



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

County Board of Elections

The Watauga County Board of Elections met Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 5:00p.m. in the 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: Director Matt Snyder, Deputy Director Donna Houck, Senior Elections Specialist John Hill and Elections Specialist Brad Henderson. County Commissioner Braxton Eggers and County Manager Deron Geouque were also in attendance, as were about a dozen senior precinct chief judges and judges.

February 26, 2025

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michael Behrent called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE

All present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States.

3. VOTING EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION- ES&S/PRINTELECT

The sole purpose of this meeting was a demonstration by ES&S/Printelect of their voting equipment, for possible purchase by Watauga County. The company was represented by CEO Owen Andrews, Vice President of Sales Chris Andrews, Regional Account Manager Michelle Mrozkowski, BOD Coordinator Jennifer Sparks, and Solutions Engineer Tucker Omel. Director Snyder first provided an overview, explaining the County's need for new equipment, and purchasing procedures. Ms. Mrozkowski handled much of the presentation, supplemented by Ms. Sparks and Mr. Omel. Printelect is a family-owned business started in 1902, with strong North Carolina ties. They currently service 93 North Carolina counties. This business has a large North Carolina staff, and also prints ballots for state-wide use. The equipment demonstrated included the DS 300 tabulator, the Express Vote (for ADA-compliant voting), ballot-on-demand (using "Balotar" software), and a high-speed scanner. The Express Vote system currently prints an oblong ballot different visually from a standard ballot, but it is accepted by the DS 300. Plans are under way for this to be upgraded to a system using printed standard format ballots, with hopes for implementation in about 18 months. Watauga County would get a 100% trade in towards the Express Vote 3. ES&S software also provides for multiple reporting formats of post-election data. The demonstration took a little over two hours, and unfortunately allowed no time for audience questions, and only a few from Board Members.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

[REDACTED]

Michael Behrent, Chair

[REDACTED]

Leta Council, Member

[REDACTED]

Elaine Rothenberg, Member

[REDACTED]

Matthew Walpole, Secretary

[REDACTED]

Eric Eller, Member

[REDACTED]

Matthew Snyder, Director