



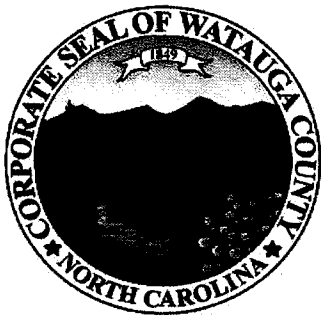
WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

JANUARY 14, 2025

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 20, 21, AND DECEMBER 2, 2024
4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS
5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
6. PROCEDURES TO PURCHASE NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. ADJOURNMENT



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 Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 5:00p.m. in the Watauga County Administration Building located at 814 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. Board members in attendance: Board Members in attendance: Chairperson Michael Behrent, Members Eric Eller, Leta Council and Elaine Rothenberg, and Secretary Matthew Walpole. Also attending: Elections Director Matt Snyder and Deputy Director Donna Houck.

January 14, 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 FOR NOVEMBER 15, 20, 21 AND DECEMBER 2, 2024

Member Eller moved approval of the three sets of November minutes, and for the open session minutes for the meeting of December 2, 2024. Seconded by Member Rothenberg, and approved by 5-0 vote. After the closed session minutes from the meeting of December 2, 2024 were individually reviewed by all Board members, Member Eller moved its approval. Seconded by Member Rothenberg, and approved by 5-0 vote. The minutes of the emergency meeting of December 4, 2024 are still pending.

4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS

Director Snyder reported that after new registrations were processed and biennial list maintenance was performed, current county voter totals are 43,463 in the active/inactive status, and 41,232 in the active status. 2,836 voters who had been inactive since August 9, 2022 were removed from the active rolls. Member Eller moved acceptance of this report pending review, seconded by Member Council. Approved by 5-0 vote.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A final tabulation showed that the County Board of Elections was privileged with 46 meetings in 2024. The county 30-day sort was completed on January 8th. The total of 33,283 ballots was an exact match with expected results.

4,487 confirmation cards have been mailed to voters.

New SL 2024-57 has a section on changes to election law which will dramatically compress time available to county elections offices for post-election reports, especially as they relate to provisional ballot determinations.

It is hoped that a reassessment may occur.

6. PROCEDURES TO PURCHASE NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT

Before purchasing new voting equipment, State law requires that the Board must consider offerings from at least two competing suppliers. Only two suppliers have been accredited by the State: Hart InterCivic and PrintElect. Thus, demonstrations from both companies must be presented to the Board, and pricing information provided for Board consideration. Both companies have submitted initial cost estimates. Actual equipment demonstrations will be scheduled through Director Snyder, with hopes that they can be completed before the March 2025 BOE meeting. The demonstrations will be open to the public, and experienced precinct judges will be strongly encouraged to attend. The possibility of ballot on demand technology and high-speed tabulators will be among the options considered.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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



Michael Behrent, Chair



Matthew Walpole, Secretary



Leta Council, Member



Eric Eller, Member



Elaine Rothenberg, Member



Matthew Snyder, Director



NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Numbered Memo 2021-01

TO: County Boards of Elections
FROM: Karen Brinson Bell, Executive Director
RE: Procedures for Purchasing Voting Equipment
DATE: March 1, 2021 (Revised April 14, 2023; July 20, 2023)

This Numbered Memo updates Numbered Memo 2019-04 and details the procedures a county board of elections is required to follow when seeking to purchase certified voting systems and components.

When seeking to use a new voting system in the county, a county board of elections must follow the same procedures regardless of when the voting system was certified.

Only voting systems certified by the State Board may be used in North Carolina. North Carolina law and the Elections Systems Certification Program adopted by the State Board establish the role of the county board of elections in selecting a new voting system for that county and impose procedures during and after the adoption and acquisition of a certified voting system for use in the county.

For detailed information on the certification process and the role of the State Board and vendors, please see the Elections Systems Certification Program.

Voting Systems Certified by the State Board

The following voting systems are certified for use in North Carolina:

- ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0
 - DS200 precinct tabulator
 - DS300 precinct tabulator
 - DS850 central tabulator
 - DS450 central tabulator
 - DS950 central tabulator
 - ExpressVote ballot marking device
- ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0
 - DS200 precinct tabulator
 - DS450 central tabulator
 - DS850 central tabulator
 - ExpressVote ballot marking device

- AutoMARK ballot marking device
- Hart InterCivic Verity Voting 2.2/2.5
 - Verity Scan precinct tabulator
 - Verity Touch Writer ballot marking device
 - Verity Central Workstation central tabulator
 - Verity Print ballot on demand
- ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1
 - M100 precinct tabulator
 - DS200 precinct tabulator
 - M650 central tabulator
 - DS850 central tabulator
 - AutoMARK ballot marking device
- ES&S Unity 3.0.1.1
 - M100 precinct tabulator
 - M650 central tabulator
 - AutoMARK ballot marking device
- Clear Ballot ClearVote 1.4¹
 - ClearCast precinct tabulator
 - ClearAccess ballot marking device
 - ClearCount central tabulator
 - ClearAudit election audit system

Requirements for Adopting and Acquiring a Certified Voting System

Ultimately, the county board of commissioners (with the recommendation and approval of the county board of elections) must adopt and acquire a voting system that is certified by the State Board for use in the county. Before the board of county commissioners approves the adoption and acquisition of a voting system, the county board of elections must do the following:²

Step 1: Witness a demonstration of the recommended voting system plus at least one other certified voting system not currently used in your county. The demonstration can take place in the county or at a site designated by the State Board.

- 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.

¹ Clear Ballot is not currently used in any county in North Carolina.

² See G.S. § 163-165.9 and Section 3.3.2 of the Certification Program.

- A majority of county board members must meet the demonstration requirement. All board members of the county board of elections should witness a demonstration if possible.

Step 2: 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 to the board of commissioners 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 document its recommendation by resolution, letter, presentation, or other official action.

Step 3: 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.

Option 1: Testing in a Precinct in an Election

- County board staff must notify State Board voting systems staff 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 canvass, the county board must determine that the recommended voting system has met the requirements for voting in that county.

Option 2: Testing in a Simulated Election

- County boards may test proposed voting equipment in a simulated election, in accordance with standards established by the State Board.³
- Please refer to the *Standards for Simulated Election* policy, adopted by the State Board on July 31, 2020 (revised March 28, 2023), for more information on how to test the proposed equipment in a simulated election. The policy is attached to this memo.
- State Board staff must be notified of any plans to conduct a simulated election prior to scheduling.

Step 4: Seek State Board approval to replace the current voting system.

- The county board of elections cannot replace any voting system, or any portion thereof, without approval of the State Board.⁴

³ G.S. § 163-165.9(a)(3)(b).

⁴ See G.S. § 163-165.9(b)(3).

- The form to request approval is attached to this memo.

Step 5: Make a final recommendation to the board of county commissioners.

- The board of commissioners can decline to adopt or acquire any voting system recommended by the county board of elections, but it cannot adopt and acquire a voting system that has not been approved by the county board of elections.⁵
- The public contracting and procurement statutes do not apply to the purchase of a certified voting system.
- Along with the final recommendation, the CBE must submit the proposed vendor contract to the State Board of Elections for review and approval.

Requirements After the County Has Adopted and Acquired a Certified Voting System

The county board of elections must conduct acceptance testing when a newly procured voting system (or any newly acquired type of equipment for a voting system) is delivered. Acceptance testing ensures that the system delivered is identical to that which was certified and that it operates in good working condition. This testing is conducted by the county board with the assistance of State Board staff or consultants approved by the State Board.

Additionally, the county board of elections must also comply with any requirements of the State Board regarding training and support of the voting system by completing all of the following:⁶

- The CBE must comply with all of the vendor's specifications for ballot printers. The CBE can contract with noncertified ballot printer vendors as long as that vendor meets all of the specifications and the State Board's quality assurance requirements.
- The CBE must maintain annual software license agreements.
- The CBE must uphold annual maintenance agreements necessary to maintain the warranty of the voting system or employ qualified personnel to maintain a voting system in lieu of entering into maintenance agreements.
- Before entering into any maintenance agreement, the CBE shall ensure the vendor agrees to operate a training program for qualified personnel hired by the CBE.
- The CBE must notify the State Board at the time of every repair, according to State Board guidelines.
- The CBE must continue to comply with the Voting Systems Vendor Code of Ethics.

⁵ See G.S. § 163-165.8.

⁶ See G.S. § 163-165.9A(a).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: The county board wants to purchase an additional piece of equipment that is part of the voting system the board currently uses. Is the board required to witness a demonstration and is the county board of commissioners required to adopt and acquire the new equipment? Do we need to conduct a simulated election after purchasing the new equipment?

A: The county board does not need to witness a demonstration or seek approval of the county commissioners to adopt and acquire a new component of the county's currently used voting system. Nor does the county need to conduct a simulated election. The county is not adopting a new voting system but rather is purchasing an additional piece of equipment within its currently existing system. With any new purchase of a voting system or any component thereof, the county board needs to conduct acceptance testing to be coordinated with the State Board.

