Michael Whatley	REP	168
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 05		
Virginia Foxx	REP	184
Robert B. Luffman	LIB	5
Chuck Hubbard	DEM	435
NC SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE SEAT 01		
Anita Earls	DEM	439
Sarah Stevens	REP	179
NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 01		
Michael C. Byrne	REP	179
John S. Arrowood	DEM	438
NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 02		
George Cooper Bell	REP	182
Tobias (Toby) Hampson	DEM	435
NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 03		
Craig Collins	REP	180
Christine Marie Walczyk	DEM	438
NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 47		
Frank Patton Hughes III	DEM	435
Ralph Hise	REP	183
NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 087		
Iris Bender	DEM	56
Destin Hall	REP	32

ABSENTEE ABSTRACT

Election Date: November 03, 2026
Election Description: 11/03/2026 GENERAL

Contest		Absentee Votes (con't)
NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 093		
Charlie Wallin	DEM	381
Ray Pickett	REP	151
NC SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 35 SEAT 01		
Matthew Rupp	REP	305
NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 35 SEAT 01		
Eric F. Eller	REP	189
Andrew Brooks	DEM	430
DISTRICT ATTORNEY DISTRICT 35		
Seth Banks	REP	286
WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01		
Rick Woods	REP	3
Adam Hege	DEM	54
WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 02		
Ray Russell	DEM	100
Savva Kostis	REP	28
WATAUGA COUNTY CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT		
Holly Fehl	DEM	424
Charles M. Haynes	REP	194
WATAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF		
Darin Church	REP	163
Len (LD) Hagaman, Jr.	DEM	456
WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01		
Yolanda Adams		15
Ellen Lamont		34
WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 04		
Chad Cole		41
Megan (Chayyim) Kornhauser		65
WATAUGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR		
David Williams		312
David Scott		285
Aaron Grig		147

ABSENTEE ABSTRACT

Election Date: November 03, 2026
Election Description: 11/03/2026 GENERAL

Contest	Absentee Votes (con't)
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - REQUIRE PHOTO ID FOR VOTING	
For	248
Against	364
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - MAXIMUM INCOME TAX RATE OF 3.5%	
For	304
Against	308
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT	
For	306
Against	302

ABSENTEE ABSTRACT

Election Date: November 03, 2026
Election Description: 11/03/2026 GENERAL

We the undersigned board chair and board members of the WATAUGA County Board of Elections, do hereby certify that the results of the counting of the Absentee Ballots is correctly entered on this Abstract and that the absentee voting recorded herein for each Candidate and/or proposition **shall be entered on each Official Abstract following the Canvass on 11/13/2026 as a separate item titled ABSENTEE VOTES**.

[redacted]
Board Chair

[redacted]
Board Secretary

[redacted]
Board Member

[redacted]
Board Member

[redacted]
Board Member

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix my notary seal, this 3 day of November, 2026

Notary Public [redacted]

My commission expires 9-16-30

MATTHEW SNYDER NOTARY PUBLIC WATAUGA COUNTY, NC