



McDowell County Board of Elections



Dean Buff, Chairman
JR Hachadurian, Secretary
Kim Welborn, Director of Elections

MEMBERS

Dean Buff
JR Hachadurian
Tom Cline
Kay House
Della Watson

Meeting Date: Monday, October 21, 2024

Board Members Present: Dean Buff *DB*
JR Hachadurian *JRH*
Tom Cline(telephonic-remote)
Della Watson *DW*
Kay House *KH*

Board Members Absent:

Staff Present: Kim Welborn, Director
Jane Propst, Deputy Director

Public Attendees: Barbara Hilty
Susan Elliott
Chet Effler
David Patneaude
Trisha Garner
Roxan Wetzel
Mike Conley, The McDowell News

Opening

Quorum is present.

New Business

1. Emergency meeting. In reference to the Republican request for a second voting site to be added back to the 2024 General Election Cycle due to the traffic issues, and the safety and unrestricted access to the polling place at the local board of elections office.
Emails from both Party chairs were read aloud- see attached.

Michael Lavender from McDowell Community College called the office after a request from Mr. Effler to see if the college would allow the board of elections to use their facilities for a second early voting site. Mr. Lavender stated that the Universal Training Facility was available for use. Dean Buff, Chair called the meeting to discuss the offer from the college. After much discussion from each board member: Tom Cline suggested again that NCDOT be contacted to help with a delay of the traffic light at the Love's Truck Stop; Kay House stated that while the college would be a great place for a site, the board of elections is working beautifully. Kay House presented photographs made earlier today of the traffic as well as the voter lines.

The director clarified the statement at the last emergency meeting on October 17, "I did not say that we could only handle 1,000 voters a day, I said that as of 4:00 p.m. on that day we had voted 1,000". Director also suggested Sunday voting after a conversation with the NC State Board of Elections staff.

JR Hachadurian motion: to remain with one location located within the board of elections office, "can't fix what's not broken", seconded by Della Watson. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Della Watson had to leave at 1:37 due to funeral.

Adjournment

Kay House motioned to adjourn at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Welborn, Director

October 21, 2024

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