Q: The county board wants to upgrade from ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 to ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0. Is this considered "adopting and acquiring" a new voting system under the statute?

A: Yes. These are two different voting systems, each of which was required to go through full certification review by the State Board. A county board is "adopting and acquiring" a new voting system if it is upgrading to EVS 6.3.0.0 from any other certified voting system, and the county board needs to complete all required steps for adopting and acquiring a new voting system. On the other hand, a county board is not considered to have adopted and acquired a new voting system if it is upgrading to the most recent certified version of the system, where that more recent certified version was not required to go through full certification review by the State Board (*e.g.*, moving from ES&S Unity 3.0.1.1 to Unity 3.4.1.1, or from Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 to Verity 2.5). The State Board determines whether a new version of a voting system is a mere modification of an existing certified system or a new voting system entirely, the latter of which requires full certification review and all preapproval procedures by the county before acquiring a new system.

Q: The county board wants to purchase equipment from a newly certified voting system but much of its existing equipment will continue to work and be used. Is this considered adopting a new voting system?

A: Changing from one certified voting system to another certified system is considered adopting and acquiring a new voting system, even though some equipment remains the same, and your county board needs to complete all required steps for adopting and acquiring a new voting system. A "voting system" is the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment (including the software, firmware, hardware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment) that is used to define ballots; to cast or tabulate votes; to read election media; to report or display election results; and to maintain and produce

any audit trail information.⁷ Although some hardware, can be configured to work with more than one system, if the county is adopting equipment from a new voting system that underwent separate State certification, it is acquiring a new voting system.

Q: The county board wants to adopt a new voting system, and three members of the current board witnessed demonstrations of that new system and another currently certified voting system in the past. Is the board required to witness demonstrations again?

A: A majority of county board members voting on the recommendation must have witnessed a demonstration, so if a majority of the board has already witnessed a demonstration of the recommended voting system and at least one other certified voting system not currently used in the county, the board is not required to repeat the demonstration. However, all board members of the county board of elections should witness a demonstration if possible. Board members are not required to attend demonstrations on the same day.

Q: Can my county board conduct a simulated election prior to witnessing demonstrations?

A: No. The simulated election must take place after witnessing the demonstration of the proposed voting system and one other certified system not currently in use in the county and after making a preliminary recommendation to the county commissioners as to which system the county should adopt and acquire.

Q: Can the demonstration required in Step 1 be conducted virtually?

A: Yes. If a quorum of board members is present, the demonstration must be publicly noticed as a meeting of the board and the county board of commissioners, county manager, county attorney, and the political parties in the county must be notified of the demonstration. Ideally, a virtual demonstration would be provided live. However, if a vendor is offered the opportunity to present in person and live by virtual means, and the vendor declines, the county board may witness a prerecorded demonstration of that vendor's system.

Q: Can the county board's test of a proposed new voting system occur in all precincts or voting sites?

A: No. Using a proposed new voting system in all voting sites or all precincts circumvents the purpose of testing the voting system before it is acquired and ultimately authorized by a county and the State Board to be used as the county's voting system.

⁷ Elections Systems Certification Program at page 3-4 (emphasis added).

Accessibility Requirement

The Help America Vote Act mandates that a voting system provide the same opportunity for access and participation to voters with disabilities as it does to voters without disabilities.

Federal law requires that each voting place have an accessible voting option for voters with disabilities to vote independently. A county board may choose to use any of the certified ballot marking devices to meet this requirement, but due to limitations in tabulation software, a county may not acquire voting systems from more than one vendor.

In selecting the voting system that will be used, county boards should be mindful of the requirement that they must make available at each voting place “an adequate quantity of official ballots or equipment.” Similarly, county commissioners shall provide “for each of those voting places sufficient equipment of the approved voting system.”⁸ County boards should consider the expected turnout in their county and each voting place, including One-Stop early voting, central transfer location, and Election Day, future elections, and the need to reduce long lines whenever possible.

⁸ G.S. § 163-165.10.

Request for Replacement of County Voting System

The _____ County Board of Elections ("Board"), having met on _____ 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.

County Board member 1: _____ Voting Systems Reviewed: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 </div> </div>	Demo Location: _____ Date: _____
County Board member 2: _____ Voting Systems Reviewed: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 </div> </div>	Demo Location: _____ Date: _____
County Board member 3: _____ Voting Systems Reviewed: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 </div> </div>	Demo Location: _____ Date: _____
County Board member 4: _____ Voting Systems Reviewed: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 </div> </div>	Demo Location: _____ Date: _____
County Board member 5: _____ Voting Systems Reviewed: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 </div> </div>	Demo Location: _____ Date: _____

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:

- ☐ by resolution dated _____
- ☐ by letter dated _____ signed by _____
- ☐ by presentation given on _____
- ☐ by nature of an official action taken on _____

that _____ County adopt and acquire the:

- ☐ ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 Voting System
- ☐ ES&S EVS 5.2.4.0 Voting System
- ☐ ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 Voting System
- ☐ 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 type="checkbox"/>	On _____, the county board staff notified the State Board of Elections voting systems staff of its intent to test the recommended voting system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The recommended voting system was tested on _____. 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 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:

☐ Hart InterCivic Verity 2.5 Voting System

☐ ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 Voting System

☐ ES&S EVS 6.3.0.0 Voting System

☐ 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
<i>Precinct Ballot Tabulator (PBT)</i>		
<i>Central Ballot Tabulator (CBT)</i>		
<i>Ballot Marking Device (BMD)</i>		
<i>BMD Printer</i>		
<i>Ballot on Demand (BOD) Printers</i>		

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



NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Standards for Simulated Election

Adopted by the State Board of Elections on July 31, 2020

(Amended March 28, 2023)

Authority

G.S. § 163-165.9(a)(3)(b), as amended by Part IV of Session Law 2019-239, authorizes a county board of elections to test new voting equipment “during a simulated election, in accordance with standards established by the State Board.” The simulated election may be conducted in lieu of testing a new voting system during an election in at least one precinct in the county where the voting system would be used if adopted and acquired.

Standards

A county board of elections conducting a simulated election before approving the adoption and acquisition of any voting system shall complete the following procedures:

1. One standard test election shall be coded by precinct with the following additional “administrative polls”: absentee by mail, provisional, election day transfer and at least three one-stop sites. Contests will model actual election contests and include at least the following: federal partisan single-seat contests; state partisan single-seat contests, including unaffiliated candidates and at least one qualified write-in; county partisan single-seat and multi-seat contests; nonpartisan single-seat and multi-seat contests which allow write-ins; and at least one referendum question.
2. If applicable to the voting system being tested, a second sample election will be coded by style with the same criteria listed in paragraph 1.
3. The county board shall use equipment and coding for 10% of all county precincts or 5 precincts, whichever is greater (unless 5 exceeds the maximum number of precincts, in which case, use equipment and coding for the number of actual county precincts). Additionally, the county shall test all administrative polls, including at least one one-stop site per ten precincts up to a maximum of three one-stop sites. A number of ballots necessary to generate a complete nonrepeating test deck, rounded up to the next multiple of ten ballots, shall be printed. The county board will set up all necessary voting equipment, and testing personnel

shall vote simulated election ballots according to standard ballot marking instructions for the purpose of ensuring that the system is operating properly and has been programmed to count votes accurately.

4. After all simulated voting sites have been opened, voted, and closed, the county board will import results into the election management software, print reports, and compare results against the tabulator results tapes.
5. The State Board of Elections will provide the county board of elections at least two sites chosen at random for a hand-eye sample audit. With each chosen site, the highest contest on the simulated election ballot and one other contest selected at random will be audited.
6. County board of elections members and staff may conduct the simulated election. If possible, the county board of elections shall include precinct officials in the simulated election event. The public shall be invited and may observe the simulated election event.
7. All records, ballots, and related documents for the simulated election shall be retained for 5 years after the testing event and in accordance with the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for County Boards of Elections as issued by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, specifically item 23, "Voting Machine Lists, Testing Records and Certifications."
8. If the county board of elections seeks approval from the State Board to replace the current voting system with the system tested in the simulated election, the following documentation shall be provided with the request as evidence of the simulated election:
 - a. Summary election results report(s);
 - b. By precinct election results report(s); and
 - c. Copies, or a link to digital copies, of tabulator results tapes.

January 14, 2025

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- 46 meetings -

- 30 DAY SORT COMPLETED JANUARY 8 -
- BIENNIAL LIST MAINTENANCE:
 - REMOVED 2,836 VOTERS WHO HAD BEEN INACTIVE SINCE AUGUST 9, 2022
 - MAILED OUT 4,487 CONFIRMATION CARDS
- 2024 G ELECTION PRECINCT NUMBERS
- SL 2024-57

- Party Deck going soon -

[Handwritten signature]

costs. The Department shall provide the funds allocated by this subdivision to the Conservancy upon the earlier of (i) January 1, 2025, or (ii) the date the Department completes the study required by subdivision (c)(4) of Section 14.7 of S.L. 2023-134 and notifies the Office of State Budget and Management that it has done so.

