

# BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Ken Raymond**  
Chairman

**Stuart Russell**  
Secretary

**Fleming El-Amin**  
Member



## FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS Meeting Minutes December 17, 2015 – 4 P.M.

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# **FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

## **Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2015**

### **Meeting Called to Order**

A regular meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was called to order in the second floor meeting room on December 17, 2015. The meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m., Chairman Ken Raymond presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Chairman Ken Raymond, Secretary Stuart Russell, and Member Fleming El-Amin

Staff Members in attendance: Interim Director Lamar Joyner, Chris Duffey, Kimberly Stuck

Other County Staff: Shontell Robinson - Human Resources Director  
Lonnie Albright – Assistant County Attorney

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Raymond led the pledge of allegiance.

### **Moment of Silence**

Chairman Raymond led a moment of silence.

### **Public Comment Session**

Chairman Raymond opened the public comment session with instructions. Speakers were asked to complete a public comment card and would have two minutes or less to speak. The speaker's name and address should be stated for the record. Questions should be included during the allotted time and answers would be given at the close of the session. A speaker's time could not be given to another individual. At the close of the public comment session, no additional statements or questions would be heard from the public. The public comment session included the following speakers:

Anne Wilson – 445 Marshall View Ct, Winston Salem, NC 27101

Kim Porter (Voting Rights Coalition) – 636 Friar Tuck Rd., Winston Salem, NC 27104

Fred Falin – 7030 Stancliff Court, Clemmons, NC 27012

Phillip Carter – 1148 E. Fifth St. #C, Winston Salem, NC 27101

Kyle Brown – Winston Salem State University, CB 14972, Winston Salem, NC 27110

Ike Howard (WS/FC NAACP) – 8884 Red Board Round, Germanton, NC 27019

Chairman Raymond moved, Member El-Amin motioned, Secretary Russell seconded to close public comments; **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Raymond addressed the public's comments, which included voting sites and hours; comments in support of using the Anderson Center at Winston Salem State University; concerns regarding voting lines due to voter ID requirements and potential need for additional machines at polling locations; concerns of voter suppression due to ID requirements as well as

fair and accessible locations. In addition to comments, Ms. Porter submitted a petition with signatures of students supporting use of the Anderson Center.

Member El-Amin recommended use of Anderson Center and requested a copy of petition signatures submitted by Ms. Porter.

The Board deferred to Interim Director Joyner to address pay and additional equipment; Mr. Joyner provided that equipment was based on accessibility at the different locations as well as giving brief overview of budget process and advised the public that additional computers were purchased to address the potential lines for the immediate election cycle as well as going forward. Mr. Joyner also addressed pay for workers in context with other voting needs.

Member El-Amin inquired about 12 additional machines that could be used solely for intake purposes; Chairman Raymond suggested a greeter at each location to assist those in line for inquiries and information. Member El-Amin reiterated Kim Strach's assurance that no one will be turned away.

Chairman Raymond addressed the use of the Anderson Center, noting that he was not inclined to support the use of the Anderson Center due to experience as a precinct worker in 2010. Chairman Raymond opened comments to the other Board members. Secretary Russell called for a plan that would meet statutory hours and broad parameters to meet voter needs, noting that with Anderson Center that would provide three sites within one mile of each other; suggested Old Town Recreation Center or Walkertown Library as alternates to the Anderson Center. Member El-Amin concerned that students at Winston Salem State University were being held responsible for issues in 2010; noting that convenience was most important with all the changes made by the North Carolina General Assembly. Chairman Raymond noted that Board would be moving to other business.

### **Other Business**

Chairman Raymond noted need to determine number of sites to be used for the primary. Mr. Joyner noted that with available equipment on hand the number of sites would be limited to 12. The Board discussed site plans that included between nine and 15 sites open as well as dates and potential hours for the sites. Mr. Joyner did note that in previous years, additional equipment could be obtained by surrounding counties; however, that it will not be possible going into the 2016 election cycle as the surrounding counties will not have them available to loan. Board members addressed concerns regarding resources at capacity, as well as potential mechanical issues with the machines. Member El-Amin called for a point of privilege requesting a 12-site model for the primary leaving room to adjust if necessary for the General Election in the fall. Multiple sites were offered as alternates Miller Park Recreation Center, Tobaccoville Town Hall, a site in Pfafftown as well as Old Town Recreation Center.

Chairman Raymond called for additional comments from the Board; Member El-Amin noted 11 sites plus the Board of Elections. Chairman Raymond called for a motion. Secretary Russell stated that he would be open to discuss proposed sites and hours; however, he wanted to discuss complete proposals, as he was not inclined to support piecemealing a plan. Chairman Raymond inquired if there were issues with any of the suggested sites. Mr. Joyner

noted that other than Tobaccoville there were not; and offered that the Pastor at St. Paul's United Methodist Church offered his facility for use. The Board discussed use of St. Paul's facility.

Secretary Russell put forth an Early Voting proposal, which includes dates, times, and polling locations for the Board's consideration, see attached.

Member El-Amin requested an addendum to the proposal requesting four hours Sunday, March 06, 2016 for Souls to the Polls. Board members discussed that option.

Secretary Russell motioned to present proposal to the State; Chairman Raymond seconded motion; Chairman Raymond moved for vote. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Chairman Raymond and Secretary Russell. NAYS: Member El-Amin. **Motion carried by majority.**

Interim Director Joyner provided that two plans will subsequently need to be sent to the state for review and approval.

Chairman Raymond moved forward to address letter from Beeson's Fire Department and use of their facility as a polling location. The Board deferred matter to Mr. Joyner who will address the Board's position to find a resolution.

Member El-Amin thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Interim Director Joyner advised that their former Precinct 068 Good Shepherd Moravian site is now owned by Project re3 and will be available as a polling location. Member El-Amin noted use of Hanes Lowrance.

Mr. Joyner also provided information to the Board regarding the State Conference; providing dates of February 1-2, 2016; noting itinerary had not be made available in time for meeting.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Raymond called for review and approval of minutes for November 11, 2015 (9 am), November 11, 2015 (11 am), and November 18, 2015 minutes as provided; Secretary Russell motioned, Member El-Amin seconded; **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Closed Session**

Chairman Raymond moved to go into closed session citing N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of a public officer or prospective public officer or employee. Meeting closed at 5:40 p.m.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Raymond inquired of any additional business; of which no additional business was provided; moved to adjourn; Member El-Amin motioned, Secretary Russell seconded; Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Raymond, Chair

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart Russell, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fleming El-Amin, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date