

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton
CHAIR

Frank M. Dickerson
SECRETARY

Jerry D. Jordan
MEMBER



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

Lamar Joyner
Deputy Director

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – May 11, 2011

Present: Linda J. Sutton, Chair
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections
Lamar Joyner, Deputy Director
Judy Speas, Senior Office Assistant

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Sutton requested that the Board review and entertain a motion to approve the minutes for April 5, 2011. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Year Budget Review

Ms. Sutton requested that Mr. Coffman evaluate the current year budget. Mr. Coffman explained a document detailing the current expenditure amounts of the 2011 Fiscal Year ending on June 30, 2011. An eighty percent expenditure of the budget was projected by that time. The surplus amount existing may be explained by liberal planning for any possible election need; unused salaries of one and a half vacant positions; and the lack of the annual voting equipment maintenance and software licensing cost. HAVA funds paid the equipment maintenance and software cost during this fiscal year. Since the Help America Vote Act funds will be exhausted soon, the State Board has confirmed that each County must budget for this expense in coming years. Mr. Coffman stated that the budget is working well; line item funds may be transferred where needed. The Board also discussed current legislative bills that would affect the future structure of the State Board of Elections.

Precinct Changes

Mr. Coffman explained a Voter Stats by Precinct document that highlighted precincts recommended for operation in the 2011 Municipal General Election. Officials from all municipalities have discussed and accepted a recommendation of consolidating precincts in order to be more fiscally responsible in a tight budget year. The Municipal General Election is entirely reimbursable to the County and it was estimated that approximately \$800 - \$1000 would be saved per closed precinct. Nineteen consolidated precincts would be open instead of the usual thirty-five polling locations. A temporary precinct change was also made previously in 2007 and 2009. The Board agreed that it

is advantageous to involve the town officials in the process. Mr. Coffman stated that the Towns of Clemmons, Kernersville, and Rural Hall also help with candidate filing in July. Consolidation of precincts is advisable because some precincts have very few participating registered voters. Each individual voter would receive a letter explaining the temporary precinct change for the municipal election. Precinct directions would be included with additional suggestions promoting absentee voting. The Board chose to make a motion concerning the recommendation of precinct changes for the 2011 Municipal General Election after all details were completed.

Municipal Elections

Mr. Coffman distributed a second color graph which detailed Geographic Information Software mapping corrections for certain county residences. The State Board had recently compared state voter registration data to an improved mapping system and found 909 voters with precinct errors in Forsyth County. Several reasons for the discrepancies were long driveways of a residence in a different precinct; precinct lines running through a residence; and, incorrect house range numbers. Mr. Jordan mentioned a statute that designates a voter's precinct by the location of their sleeping area in a domicile that is divided by precinct lines (NCGS 163-57(1) a.). Several voters had a jurisdiction change with a precinct change after the GIS mapping data was corrected. After corrections are implemented, a new voter registration card and a detailed letter would be mailed to explain that an administrative action had changed precincts to correct maps. The Board discussed the execution of this process and the impact of the change on the 2011 Municipal Election. Mr. Coffman recommended that precinct changes where jurisdictions are impacted in this year's election should be implemented in advance. The Winston-Salem and unincorporated precinct corrections not impacted this year should be delayed and merged with later Census redistricting changes next year. Mr. Jordan moved to approve adoption of the recommended precinct changes for voters impacted by the 2011 Municipal General Election and to delay adoption of the recommended precinct changes for Winston-Salem and unincorporated voters until next year. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion, agreeing that the Board should limit the number of voters having multiple precinct changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Board members discussed the office schedule to determine the next Board of Elections meeting. County Board members will be appointed by the State Board of Elections for the next two year term of office in June. The next Board of Elections meeting would be the Organizational Meeting on July 19, 2011 when County Board of Elections members are sworn into office.

Adjournment

Ms. Sutton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jordan moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 PM.

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

Jerry D. Jordan, Member