- (2) Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to be divided equally between the 15 eligible entities previously funded for capacity-building grants pursuant to Section 14.7(c)(1) of S.L. 2023-134.
- (3) Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to the Great Trails State Coalition, a nonprofit corporation, for (i) a time-limited position to assist and coordinate trail planning and implementation for the nonprofit organizations in the State, (ii) marketing for trail events, and (iii) promoting outdoor trail recreation.

SUBPART II-I. TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUNDS SHALL NOT REVERT

SECTION 2I.1. Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-1-2(b), G.S. 63-74(d), Section 41.4 of S.L. 2022-74, or any other provision of law to the contrary, funds allocated for airport improvements on or after July 1, 2019, by Section 4.7 of S.L. 2019-231, Section 2.2(j) of S.L. 2023-134, or any other act of the General Assembly for projects that are active as of November 18, 2024, shall not revert but shall remain available to expend until completion of the improvement.

REALLOCATE ROCKINGHAM SPEEDWAY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE FUNDS

SECTION 2I.2. Notwithstanding the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of S.L. 2023-134 or any provision of law to the contrary, of the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year allocated for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Highway 1 at the Rockingham Speedway in Richmond County, one million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$1,700,000) shall be allocated as a grant to the Rockingham Dragway and three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) shall be allocated as a grant to the Rockingham Speedway. The funds reallocated in this section shall be used for facility improvements.

SUBPART II-J. FINANCE

ELIMINATE ADDITIONAL MEANS OF NOTICE TO ADVERTISE PROPERTY TAX LIENS CURRENTLY REQUIRED BY LAW

SECTION 2J.1. Section 22 of S.L. 2024-45 is repealed.

SUBPART II-K. GENERAL PROVISIONS

STORMWATER AND STREAM REHABILITATION ALLOCATION CHANGE

SECTION 2K.1. The funds allocated by Section 5.6(f)(16)a. of S.L. 2023-134 to the Office of State Budget and Management to provide a directed grant to Pilot View Resource Conservation and Development, Inc., for stormwater and stream rehabilitation shall instead be allocated to the Davie County Economic Development Commission, Inc., as a directed grant for the same purposes.

PART III. VARIOUS LAW CHANGES

SUBPART III-A. ELECTIONS

TRANSFER STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO STATE AUDITOR

SECTION 3A.1. Part I of S.L. 2023-139 is repealed.

SECTION 3A.2.(a) The North Carolina State Board of Elections is transferred administratively to the Department of the State Auditor. This transfer has all of the elements of a Type II transfer, as described in G.S. 143A-6, except that the management functions of the State Board of Elections shall not be performed under the direction and supervision of the State Auditor except as provided in this section. Under this transfer, the State Board of Elections shall exercise all its prescribed statutory powers independently of the State Auditor, except that budgeting functions shall be performed under the direction and supervision of the State Auditor.

SECTION 3A.2.(b) No action or proceeding pending on July 1, 2025, brought by or against the State Board of Elections shall be affected by any provision of this section. Any business or other matter undertaken or commanded by any State program or office or contract transferred by this section pertaining to or connected with the functions, powers, obligations, and duties set forth herein, which is pending on July 1, 2025, may be conducted and completed in the same manner and under the same terms and conditions and with the same effect as if conducted and completed by the original program, office, or commissioners or directors thereof.

SECTION 3A.2.(c) The transfer provided for under this section shall not affect any ongoing investigation or audit. Prosecutions for offenses or violations committed before July 1, 2025, are not abated or affected by this section.

SECTION 3A.2.(d) Rules and forms adopted by the State Board of Elections shall remain in effect until amended or repealed.

SECTION 3A.2.(e) G.S. 163-28 is repealed.

SECTION 3A.2.(f) This section becomes effective July 1, 2025.

SECTION 3A.3.(a) Section 2.1, Section 2.2, Section 2.5, Section 4.1, Part V, Section 8.1, Section 8.2, and Section 8.3 of S.L. 2023-139 are repealed.

SECTION 3A.3.(b) G.S. 147-64.6(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(23) The Auditor shall make appointments to the State Board of Elections."

SECTION 3A.3.(c) G.S. 163-19 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-19. State Board of Elections; appointment; term of office; vacancies; oath of office.

(a) There is established the State Board of Elections, which may be referred to as the "State Board" in this Chapter.

(b) ~~The State Board of Elections shall consist of five registered voters whose terms of office shall begin on May 1, 2019, May 1 of the year following the election of the President of the United States and shall continue for four years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The Governor-State Auditor shall appoint the members of the State Board and likewise shall appoint their successors every four years at the expiration of each four-year term. Not more than three members of the State Board shall be members of the same political party. The Governor-State Auditor shall appoint the members from a list of nominees submitted to the Governor-State Auditor by the State party chair of each of the two political parties having the highest number of registered affiliates as reflected by the latest registration statistics published by the State Board. Each State party chair shall submit a list of four nominees who are affiliated with that political party. No person may serve more than two full consecutive four-year terms.~~

(c) Any vacancy occurring in the State Board shall be filled by the ~~Governor, State Auditor,~~ and the person so appointed shall ~~fill serve the remainder of the unexpired term.~~ The ~~Governor-State Auditor~~ shall fill the vacancy from a list of three nominees submitted to the ~~Governor-State Auditor~~ by the State party chair of the political party that nominated the vacating member as provided in subsection (b) of this section. The State party chair shall submit a list of three nominees must be who are affiliated with that political party.

...."

SECTION 3A.3.(d) G.S. 163-20 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-20. Meetings of Board; quorum; minutes.

(a) Call of meeting. – The State Board of Elections shall meet at the call of the ~~chairman~~ chair whenever necessary to discharge the duties and functions imposed upon it by this Chapter. The ~~chairman~~ chair shall call a meeting of the State Board upon the written application or applications of any two members thereof. If there is no ~~chairman~~ chair, or if the ~~chairman~~ chair does not call a meeting within three days after receiving a written request or requests from two members, any three members of the State Board shall have power to call a meeting of the State Board, and any duties imposed or powers conferred on the State Board by this Chapter may be performed or exercised at that meeting, although the time for performing or exercising the same prescribed by this Chapter may have expired.

(b) Place of Meeting. – Except as provided in ~~subsection (c), below, subsection (c) of this section~~, the State Board of Elections shall meet in its offices in the City of Raleigh, or at another place in the City of Raleigh to be designated by the ~~chairman~~ chair. However, subject to the limitation imposed by ~~subsection (c), below, subsection (c) of this section~~ upon the prior written request of any four members, the State Board of Elections shall meet at any other place in the State designated by the four members.

(c) Meetings to Investigate Alleged Violations of This Chapter. – When called upon to investigate or hear sworn alleged violations of this Chapter, the State Board of Elections shall meet and hear the matter in the county in which the violations are alleged to have occurred.

(d) Quorum. – A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business by the State Board of Elections. ~~Board.~~ If any member of the State Board fails to attend a meeting, and by reason thereof there is no quorum, the members present shall adjourn from day to day for not more than three days, by the end of which time, if there is no quorum, the ~~Governor~~ State Auditor may summarily remove any member failing to attend and appoint his a successor.

(e) Minutes. – The State Board of Elections shall keep minutes recording all proceedings and findings at each of its meetings. The minutes shall be recorded in a book which shall be kept in the office of the State Board in the City of Raleigh."

SECTION 3A.3.(e) G.S. 163-22(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) The State Board shall advise the county boards of elections as to the proper methods of conducting primaries and elections. The State Board shall require all reports from the county boards of elections and election officers as provided by law, or as are deemed necessary by the State Board, and shall compel observance of the requirements of the election laws by county boards of elections and other election officers. In performing these duties, the State Board shall have the right to hear and act on complaints arising by petition or otherwise, on the failure or neglect of a county board of elections to comply with any part of the election laws imposing duties upon a county board of elections. ~~board.~~ The State Board shall have power to remove from office any member of a county board of elections for incompetency, neglect or failure to perform duties, fraud, or for any other satisfactory cause. Before exercising this power, the State Board shall notify the county board of elections member affected and give that member an opportunity to be heard."

SECTION 3A.3.(f) G.S. 163-30 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-30. County boards of elections; appointments; terms of office; qualifications; vacancies; oath of office; instructional meetings.

(a) In every county of the State there shall be a county board of elections, ~~to which may be referred to as "county board" in this Chapter.~~ Each county board shall consist of five persons of good moral character who are registered voters in the county in which they are to act. ~~Members of county boards of elections shall be appointed by the State Board of Elections on the last Tuesday in June, and every two years thereafter, and their terms of office shall continue for two years from the specified date of appointment and until their successors are appointed and qualified.~~ Four members of each county boards of elections board shall be appointed by the State

Board on the last Tuesday in June ~~and every two years thereafter, and their terms of office of each odd-numbered year and shall continue for two years from the specified date of appointment and to serve until their successors are appointed and qualified.~~ One member of the ~~each county boards of elections board~~ shall be appointed by the ~~Governor~~ State Auditor to be the chair of the county board on the last Tuesday in June ~~and every two years thereafter, of each odd-numbered year~~ and that member's term of office shall continue ~~for two years from the specified date of appointment and until a successor is appointed and qualified.~~ Of the appointments to each county board ~~of elections~~ by the State Board, two members each shall belong to the two political parties having the highest number of registered affiliates as reflected by the latest registration statistics published by the State Board.

