

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 will meet Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 5:00p.m. in the County Administration Building located at 814 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. This meeting is open to the public.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87582471385?pwd=QTXRGtLyq6zwP8jE36cU9aP8Ewjbsw.1>

Meeting ID: 875 8247 1385

Passcode: 452408

OR

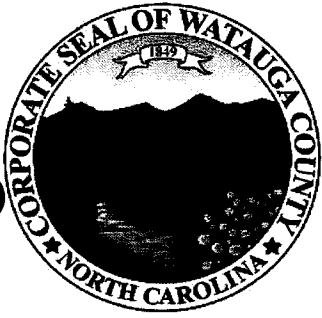
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- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

March 11, 2025

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18TH, 25TH, AND 26TH
4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS
5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT
8. 2025 – 2026 BUDGET
9. 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, March 11, 2025, at 5:00p.m. in the Watauga County Administration Building located at 814 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. Board Members in attendance: Chairperson Michael Behrent, Members Eric Eller and Leta Councill, and Secretary Matthew Walpole. Member Elaine Rothenberg attended by zoom, joining the meeting remotely following the fourth agenda item. Also attending: Elections Director Matt Snyder, Deputy Director Donna Houck, Senior Elections Specialist John Hill, and Elections Specialist Brad Henderson, as well as several senior precinct chief judges and representatives of both the Hart and Printelect companies.

March 11, 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 FROM FEBRUARY 18TH, 25TH AND 26TH, 2025

Member Eller moved approval of the three sets of minutes for February 18th, 25th and 26th, 2025, seconded by Member Councill. Approved by 4-0 vote.

4. NEW REGISTRATIONS AND STATISTICS

Director Snyder reported 61 new registrants, bringing county totals to 43,370 active/inactive, and 37,102 active voters. Member Eller moved acceptance of the report pending review, seconded by Member Councill. Approved by 4-0 vote.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Discussions with all parties concerned with upgrading storage area facilities are ongoing.

We hope to have a social get-together with local election officials in May or June, most likely as a covered dish dinner.

Election Officials surveys have been sent out, and are beginning to come back in.

No accidents were reported by our office in 2024, with a total of 21,317 hours logged.

Voter registration processing is currently caught up.

The NCADE conference will be March 23-25 in Durham, with Matt Snyder, Donna Houck, and Brad Henderson attending for our county.

Board members will be authorized to use the new parking deck, with tags to be issued shortly.

Budget work is ongoing. Expect e-mails before our next meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

A period of public comment was provided for discussion of the presentations by the Hart and Printelect companies of their election equipment systems. Seven people requested to speak.

Emily Bish stated that she had no strong preference between the systems, but did want print on demand to be included as an option either way.

Mary Britt prefers Printelect because of its service staff.

Audrey Hartley was impressed with both systems, but said that the Printelect equipment felt sturdier, and that she liked their large staff size. She did not like the odd size of the Printelect ballot used with their ExpressVote ADA compliant equipment.

Amy Lunceford also did not like the different sized ballot for the ExpressVote. She did like the Hart privacy screen. She does not like the idea of pre-printed ballots for all districts being on site. She also mentioned that she greatly preferred the post-Helene voting hours adjustment, and hoped that it would continue.

Frank Berry likes watermarks on ballots, and said his main concern was whether elections could be compromised. He says Hart was responsive to his follow-up questions on election security, and that Printelect was not. He prefers Hart for reasons of simplicity and security, but hopes for more information from Printelect.

Catherine Berry would like more information from counties who use Hart. She also likes watermarks on ballots, and does not like the different size ballots used in ExpressVote.

John Hill likes the office's current strong relationship with Printelect. He has had good past experience with their service personnel, and likes the way their software integrates with SEIMS. No matter the choice between the two, he would like to see us purchase the storage cages sold by Printelect, which could be purchased separately.

7. NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT

The Board then discussed the voting equipment options. While no votes were taken, Board consensus was that we would like to purchase the storage cages, but that it would not be a factor in our system choice, as they were available separately. Board consensus was that the different size ballots used currently by Printelect were a negative. We noted that Printelect hoped to have a new model within 18 months, and that it might be possible to use the old Automark equipment until then. Board consensus was that a high-speed tabulator was a luxury at this time. When questioned, Director Snyder stated that he saw no big differences between the competing software, and stated that he could work with either system. Since knowing if a hybrid Printelect system was acceptable to the State could influence our decision, the Board decided to postpone a purchasing recommendation until that information was available.

8. 2025-2026 BUDGET

A proposed 2025-2026 elections office budget was submitted to the Board by Director Snyder. Member Eller moved approval of that budget for submission to the County Commissioners, to specifically include suggested pay raises for precinct workers and office employees. The motion was seconded by Member Council. Approved by 5-0 vote.

9. ADJOURNMENT

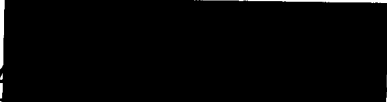
Member Eller moved to adjourn, seconded by Member Council. Approved by 5-0 vote.



Michael Behrent, Chair



Leta Council, Member



Elaine Rothenberg, Member



Matthew Walpole, Secretary



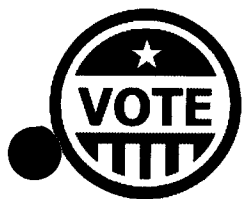
Eric Eller, Member



Matthew Snyder, Director

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE March 11, 2025

- Storage Area: still discussing possible solutions, all aware of project timeline concerns
- Election Official Get Together: After Helene, I don't want to approach restaurants about donating food. Looking at a covered dish dinner instead. *door prizes*
- Election Officials surveys sent out and are coming back in.
- No accidents in 2024 with 21,317 hours logged
- Caught up with voter registrations
- NCADE conference March 23-25 in Durham
- Parking deck can be used, tags will be issued to board members
- Keep an eye out for emails next week as we work thru budget



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

TO: Alexander County Board of Elections
Anson County Board of Elections
Bladen County Board of Elections
Clay County Board of Elections
Dare County Board of Elections
Franklin County Board of Elections
Halifax County Board of Elections
Northampton County Board of Elections
Orange County Board of Elections
Pamlico County Board of Elections
Pitt County Board of Elections
Sampson County Board of Elections
Stokes County Board of Elections
Watauga County Board of Elections

FROM: Karen Brinson Bell, Executive Director

DATE: January 30, 2025

RE: Homeland Security Grant Program award to replace Unity 3.4.1.1

On September 1, 2024, the State Board of Elections was awarded \$42,100 to improve election security by replacing outdated, Windows XP reliant Unity election management systems in counties through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Homeland Security Grant Program.

As a county listed in this memorandum, the State Board of Elections shall pay for your county to upgrade/replace Unity 3.4.1.1, which has Windows XP as its operating system and is no longer supported. The grant award is evenly divided among the 14 identified counties, such that each county may apply \$3,007.14 towards a new election management system per the North Carolina Elections Systems Certification Program and Numbered Memo 2021-01 (revised July 20, 2023). Payment will be made by NCSBE to the certified voting system company upon completion of the certification and procurement process defined in the Certification Program and the numbered memo.

Laptops/desktops provided under this grant will be tagged as State-owned fixed assets, and counties will be required to maintain inventory records, reportable to the State Board of Elections annually in June.

Questions or additional assistance should be directed to Neil Baddour, Voting Technology Certification Manager, at neil.baddour@ncsbe.gov.



Matthew.Snyder

From: mcdowell.boe@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 1:34 PM
To: Matthew.Snyder
Subject: RE: Salaries

Sure-
Kim- \$95,524
Jane-\$70,542
Baylie-\$39,984
Foster- \$15/hr he works part-time permanent

I hope this is your budget year you get it Matt – you so deserve it.