(b) No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of a county board ~~of elections~~ who meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Holds any elective office under the government of the United States, or of the State of North Carolina or any political subdivision thereof.
- (2) Holds any office in a state, congressional district, county or precinct political party or organization. Provided, however, that the position of delegate to a political party convention shall not be considered an office for the purpose of this subdivision.
- (3) Is a campaign manager or treasurer of any candidate or political party in a primary or election.
- (4) Is a candidate for nomination or election.
- (5) Is the wife, husband, son, son in law, daughter, daughter in law, mother, mother in law, father, father in law, sister, sister in law, brother, brother in law, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew of any candidate for nomination or election. Upon any member of the county board of elections becoming ineligible, that member's seat shall be declared vacant. This subdivision only applies if the county board ~~of elections~~ is conducting the election for which the relative is a candidate.

(c) The State chair of the two political parties having the highest number of registered affiliates as reflected by the latest registration statistics published by the State Board shall have the right to recommend to the State Board three registered voters in each county for appointment to the county board of elections for that county. If such recommendations are received by the State Board 15 or more days before the last Tuesday in June 2019, ~~and each two years thereafter, of each odd-numbered year,~~ it shall be the duty of the State Board to appoint the county boards from the names thus recommended.

(d) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the membership of a county board ~~of elections~~ for any cause the State chair of the political party of the vacating member shall have the right to recommend two registered voters of the affected county for such office, and it shall be the duty of the State Board to fill the vacancy from the names thus recommended.

(e) At the meeting of the county board ~~of elections~~ required by G.S. 163-31 to be held on Tuesday following the third Monday in July in the year of their appointment the members shall take the following oath of office:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States; and that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of member of the _____ County Board of Elections to the best of my knowledge and ability, according to law; so help me God."

(f) Each member of the county board ~~of elections~~ shall attend each instructional meeting held pursuant to G.S. 163-46, unless excused for good cause by the chair of the county board,

and shall be paid the sum of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) per day for attending each of those meetings."

SECTION 3A.3.(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the current terms of office of the members of the State Board of Elections shall terminate on April 30, 2025, and members shall be appointed to the State Board of Elections in accordance with G.S. 163-19, as amended by this section, for a term to begin May 1, 2025.

SECTION 3A.3.(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the current terms of office of the members of the county boards of elections shall terminate on June 24, 2025, and members of each county board of election shall be appointed in accordance with G.S. 163-30, as amended by this section, for a term beginning on June 25, 2025, and expiring on July 19, 2027.

VARIOUS ELECTION CHANGES

SECTION 3A.4.(a) G.S. 163-82.4(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) Correcting Registration Forms. – If the voter fails to complete any required item on the voter registration form but provides enough information on the form to enable the county board of elections to identify and contact the voter, the voter shall be notified of the omission and given the opportunity to complete the form at least by 5:00 P.M. 12:00 P.M. on the third business day before the county canvass as set in G.S. 163-182.5(b). after the election. If the voter corrects that omission within that time and is determined by the county board of elections to be eligible to vote, the county board shall permit the voter to vote. If the information is not corrected by election day, the voter shall be allowed to vote a provisional official ballot. If the correct information is provided to the county board of elections by at least 5:00 P.M. 12:00 P.M. on the third business day before the county canvass, after the election, the county board shall count any portion of the provisional official ballot that the voter is eligible to vote."

SECTION 3A.4.(b) G.S. 163-166.8(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Precinct officials shall maintain a log of any individual, other than a minor child under the age of 18 in the care of a voter, who enters the voting place pursuant to this section and is not seeking to vote in that voting place. The Precinct officials shall use the log provided by the State Board, which shall include the printed name and address of the individual entering the voting place, the time the individual entered the voting place, and a space for that individual's signature. This subsection shall not apply to observers and runners appointed pursuant to G.S. 163-45.1 and G.S. 163-45.2."

SECTION 3A.4.(c) G.S. 163-166.12 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-166.12. Requirements for certain voters who register by mail.

...

(d) Voting When Identification Numbers Do Not Match. – Regardless of whether an individual has registered by mail or by another method, if the individual has provided with the registration form a drivers license number or last four digits of a Social Security number but the computer validation of the number as required by G.S. 163-82.12 did not result in a match, and the number has not been otherwise validated by the board of elections, county board, in the first election in which the individual votes that individual shall submit with the ballot the form of identification described in subsection (a) or subsection (b) of this section, depending upon whether the ballot is voted in person or absentee. If that identification is provided no later than 12:00 P.M. on the third business day after the election and the county board of elections does not determine that the individual is otherwise ineligible to vote a ballot, the failure of identification numbers to match shall not prevent that individual from registering to vote and having that individual's vote counted.

(e) The Right to Vote Provisionally. – If an individual is required under subsection (a), (b), or (d) of this section to present identification in order to vote, but that individual does not present the required identification, that individual may vote a provisional official ballot. If the voter is at the voting place, the voter may vote provisionally there without unnecessary delay. If

the voter is voting by ~~mail-in~~ absentee ballot, the ~~mailed~~ absentee ballot without the required identification shall be treated as a provisional official ballot.

...."

SECTION 3A.4.(d) G.S. 163-166.16(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) **Provisional Ballot Required Without Photo Identification.** – If the registered voter cannot produce the identification as required in subsection (a) of this section, the registered voter may cast a provisional ballot that is counted only if the registered voter brings an acceptable form of photograph identification listed in subsection (a) of this section to the county board of elections no later than ~~the end of business on the business day prior to the canvass by the county board of elections as provided in G.S. 163-182.5-12:00 P.M. on the third business day after the election.~~ The State Board shall provide the registered voter casting a provisional ballot due to failure to provide photo identification an information sheet on the deadline to return to the county board of elections to present photo identification, and what forms of photo identification are acceptable, in order for the voter's provisional ballot to be counted."

SECTION 3A.4.(e) G.S. 163-182.2(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

"(4) If the county board of elections finds that an individual voting a provisional official ballot (i) was registered in the county as provided in 163-82.1, (ii) voted in the proper precinct under G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57, and (iii) was otherwise eligible to vote, the provisional official ballots shall be counted by the county board of elections ~~before the canvass.~~ no later than 5:00 P.M. on the third business day after the election. Except as provided in G.S. 163-82.15(e), if the county board finds that an individual voting a provisional official ballot (i) did not vote in the proper precinct under G.S. 163-55 and G.S. 163-57, (ii) is not registered in the county as provided in G.S. 163-82.1, or (iii) is otherwise not eligible to vote, the ballot shall not be counted. If a voter was properly registered to vote in the election by the county board, no mistake of an election official in giving the voter a ballot or in failing to comply with G.S. 163-82.15 or G.S. 163-166.11 shall serve to prevent the counting of the vote on any ballot item the voter was eligible by registration and qualified by residency to vote."

SECTION 3A.4.(f) G.S. 163-230.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-230.1. Simultaneous issuance of absentee ballots with application.

(a) **Written Request.** – A qualified voter who is eligible to vote by absentee ballot under G.S. 163-226, or that voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, shall complete a request form for an absentee application and absentee ballots so that the county board of elections receives that completed request form not later than 5:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday before the election. That completed written request form shall be in compliance with G.S. 163-230.2. The county board of elections shall enter in the register of absentee requests, applications, and ballots issued the information required in G.S. 163-228 as soon as each item of that information becomes available. Upon receiving the completed request form, the county board of elections shall cause to be mailed to that voter a single package that includes all of the following:

- (1) The official ballots the voter is entitled to vote.
- (2) A container-return envelope for the ballots, printed in accordance with G.S. 163-229.
- (3) An instruction sheet.
- (4) A clear statement of the requirement for a photocopy of identification described in G.S. 163-166.16(a) or an affidavit as described in G.S. 163-166.16(d)(1), (d)(2), or (d)(3) with the returned ballot.

(a1) **Mailing of Application and Ballots.** – The ballots, envelope, and instructions shall be mailed to the voter by the county board's chair, member, officer, or employee as determined by the county board and entered in the register as provided by this Article.

(a2) Publish Deadline for Written Request and Ballot. – At least once per primary or election, each county board of elections and the State Board shall publish on its website or in any mailing sent to voters the following information:

- (1) The date by which a completed request form as described in subsection (a) of this section must be received by a county ~~board of elections~~ board.
- (2) The means by which the voter's marked absentee ballot must be returned to the county ~~board of elections~~ board.
- (3) The date and time the voter's completed absentee ballot must be received by the county board of elections in order to be counted.

(b) Absence for Sickness or Physical Disability. – Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, if a voter expects to be unable to go to the voting place to vote in person on election day because of that voter's sickness or other physical disability, that voter or that voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian may make the request for absentee ballots in person to the county ~~board of elections~~ of the county in which the voter is registered after 5:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday before the election but not later than 5:00 P.M. on the last business day before the election. The county board of elections shall treat that completed request form in the same manner as a request under subsection (a) of this section but may personally deliver the application and ballots to the voter or that voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, and shall enter in the register of absentee requests, applications, and ballots issued the information required in G.S. 163-228 as soon as each item of that information becomes available. The county board of elections shall personally deliver to the requester in a single package:

- (1) The official ballots the voter is entitled to vote.
- (2) A container-return envelope for the ballots, printed in accordance with G.S. 163-229.
- (3) An instruction sheet.
- (4) A clear statement of the requirement for a photocopy of identification described in G.S. 163-166.16(a) or an affidavit as described in G.S. 163-166.16(d)(1), (d)(2), or (d)(3) with the returned application and voted ballots.

(c) Delivery of Absentee Ballots and Container-Return Envelope to Applicant. – When the county board of elections receives a completed request form for applications and absentee ballots from the voter, or the near relative or the verifiable legal guardian of that voter, the county board shall promptly issue and transmit them to the voter in accordance with the following instructions:

- (1) On the top margin of each absentee ballot the applicant is entitled to vote, the chair, a member, officer, or employee of the county ~~board of elections~~ shall write or type the words "Absentee Ballot No. ____ " or an abbreviation approved by the State Board and insert in the blank space the number assigned the applicant's application in the register of absentee requests, applications, and absentee ballots issued. That person shall not write, type, or print any other matter upon the absentee ballots transmitted to the absentee voter. Alternatively, the county ~~board of elections~~ may cause to be barcoded on the absentee ballot the voter's application number, if that barcoding system is approved by the State Board.
- (2) The chair, member, officer, or employee of the county ~~board of elections~~ shall fold and place the absentee ballots (identified in accordance with the preceding instruction) in a container-return envelope and write or type in the appropriate blanks thereon, in accordance with the terms of G.S. 163-229(b), the absentee voter's name, the absentee voter's application number, and the designation of the precinct in which the voter is registered. If the absentee ballot is barcoded under this section, the envelope may be barcoded rather

than having the actual number appear. The person placing the absentee ballots in the envelopes shall leave the container-return envelope holding the absentee ballots unsealed.

- (3) The chair, member, officer, or employee of the county board of elections shall then place the unsealed container-return envelope holding the absentee ballots together with printed instructions for voting and returning the absentee ballots, in an envelope addressed to the voter at the post office address stated in the request, seal the envelope, and mail it at the expense of the county board of elections. ~~board~~. Provided, that in case of a request received after 5:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday before the election under the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, in lieu of transmitting the absentee ballots to the voter in person or by mail, the chair, member, officer, or employee of the county board of elections may deliver the sealed envelope containing the instruction sheet and the container-return envelope holding the absentee ballots to a near relative or verifiable legal guardian of the voter.

The county board of elections may receive completed written request forms for applications at any time prior to the election but shall not mail applications and absentee ballots to the voter or issue applications and absentee ballots in person earlier than 60 days prior to the statewide general election in an even-numbered year, or earlier than 50 days prior to any other election. No election official shall issue applications for absentee ballots except in compliance with this Article.

(d) Voter to Complete. – The application shall be completed and signed by the voter personally, the absentee ballots marked, the absentee ballots sealed in the container-return envelope, and the certificate completed as provided in G.S. 163-231.

(e) Approval of Applications. – At its next official meeting prior to election day after the return of the completed container-return envelope with the voter's absentee ballots, the county board of elections shall determine whether the container-return envelope has been properly executed. If the county board determines that the container-return envelope has been properly executed, it shall approve the application and deposit the container-return envelope with other container-return envelopes for the envelope to be opened and the absentee ballots counted at the same time as all other container-return envelopes and absentee ballots.

(e1) Curable Deficiencies. – If a container-return envelope contains a curable deficiency, the county board of elections shall promptly notify the voter of the deficiency and the manner in which the voter may cure the deficiency. Curable deficiencies are deficiencies that can be cured with supplemental documentation or attestation provided by the voter, including when any of the following occurs:

- (1) The voter did not sign the voter certification as required by G.S. 163-231(a)(4).
- (2) The voter signed the application in the wrong place on the application.
- (3) The voter failed to include with the container-return envelope a photocopy of identification described in G.S. 163-166.16(a) or an affidavit as described in G.S. 163-166.16(d)(1), (d)(2), or (d)(3), as required by subsection (f1) of this section.

The identification of the two persons witnessing the casting of the absentee ballot in accordance with G.S. 163-231(a) is not a curable deficiency. Any container-return envelope with a curable deficiency that is transmitted to the county board shall be considered timely if cure documentation is received no later than the end of business 12:00 P.M. on the third business day before the canvass conducted by the county board of elections held pursuant to G.S. 163-182.5 after the election. Cure documentation may be transmitted via e-mail ~~email~~ to the county board of elections if the deficiency is one described in subdivision (3) of this subsection. The notification of voters regarding curable deficiencies is an administrative task that may be

performed by county board staff and is not required to be performed at an absentee meeting as provided for in subsection (f) of this section. The voter shall be notified of curable deficiencies by mail, and by telephone or email if the telephone number or email address was provided by the voter on the request form for absentee ballots.

(f) Required Meeting of County Board of Elections. – During the period commencing on the fifth Tuesday before an election, in which absentee ballots are authorized, the county board ~~of elections~~ shall hold one or more public meetings each Tuesday at 5:00 P.M. for the purpose of action on applications for absentee ballots. At these meetings, the county board ~~of elections~~ shall pass upon applications for absentee ballots.

If the county board ~~of elections~~ changes the time of holding its meetings or provides for additional meetings in accordance with the terms of this subsection, notice of the change in hour and notice of the schedule of additional meetings, if any, shall be published in a newspaper circulated in the county at least 30 days prior to the election.

At the time the county board ~~of elections~~ makes its decision on an application for absentee ballots, the county board shall enter in the appropriate column in the register of absentee requests, applications, and ballots issued opposite the name of the applicant a notation of whether the applicant's application was "Approved" or "Disapproved".

The decision of the county board on the validity of an application for absentee ballots shall be final subject only to such review as may be necessary in the event of an election contest. The county board ~~of elections~~ shall constitute the proper official body to pass upon the validity of all applications for absentee ballots received in the county; this function shall not be performed by the chair or any other member of the county board individually.

(f1) Each container-return envelope returned to the county board with application and voted ballots under this section shall be accompanied by a photocopy of identification described in G.S. 163-166.16(a) or an affidavit as described in G.S. 163-166.16(d)(1), (d)(2), or (d)(3).

(g) Rules. – The State Board, by rule or by instruction to the county ~~board~~ boards of elections, shall establish procedures to provide appropriate safeguards in the implementation of this section. The State Board shall adopt rules to provide for the forms of identification that shall be included with returned application and voted absentee ballots. At a minimum, the rules shall include the following:

- (1) Acceptable photocopies of forms of readable identification, as described in G.S. 163-166.16(a).
- (2) A process for a voter without acceptable photocopies of forms of readable identification under subdivision (1) of this subsection to complete an alternative affidavit in accordance with G.S. 163-166.16(d)(1), (d)(2), or (d)(3) that includes inability to attach a physical copy of the voter's identification with the returned application and voted ballots as a reasonable impediment to compliance with the identification requirement, provided the reasonable impediment includes one of the following:
 - a. The number of the voter's North Carolina drivers license issued under Article 2 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes, including a learner's permit or a provisional license.
 - b. The number of the voter's special identification card for nonoperators issued under G.S. 20-37.7.
 - c. The last four digits of the voter's social security number.

(h) Recodified as G.S. 163-226(f) by Session Laws 2019-239, s. 1.2(a), effective January 1, 2020, and applicable to elections conducted on or after that date."

SECTION 3A.4.(g) G.S. 163-234 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-234. Counting absentee ballots by county ~~board of elections~~ board.

All absentee ballots returned to the county board of elections in the container-return envelopes shall be retained by the county board of elections to be counted by the county board of elections as follows:

- (1) Only those absentee ballots returned to the county board of elections in a properly executed container-return envelope and received pursuant to G.S. 163-231 shall be counted. Absentee ballots not received pursuant to all requirements in G.S. 163-231 shall not be deemed to be valid and shall not be counted. ~~Absentee ballots received prior to election day shall be counted on election day.~~ An absentee ballot returned in an executed container-return envelope containing a deficiency listed in G.S. 163-230.1(e) shall be counted if documentation curing the deficiency is timely received by the county board of elections in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 163-230.1(e).
- (2) The county board of elections shall meet at 5:00 P.M. on election day in the county board office or other public location in the county courthouse for the purpose of counting all absentee ballots except those which have been challenged before 5:00 P.M. on election day, ~~those received on election day,~~ day and those received pursuant to G.S. 163-231(b)(2). Any elector of the county shall be permitted to attend the meeting and allowed to observe the counting process, so long as the elector does not in any manner interfere with the election officials in the discharge of their duties. The count of these absentee ballots shall be continuous until completed, and the members shall not separate or leave the counting place except for unavoidable necessity.