See you soon,
Kim

From: Matthew.Snyder <Matthew.Snyder@watgov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 12:53 PM
To: Kimberly Welborn <mcdowell.boe@gmail.com>
Subject: Salaries

Hey Kim,

I hope your week is going well. May I ask what your, Jane's, and Baylie's salaries are? Yes, budget time again.

Thank you and stay well,
Matt

Matt Snyder
Director
Watauga County Board of Elections
842 West King Street, Suite 6 - PO Box 528 - Boone NC 28607
Phone: 828-265-8061 Fax: 828-265-8068
Email: matthew.snyder@watgov.org



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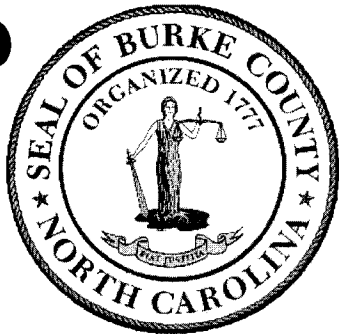
Matthew.Snyder

From: Kenny Rhyne <kenny.rhyne@burkenc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 1:58 PM
To: Matthew.Snyder
Subject: RE: your salaries

This is the yearly salaries after we received a 2% cola in January.

Amy- Elections Spec. I	\$40,684.00
Trent-Elections Spec. III	\$46,529.00
Dustin-Deputy Director	\$60,299.00
Kenny-Director	\$73,916.00

Kenny Rhyne
Director
Burke County Board of Elections
2128 S. Sterling St. Morganton NC, 28655
(828)-764-9013



From: Matthew.Snyder <Matthew.Snyder@watgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 1:36 PM
To: Kenny Rhyne <kenny.rhyne@burkenc.org>
Subject: your salaries

CAUTION: Don't be quick to click! We're counting on you! This email is from an external sender! **Don't click** on links or open attachments from unknown sources. If you know this is spam delete the message. If you believe this message is a phish attack, Click the Phish Alert button above. If you are unsure what to do, contact the helpdesk at 9410.

Hey Kenny,

Good to talk with you today. May I ask you and your staff's salaries for last year?

Thanks ,
Matt

[illegible]

ES&S / PRINTELECT

DS300 TABULATOR & EXPRESS VOTE PACKAGE

EMS WORKSTATION LAPTOP

HOMELAND SECURITY UNITY EMS UPGRADE GRANT

\$ 314,894.25

\$4,149

(\$3,007.14)

TOTAL: **\$ 316,036.11**

FUTURE ANNUAL LICENSING/MAINTENANCE COST

\$ 28,650

BALLOT ON DEMAND PACKAGE (12 BOD's)

ANNUAL LICENSE/MAINTENANCE/SUPPORT FEE

\$ 71,570

\$ 9,300

TOTAL: **\$ 80,870**

EXPRESS VOTE PER UNIT

\$4,051.25

EZ CART 3000 19 @ \$1,875

\$ 35,625

EZ CART 3000 2 @ \$1,600 (buying from Caldwell County)

\$ 3,200.00

TOTAL: **\$ 38,825**

HART INTERCIVIC

VERITY SCAN TABULATOR & VERITY TOUCH WRITER PACKAGE

EMS WORKSTATION LAPTOP INCLUDED

HOMELAND SECURITY UNITY EMS UPGRADE GRANT

\$ 278,416

(\$3,007.14)

TOTAL: **\$ 275,409**

FUTURE ANNUAL LICENSING/MAINTENANCE COST

\$ 12,242

BALLOT ON DEMAND PACKAGE (12 BOD's)

ANNUAL LICENSE AND SUPPORT FEE (included in 1st yr price)

\$ 53,263.20

\$ 2,050

Watauga County Board of Elections Public Comment Sign-up Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date: March 11, 2025

Name: Emily Bish (By Zoom)