The county board of elections may begin counting absentee ballots issued under Article 21A of this Chapter between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. and may begin counting all absentee ballots between the hours of 2:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. upon the adoption of a resolution at least two weeks prior to the election in which the hour and place of counting absentee ballots shall be stated. ~~The resolution also may provide for an additional meeting following the day of the election and prior to the day of canvass to count absentee ballots received on election day as provided in subdivision (11) of this section.~~ A copy of the resolution shall be published once a week for two weeks prior to the election, in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. Notice may additionally be made on a radio or television station or both, but the notice shall be in addition to the newspaper and other required notice. The count shall be continuous until completed and the members shall not separate or leave the counting place except for unavoidable necessity, except that if the count has been completed prior to the time the polls close, it shall be suspended until that time pending receipt of any additional ballots. Nothing in this section prohibits a county board of elections from taking preparatory steps for the count earlier than the times specified in this section, as long as the preparatory steps do not reveal to any individual not engaged in the actual count election results before the times specified in this subdivision for the count to begin. By way of illustration and not limitation, a preparatory step for the count would be the entry of tally cards from direct record electronic voting units into a computer for processing. The county board shall not announce the result of the count before 7:30 P.M.

- (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this section, a county board of elections may, at each meeting at which it approves absentee ballot applications pursuant to G.S. 163-230.1(e) and (f), remove those absentee ballots from their envelopes and have them read by an optical scanning machine, without printing the totals on the scanner. The county board shall complete the

counting of these absentee ballots at the times provided in subdivision (2) of this section. The State Board shall provide instructions to county boards ~~of elections~~ for executing this procedure, and the instructions shall be designed to ensure the accuracy of the count, the participation of county board members of both parties, and the secrecy of the results before election day. This subdivision applies only in counties that use optical scan devices to count absentee ballots.

- (4) The counting of absentee ballots shall not commence until a majority and at least one county board member of each political party represented on the county board is present and that fact is publicly declared and entered in the official minutes of the county board.
- (5) The county board ~~of elections~~ may employ such assistants as deemed necessary to count the absentee ballots, but each county board member present shall be responsible for and observe and supervise the opening and tallying of the absentee ballots.
- (6) As each ballot envelope is opened, the county board shall cause to be entered into a pollbook designated "Pollbook of Absentee Voters" the name of the absentee voter, or if the pollbook is computer-generated, the county board shall check off the name. Preserving secrecy, the absentee ballots shall be placed in the appropriate ballot boxes, at least one of which shall be provided for each type of ballot.

After all absentee ballots have been placed in the boxes, the counting process shall begin.

If a challenge transmitted to the county board on canvass day by a chief judge is sustained, the absentee ballots challenged and sustained shall be withdrawn from the appropriate boxes, as provided in G.S. 163-89(e).

As soon as the absentee ballots have been counted and the names of the absentee voters entered in the pollbook as required in this subdivision, the county board members and assistants employed to count the absentee ballots shall each sign the pollbook immediately beneath the last absentee voter's name entered in the pollbook. The county board ~~of elections~~ is responsible for the safekeeping of the pollbook of absentee voters.

- (7) Upon completion of the counting process the county board members shall cause the results of the tally to be entered on the absentee abstract prescribed by the State Board. The abstract shall be signed by the members of the county board in attendance and the original mailed immediately to the State Board.
- (8) One copy of the absentee abstract shall be retained by the county board ~~of elections~~ and the totals appearing on the absentee abstract shall be added to the final totals of all votes cast in the county for each office as determined on the official canvass.
- (9) In the event a political party does not have a member of the county board ~~of elections~~ present at the meeting to count absentee ballots due to illness or other cause of the member, the counting shall not commence until the county party chair of the absent member, or a member of the party's county executive committee, is in attendance. The person shall act as an official witness to the counting and shall include his or her printed name and signature on the absentee ballot abstract, along with the name of who designated him or her to attend.
- (10) The county board ~~of elections~~ shall retain all container-return envelopes and absentee ballots, in a safe place, for at least 22 months, and longer if any contest is pending concerning the validity of any ballot.

- (11) ~~The county board of elections shall meet after election day and prior to the date of canvass to determine whether the container return envelopes for absentee ballots received on election day pursuant to G.S. 163-231(b) have been properly executed. The county board of elections shall comply with the requirements of G.S. 163-230.1 for approval of applications. Any absentee ballots received pursuant to G.S. 163-231(b)(2) shall be counted by the county board of elections on the day of canvass. The county board of elections may also shall meet following after the day of the election and prior to the day of canvass to count absentee ballots received pursuant to G.S. 163-231(b)(2) upon the adoption of a resolution pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section. The county board of elections shall comply with all other requirements of this section and G.S. 163-230.1 for the counting of these absentee ballots.~~
- (12) No later than 5:00 P.M. on the third business day after the election, the county board shall announce the tally of all absentee ballots, except those subject to a challenge or those cast in accordance with Article 21A of this Chapter."

SECTION 3A.4.(h) This section becomes effective January 1, 2025, and applies to elections conducted on or after that date.

SECTION 3A.5.(a) G.S. 163-278.19B reads as rewritten:.

"§ 163-278.19B. Political party headquarters building funds.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 163-278.19, a person prohibited by that section from making a contribution may donate to political ~~parties~~ parties, and affiliated party committees and political parties and affiliated party committees may accept from such a ~~person~~ person, money and other things of value donated to a political party headquarters building fund.

(b) Donations made to the political party headquarters building fund in accordance with this section shall be subject to all the following rules:

- (1) The donations solicited and accepted are designated to the political party headquarters building fund.
- (2) Potential donors to ~~that the political party headquarters building fund~~ are advised that all donations will be exclusively for the political party headquarters building fund.
- (3) The political party or affiliated party committee establishes a separate segregated bank account into which shall be deposited only donations for the political party headquarters building fund from persons prohibited by G.S. 163-278.19 from making contributions.
- (4) The donations deposited in the separate segregated bank account for the political party headquarters building fund ~~will~~ shall be spent only as follows:
 - a. ~~to purchase a principal headquarters building, to construct a principal headquarters building, to renovate a principal headquarters building, or to pay a mortgage on a principal headquarters building, to repay donors if a principal headquarters building is not purchased, constructed, or renovated, or building.~~
 - b. ~~to pay building rent or monthly or bimonthly utility expenses incurred to operate the principal headquarters building. Donations deposited into that account shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in the preceding sentence, and specifically shall not be used for headquarters equipment other than fixtures, personnel compensation, or travel or fundraising expenses or requirements of any kind.~~
 - c. Notwithstanding the above, To compensate personnel compensation and including in-kind benefits may be paid to for no more than three personnel whose functions are primarily administrative in nature, such as providing accounting, payroll, or campaign finance reporting

services, for the party and whose job functions require no more than ten percent (10%) of work time to be spent on political advocacy each calendar year.

- d. To repay donors if a principal headquarters building is not purchased, constructed, renovated, or rented.
- e. To fund legal actions as defined in G.S. 163-278.300(4).
- f. To make a legal expense donation to a legal expense fund under Article 22M of this Chapter.

- (5) The political party executive committee or affiliated party committee shall report donations to and spending by a political party headquarters building fund on every report required to be made by G.S. 163-278.9. If a committee is excused from making general campaign finance reports under G.S. 163-278.10A, that committee shall nonetheless report donations in any amount to and spending in any amount by the political party headquarters building fund at the times required for reports in G.S. 163-278.9.

(c) Donations deposited into a political party headquarters building fund shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in this section. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the political party headquarters building fund shall not be used for headquarters equipment other than fixtures, personnel compensation, travel, fundraising expenses, or other expenses of any kind.

(d) ~~If all the criteria set forth in subdivisions (1) through (5) of this section are complied with, then donations to~~ Donations made to, and spending by by, a political party headquarters building fund do fund in accordance with this section shall not constitute contributions or expenditures as defined in G.S. 163-278.6. If those criteria are complied with, then donations may be made to a political party headquarters building fund."

SECTION 3A.5.(b) G.S. 163-278.316 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(f) A legal expense fund may accept a legal expense donation from a political party headquarters building fund."

SECTION 3A.5.(c) This section becomes effective January 1, 2025, and applies to donations made and expenses paid on or after that date.

SUBPART III-B. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MODIFY CERTAIN PROCEDURES RELATED TO APPOINTMENTS

SECTION 3B.1.(a) G.S. 120-122 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-122. Vacancies in legislative appointments.

When a vacancy occurs in any office subject to appointment by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or upon the recommendation of the President of the Senate, and the vacancy occurs either: (i) after election of the General Assembly but before convening of the regular session; (ii) when the General Assembly has adjourned to a date certain, which date is more than 20 days after the date of adjournment; (iii) after sine die adjournment of the regular session; or (iv) when the term of office expires and a successor has not been appointed, then the Governor may appoint a person to serve until the expiration of the term or until the General Assembly fills the vacancy, whichever occurs first. The General Assembly may fill the vacancy in accordance with G.S. 120-121 during a regular or extra session. When a person is holding over in office after the expiration of the term, for the purpose of this section that office may be filled as if it were vacant. Before making an ~~appointment~~, appointment in accordance with this section, the Governor shall consult the officer who recommended the original appointment to the General Assembly (the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or the President of the Senate), and ask for a written recommendation.

PRECINCT	REG VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	TURNOUT %
1 BALD MTN	552	465	0.842391304
2 BEAVER DAM	1086	879	0.809392265
3 BLOWING ROCK	2830	2263	0.799646643
4 BLUE RIDGE	3912	3065	0.783486708
5 BOONE 1	1841	1244	0.675719718
6 BOONE 2	3452	2027	0.587195829
7 BRUSHY FORK	3983	2921	0.733366809
8 COVE CREEK	2289	1882	0.822193097
9 ELK	686	549	0.800291545
10 LAUREL CREEK	1118	862	0.771019678
11 MEAT CAMP	2429	1966	0.809386579
12 BOONE 3	3818	2158	0.565217391
13 NEW RIVER 1	3087	1984	0.642695173
14 NEW RIVER 2	3646	2693	0.738617663
15 NEW RIVER 3	4245	3136	0.738751472
16 NORTH FORK	170	139	0.817647059
17 SHAWNEEHAW	670	505	0.753731343
18 STONY FORK	1895	1544	0.814775726
19 WATAUGA	3318	2602	0.784207354
20 BEECH MTN	581	399	0.686746988
	45608	33283	0.729762322

PRECINCT	REG VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	TURNOUT %
1 BALD MTN	552	465	0.842391
8 COVE CREEK	2289	1882	0.822193
16 NORTH FORK	170	139	0.817647
18 STONY FORK	1895	1544	0.814776
2 BEAVER DAM	1086	879	0.809392
11 MEAT CAMP	2429	1966	0.809387
9 ELK	686	549	0.800292
3 BLOWING ROCK	2830	2263	0.799647
19 WATAUGA	3318	2602	0.784207
4 BLUE RIDGE	3912	3065	0.783487
10 LAUREL CREEK	1118	862	0.77102
17 SHAWNEEHAW	670	505	0.753731
15 NEW RIVER 3	4245	3136	0.738751
14 NEW RIVER 2	3646	2693	0.738618
7 BRUSHY FORK	3983	2921	0.733367
20 BEECH MTN	581	399	0.686747
5 BOONE 1	1841	1244	0.67572
13 NEW RIVER 1	3087	1984	0.642695
6 BOONE 2	3452	2027	0.587196
12 BOONE 3	3818	2158	0.565217

PRECINCT	REG VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	TURNOUT %
15 NEW RIVER 3	4245	3136	0.738751
4 BLUE RIDGE	3912	3065	0.783487
7 BRUSHY FORK	3983	2921	0.733367
14 NEW RIVER 2	3646	2693	0.738618
19 WATAUGA	3318	2602	0.784207
3 BLOWING ROCK	2830	2263	0.799647
12 BOONE 3	3818	2158	0.565217
6 BOONE 2	3452	2027	0.587196
13 NEW RIVER 1	3087	1984	0.642695
11 MEAT CAMP	2429	1966	0.809387
8 COVE CREEK	2289	1882	0.822193
18 STONY FORK	1895	1544	0.814776
5 BOONE 1	1841	1244	0.67572
2 BEAVER DAM	1086	879	0.809392
10 LAUREL CREEK	1118	862	0.77102
9 ELK	686	549	0.800292
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1 BALD MTN	552	465	0.842391
20 BEECH MTN	581	399	0.686747
16 NORTH FORK	170	139	0.817647

Matthew.Snyder

From: John.Hill
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 2:28 PM
To: Matthew.Snyder
Subject: BOE CAPITOL IMPROVMENTS INPUT

Matt,

I have been working on some capitol Improvement items as an input to provide maintenance.

2025-1	Install environmental controls in the storage vault.	Storing Election records is a statutory requirement for a minimum of 22 months after an election. Some records are required to be kept much longer if the courts have ordered us to do so. We have to be able to recreate elections if called on to do so. Saved documents must be kept from moisture and mold. Secondly , Our existing Election tabulators and handicap accessible ballot Markers (AUTOMARKS) require a controlled temperature to maintain the calibration standards. For this reason, we'll need environmental controls with the ability to monitor from the office in case of failure.
2025-2	Enlarge the secure vault for equipment to accommodate the larger new voting equipment and continue to store existing and new voting records.	We should consider taking the first two cribs in the Ag Center to enlarge the storage area to allow for the new, larger voting equipment units. All this would require is for the other crib owners to move into BOE's old storage rooms and allow the vault to be made larger to allow for storage and maintenance of equipment.
2025-3	Replace carpet in the Board of elections Office.	The current carpet shows signs of wear and stains. This carpet has been in place for many years. Our maintenance staff has done an amazing job with cleaning, but the carpet shows it's age and should be replaced.
2025-4	Install the ramp at the end of the Western Watauga Community Center.	Current ADA standards ask if the accessible route is the closest access to the voting enclosure. In this case there is a project already approved to accomplish. We just request this get done while we are in a year where we don't use the Western Watauga Community Center.

John E. Hill

Elections Specialist
Certified N.C. Emergency Medical Technician
Watauga County Board of Elections
842 West King Street Suite 6
PO Box 528
Boone NC 28607



NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611

(919) 814-0700 or
(866) 522-4723

Fax: (919) 715-0135

Standards for Simulated Election

Adopted by the State Board of Elections on July 31, 2020

(Amended March 28, 2023)

Authority

G.S. § 163-165.9(a)(3)(b), as amended by Part IV of Session Law 2019-239, authorizes a county board of elections to test new voting equipment “during a simulated election, in accordance with standards established by the State Board.” The simulated election may be conducted in lieu of testing a new voting system during an election in at least one precinct in the county where the voting system would be used if adopted and acquired.

Standards

A county board of elections conducting a simulated election before approving the adoption and acquisition of any voting system shall complete the following procedures:

1. One standard test election shall be coded by precinct with the following additional “administrative polls”: absentee by mail, provisional, election day transfer and at least three one-stop sites. Contests will model actual election contests and include at least the following: federal partisan single-seat contests; state partisan single-seat contests, including unaffiliated candidates and at least one qualified write-in; county partisan single-seat and multi-seat contests; nonpartisan single-seat and multi-seat contests which allow write-ins; and at least one referendum question.
2. If applicable to the voting system being tested, a second sample election will be coded by style with the same criteria listed in paragraph 1.
3. The county board shall use equipment and coding for 10% of all county precincts or 5 precincts, whichever is greater (unless 5 exceeds the maximum number of precincts, in which case, use equipment and coding for the number of actual county precincts). Additionally, the county shall test all administrative polls, including at least one one-stop site per ten precincts up to a maximum of three one-stop sites. A number of ballots necessary to generate a complete nonrepeating test deck, rounded up to the next multiple of ten ballots, shall be printed. The county board will set up all necessary voting equipment, and testing personnel

shall vote simulated election ballots according to standard ballot marking instructions for the purpose of ensuring that the system is operating properly and has been programmed to count votes accurately.

4. After all simulated voting sites have been opened, voted, and closed, the county board will import results into the election management software, print reports, and compare results against the tabulator results tapes.
5. The State Board of Elections will provide the county board of elections at least two sites chosen at random for a hand-eye sample audit. With each chosen site, the highest contest on the simulated election ballot and one other contest selected at random will be audited.
6. County board of elections members and staff may conduct the simulated election. If possible, the county board of elections shall include precinct officials in the simulated election event. The public shall be invited and may observe the simulated election event.
7. All records, ballots, and related documents for the simulated election shall be retained for 5 years after the testing event and in accordance with the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for County Boards of Elections as issued by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, specifically item 23, "Voting Machine Lists, Testing Records and Certifications."
8. If the county board of elections seeks approval from the State Board to replace the current voting system with the system tested in the simulated election, the following documentation shall be provided with the request as evidence of the simulated election:
 - a. Summary election results report(s);
 - b. By precinct election results report(s); and
 - c. Copies, or a link to digital copies, of tabulator results tapes.

§ 163-165.9. Voting systems: powers and duties of county board of elections.

(a) Before approving the adoption and acquisition of any voting system by the board of county commissioners, the county board of elections shall do all of the following:

- (1) Recommend to the board of county commissioners which type of voting system should be acquired by the county.
- (2) Witness a demonstration, in that county or at a site designated by the State Board, of the type of voting system to be recommended and also witness a demonstration of at least one other type of voting system certified by the State Board.
- (3) Test the voting system in at least one of the following ways:
 - a. During an election, in at least one precinct in the county where the voting system would be used if adopted.
 - b. During a simulated election, in accordance with standards established by the State Board.