Address: _____

Telephone or E-Mail: _____

Subject Matter: Voting Equipment

Name: Marg Britt

Address: _____

Telephone or E-Mail: _____

Subject Matter: Voting Equipment

Name: Audrey Hardley

Address: _____

Telephone or E-Mail: _____

Subject Matter: Voting Equipment

Name: Amy Linceford

Address: _____

Telephone or E-Mail: _____

Subject Matter: Voting Equipment

Watauga County Board of Elections Public Comment Sign-up Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date: March 11, 2025

Name: FRANK BARRY

Address: _____

Telephone or E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Subject Matter: VOTING MACHINES

Name: Catherine Barry

Address: _____

Telephone or E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Subject Matter: Voting machines/Paper Ballots

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone or E-Mail: _____

Subject Matter: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone or E-Mail: _____

Subject Matter: _____

GL ACCOUNT

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

GL ACCOUNT #	BOARD APPROVED FY 22-23	BOARD APPROVED FY 23-24	REQ- ED	MANAGER RECOMMENDED FY 24-25	BOARD APPROVED
104170-412100 SALARIES-REGULAR	147,329	196,884	218,448	218,448	218,448
104170-412600 SALARIES-PART-TIME	7,000	7,000	10,032	7,000	7,000
104170-412601 SALARIES-ONE STOP	52,862	57,624	96,942	73,758	73,758
104170-418100 SOCIAL SECURITY EXPENSE	16,559	20,921	26,034	23,936	23,936
104170-418200 LOCAL GOVT RETIREMENT EXPENSE	17,930	33,055	29,884	29,884	29,884
104170-418300 HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE	40,500	53,784	67,500	67,500	67,500
104170-418600 WORKER'S COMPENSATION	1,035	1,209	1,000	1,000	1,000
104170-418800 OTHER FRINGE-401K	7,366	9,844	10,922	10,922	10,922
104170-418901 OTHER FRINGE-457	1,080	1,440	1,800	1,800	1,800
104170-426000 OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,750	7,500	9,000	8,000	8,000
104170-431100 TRAVEL-MILEAGE	1,000	1,500	960	960	960
104170-431200 TRAVEL-SUBSISTENCE	3,616	5,000	5,148	5,000	5,000
104170-432100 TELEPHONE SERVICE	55	93	125	125	125
104170-432500 POSTAGE	7,000	8,000	9,000	8,500	8,500
104170-434100 PRINTING	15,340	16,340	16,500	16,500	16,500
104170-435200 MAINTENANCE & REPAIR-EQUIPMENT	33,616	34,616	34,116	34,116	34,116
104170-437000 ADVERTISING	4,900	9,800	4,900	4,900	4,900
104170-438500 EMPLOYEE TRAINING	2,200	4,240	2,915	2,915	2,915
104170-441200 RENT-BUILDING	1,128	1,228	1,228	1,228	1,228
104170-448100 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	210	210	-	-	-
104170-449900 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	800	4,200	1,800	1,800	1,800
104170-467000 BOARD MEMBER FEES	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
104170-467001 ELECTION OFFICIALS	30,000	36,000	48,573	44,813	44,813
TOTAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS	413,076	525,488	611,327	578,105	578,105