(b) After the acquisition of any voting system, the county board of elections shall comply with any requirements of the State Board of Elections regarding training and support of the voting system by completing all of the following:

- (1) The county board of elections shall comply with all specifications of its voting system vendor for ballot printers. The county board of elections is authorized to contract with noncertified ballot printing vendors, so long as the noncertified ballot printing vendor meets all specifications and all quality assurance requirements as set by the State Board of Elections.
- (2) The county board of elections shall annually maintain software license and maintenance agreements necessary to maintain the warranty of its voting system. A county board of elections may employ qualified personnel to maintain a voting system in lieu of entering into maintenance agreements necessary to maintain the warranty of its voting system. State Board of Elections is not required to provide routine maintenance to any county board of elections that does not maintain the warranty of its voting system. If the State Board of Elections provides any maintenance to a county that has not maintained the warranty of its voting system, the county shall reimburse the State for the cost. The State Board of Elections shall report annually by January 15 to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, to the Fiscal Research Division, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, and to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on implementation of this subdivision. If requested by the county board of elections, the State Board may enter into contracts on behalf of that county under this subdivision, but such contracts must also be approved by the county board of elections. Any contract entered into under this subdivision shall be paid from non-State funds. Neither a county nor the State Board of Elections shall enter into any contract with any vendor for software license and maintenance agreements unless the vendor agrees to (i) operate a training program for qualification of county personnel under this subsection with training offered within the State of North Carolina and (ii) not dishonor warranties merely because the county is employing qualified personnel to maintain the voting system as long as the county:
 - a. Pays the costs of the annual software licensing agreement for that county.
 - b. Ensures that equipment (i) remains in full compliance with State certification requirements and (ii) remains in stock and supply

- available to the county for up to five years after the vendor discontinues distribution or sale of the equipment.
- c. Maintains a tracking record to record and timely report all hardware issues and all repairs and provides those records for review by the vendor and by the State Board of Elections.
 - d. Provides that only parts provided by the vendor would be used to repair the vendor's equipment, contingent on (i) the county being able to purchase necessary parts in a timely manner from the vendor and (ii) the vendor providing the equipment at least at the lowest price at which it sells the equipment to any other customer in the United States.
 - e. Accepts financial responsibility for expenses related to voting equipment failure during an election if the failure is caused solely by work of the county technician.
- (3) The county board of elections shall not replace any voting system, or any portion thereof, without approval of the State Board of Elections.
 - (4) The county board of elections may have its voting system repaired pursuant to its maintenance agreement but shall notify the State Board of Elections at the time of every repair, according to guidelines that shall be provided by the State Board of Elections. (2001-460, s. 3; 2005-323, s. 4; 2007-391, s. 25; 2008-187, s. 33(a); 2009-541, s. 20; 2011-145, s. 26.3(a); 2012-142, s. 23.3(a); 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-146, s. 3.1(a), (b); 2019-239, s. 4(a); 2021-180, s. 37.6(b).)



Watauga County, NC BOE
Purchase Proposal Quote
Submitted by Election Systems & Software

Purchase Solution Includes:

Quantity	Item Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
Tabulation Hardware			
DS300 Poll Place Scanner and Tabulator:			
31	DS300 (Includes Internal Backup Battery, Paper Roll and One (1) Standard 4GB Memory Device)	\$5,995.00	\$185,845.00
31	DS300 Ballot Box with Power Supply and AC Cord	\$955.00	\$29,605.00
31	Tote Bin	\$395.00	\$12,245.00
3	Standard 4GB Memory Device (Additional)	\$115.00	\$345.00
3	Standard 8GB Memory Device (Additional)	\$230.00	\$690.00
ExpressVote Universal Voting System:			
28	ExpressVote BMD (Includes Internal Backup Battery, ADA Keypad, Headphones, Power Supply with AC Cord, and One (1) Standard 4GB Memory Device)	\$3,660.00	\$102,480.00
28	ExpressVote Soft-Sided Case	\$250.00	\$7,000.00
DS950 High-Speed Scanner and Tabulator:			
1	DS950 (Includes Steel Table/Cart, Start-Up Kit, Dust Cover, Reports Printer, Battery Backup, USB Cable, and Two (2) Standard 8GB Memory Devices)	\$133,100.00	\$133,100.00
Software			
1	Electionware Election Management Software - Reporting Only Base Package		No Charge Upgrade
1	Media Burn Capability		No Charge Upgrade
Election Services			
2	Implementation Services	\$1,975.00	\$3,950.00
X	Tabulation Equipment Operations Training		
X	Tabulation Software Training		
1	Election On-Site Support	\$5,475.00	\$5,475.00
X	Tabulation Equipment Installation		\$9,615.00
X	1 Year Hardware and Software Warranty		Included
X	Estimated Shipping and Handling		\$13,725.00
X	Customer Loyalty Discount		(\$40,000.00)
X	Trade-In Allowance. Equipment Being Traded-In by Customer Includes:		(\$17,100.00)
	31 - Model 100 Scanner (\$200.00 Per Unit)		
	31 - Model 100 Ballot Box (\$100.00 Per Unit)		
	1 - Model 650 Scanner (\$5,000.00 Per Unit)		
	28 - AutoMARK (\$100.00 Per Unit)		
Total Purchase Solution			\$446,975.00
Payment Terms			
Amount due within thirty (30) calendar days of contract execution:			\$223,487.50
Amount due within thirty (30) calendar days of delivery of Hardware and/or Software:			\$223,487.50

Footnotes:

1. This quote is an estimate and is subject to final review and approval by both ES&S and the Customer.
2. Rates valid for thirty (30) days and thereafter may change.
3. Any applicable (City & State) sales taxes have not been included in pricing and are the responsibility of the customer.
4. Subject to state, municipal, jurisdictional, provincial or territory laws to the contrary, the above pricing information is confidential, proprietary and trade secret information of ES&S and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which the document is directed to. This information may not be disclosed or reproduced either publicly or to any other individual or entity without the prior written authorization of ES&S.
5. The quantity of service days reflects a reasonable estimate for implementation and selected ongoing election services. Quantities may change depending on specific Customer needs.

6. Annual Software License, Maintenance and Support Services for the Electionware Software quoted above will be invoiced upon expiration of Customer's current Software License Maintenance and Support Services Agreement.
7. ES&S will coordinate the pickup and transportation of the trade-in equipment from Customer's site on a date to be mutually agreed upon by the parties. Customer is responsible for preparing, packaging and palletizing the trade-in equipment for shipment.



Quote Number

00010963

Account Name

Watauga County, NC

Grand Total

\$267,370.00

Item	Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Total Price
Verity Scan	Digital ballot scanner	\$6,100.00	31	\$189,100.00
Verity Ballot Box	Ballot box w/ transport bag and privacy screens for use with Verity Scan		31	
Verity Touch Writer w/ Access	Ballot marking device with accessibility	\$5,300.00	28	\$148,400.00
Verity Accessible Booth	Wheelchair-accessible voting booth w/ transport bag and privacy screens included with Verity Touch Writer w/ Access		28	
Okidata B432dn Printer	Laser printer w/ starter cartridge included with Verity Touch Writer for ballot printing		28	
Printer Stand	Small table for printer included with Verity Touch Writer		28	
Verity Count	Verity Count software	\$12,000.00	1	\$12,000.00
Verity Workstation	Workstation for Verity software w/ 5-year warranty	\$5,900.00	1	\$5,900.00
Okidata B432dn Printer	Laser printer w/ starter cartridge for report printing	\$380.00	1	\$380.00
24" Flat Panel Monitor	Monitor for use with Verity Workstation		1	
vDrive	Flash memory card/audio card for use with Verity devices	\$66.00	140	\$9,240.00
Verity Key	Electronic security token	\$109.00	3	\$327.00
Secure Ballot Transport Bag	Bag for easy and secure removal and transport of ballots from ballot box	\$60.00	31	\$1,860.00
Battery Charger, 6 Bay	6-bay charger for Verity voting device battery	\$704.00	2	\$1,408.00
New Implementation Services	Includes training, acceptance testing, project management, and on-site support for the first election on the Verity voting system. Additional services, if required, must be purchased separately.	\$24,000.00	1	\$24,000.00
License and Support	Annual license and support fee	\$11,851.00	1	\$11,851.00
Subtotal				\$404,466.00
Shipping and Handling (Estimated)				\$5,550.00
North Carolina Discount				(\$142,646.00)
Grand Total				\$267,370.00

Bill To P.O. Box 528
Boone, NC 28607

Ship To 842 W King St., Suite 6
Boone, NC 28607

Customer Contact

Contact Name Matthew Snyder

Email matthew.snyder@watgov.org

Phone 828-265-8061

General Information



Quote Number

00010963

Account Name

Watauga County, NC

Grand Total

\$267,370.00

Expiration Date 3/4/2023

Payment Terms Net 30

Instructions

Please fax with signature to (512) 252-6918 or
scan and email to bheisner@hartic.com to order.

Terms and Conditions

Subsequent License and Support will be billed annually per contract terms.

Please note: Shipping & Handling charges listed are estimates only. Due to global supply chain and delivery issues, actual shipping & handling charges may be significantly higher. Pricing subject to inventory availability at time of quote execution and acceptance.

Taxes will be calculated in conjunction with the Customer based on the final approved price list.

Hart Approval

Prepared By Bob Heisner

Title

Regional Sales Manager

Signature

Customer Approval

Name: _____

Title: _____

Customer Approval: _____

Date: _____