						Original Budget	Current Budget	To Date Expenditures	Requested Budget
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24			2024-25
						as of December 31			
104170	Elections								
412100	Salaries-Regular	126,175	137,967	140,867	147,905	196,884	196,884	92,363	194,834
412600	Salaries-Part Time	6,774	15,634	5,520	7,961	7,000	7,000	1,761	10,032
412601	Salaries-one stop workers	75,523	155,418	55,045	53,130	57,624	57,624	11,091	96,942
412603	Salaries PT HAVA	-	9,384	446	-				
418100	FICA Expense	18,301	27,458	17,338	17,490	20,921	20,921	8,805	24,145
418200	Retirement Contribution	11,484	14,209	16,170	18,021	33,055	33,055	11,788	24,627
418300	Health/Dental Insurance	20,460	21,947	22,705	22,681	53,784	53,784	14,229	52,900
418600	Worker's Comp	352	729	994	611	1,209	1,209	571	1,209
418900	Deferred Comp/401K	6,290	6,837	6,977	7,326	9,844	9,844	4,423	9,742
418901	\$30 per Month/457	1,086	1,087	1,084	1,039	1,440	1,440	638	1,440
426000	Office Supplies	9,160	6,190	11,061	6,977	7,500	7,500	1,174	9,000
431100	Travel - Mileage	679	237	132	286	1,500	1,500	168	960
431200	Travel - Subsistence	4,192	-		609	5,000	5,000	2,256	5,148
432100	Telephone Service	-	-		124	93	93	-	125
432500	Postage	5,630	9,090	7,301	8,044	8,000	8,000	2,609	9,000
434100	Printing	15,612	28,160	17,861	14,521	16,340	16,340	5,913	16,500
435200	Maint./Repair Equipment	38,467	33,796	34,655	32,945	34,616	34,616	33,738	34,116
437000	Advertising	10,296	4,820	7,797	4,496	9,800	9,800	2,880	4,900
439500	Employee Training	2,220	-	925	775	4,240	4,240	1,925	2,915
441200	Rent-Building	1,160	-	1,215	-	1,228	1,228	-	1,228
449022	CARES funding		18,548		-			-	
449023	HAVA Grant		57,264		-			-	
449025	CARES election bonus		19,100		-			-	
449100	Dues and Subscription	339	256	379	258	210	210	118	285
449900	Misc. Expense	1,311	2,145	922	4,795	4,200	4,200	1,995	1,800
467000	Board Member Fees	15,000	15,000	15,000	13,975	15,000	15,000	6,150	15,000
467001	Election Officials	34,358	35,129	27,031	27,497	36,000	36,000	13,324	48,573
	TOTALS:	404,869	620,405	391,425	391,466	525,488	525,488	217,919	565,420
Provide details of requested amount:									
412100	Salaries-Regular								
Note only changes requested to existing positions such as reclassifications									
412600	Salaries-Part Time-office staff								
\$12 X 40 hrs X 12 weeks		5760							
\$10.50 X 40 hrs X 4 weeks		1680							
Multipartisan Assistance Teams									
10 Election Officials X 2 hrs X 8 visits X \$12		1920							
Logic & Accuracy Testing Teams									
10 Election Officials X 4 hrs X \$12		480							
Hand to Eye Recount Teams									
4 X 4 hrs X \$12		192							
Total part time - office staff		10032							
412601 Salaries-One Stop workers									
One Stop November General									
All sites matching hours requirement									
Admin Bldg									
Site Manager:									
15 days X 13.5 hrs/day X \$13/hr		2633							
8 Election Officials									
14 days X 12 hrs/day X \$11.5/hr X 8		15456							
App State									
Site Manager:									
15 days X 13.5 hrs/day X \$13/hr		2633							
10 Election Officials									
14 days X 12 hrs/day X \$11.5/hr X 10		19320							

[illegible]

[illegible]

Training 21 x \$75.00	1,575								
Election Day 21 x \$15.00/hr x 16 hrs	5,040								
Pick-up Supplies 20 x 15.00	300								
Total Chief Judges	6,915								
Judges (2)									
Training 42 x \$60	2,520								
Election Day 42 x \$11.50/hr x 16 hrs	7,728								
Total Judges	10,248								
OVRD/Provisional Operators									
Training 60 x \$60.00	3,600								
Election Day 60 x \$13/hr x 16	12,480								
Pick-up Supplies 30 x 15.00 (OVRD)	450								
Total OVRD/Provisional Operators	16,530								
Assistants									
Training 60 x \$60	3,600								
Election Day 60 x \$10.50 x 16 hrs	10,080								
Total Assistants	13,680								
Rovers									
Training 2 x 30	60								
Election Day 2 x 15.00 x 18 hrs	540								
Total Rovers	600								
Back-up / Standby Officials									
10 @ \$50	500								
Mandatory Recount (GS 163-182) 2 Precincts									
4 x 25.00	100								
Total Precinct Officials	48,573								