

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ken Raymond
Chairman

Stuart Russell
Secretary

Fleming El-Amin
Member



FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2014

Meeting Called to Order

A special meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was called to order in the fourth floor meeting room on February 10, 2014. The meeting convened at 4:30 PM, Chairman Ken Raymond presiding.

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

Staff Members in attendance: Board of Elections Staff - Deputy Director Lamar Joyner,
Chris Duffey, Judy Speas, Jacob Wright
Other County Staff - Beatrice Hunter, Lonnie Albright,
Gloria Woods

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 three 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:

Susan Campbell - 1208 Brookstown Avenue, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Charles Wilson - 445 Marshall View Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Linwood Jones - 1994 Darwick Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27127

Anne Wilson - 445 Marshall View Court, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Jo Anne Allen - PO Box 284, Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Gardenia Henley - 4920 Old Walkertown Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Phillip Carter - 1148 Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Several speakers addressed the fairness of early voting locations for the 2014 Primary Election. Chairman Raymond stated that the topic would be taken seriously during the meeting. Other requests would be handled individually. Secretary Russell moved and

Member El-Amin seconded a motion to close the public comment session. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Raymond requested that the Board members review the minutes of the February 3, 2014 meeting. Member El-Amin moved and Secretary Russell seconded a motion to accept the Board minutes of February 3, 2014 as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Old Business

Voting Locations and Hours

Chairman Raymond reviewed that five options for the 2014 Primary early voting locations and hours had been submitted last week. Option Six was then presented that included the Kernersville Senior Center/Library; Clemmons Branch Library; and, the Rural Hall Branch Library besides the Board of Elections office location. Mr. Joyner agreed that documented proof would be presented that the Board of Elections early voting office location must be open during business hours; and, that the satellite location hours must be uniform. Mr. Joyner distributed documents that were titled the City of Winston-Salem and Other Municipalities Age Demographics and the 2014 Primary Early Voting Locations map for the consideration of the Board members.

Mr. Joyner stated that the Clemmons Branch Library had a Book Sale conflict during April 22-28th and the Kernersville Senior Center/Library had a possible Spring Folly conflict on May 2nd. Secretary Russell stated that the presented satellite locations of Option Six were spaced evenly from the Board of Elections location and would offer a well-balanced plan. Member El-Amin suggested the use of St. Andrews United Methodist Church at 1840 Butler Street as an early voting location. Secretary Russell moved and Chairman Raymond seconded a motion that the Option Six plan be adopted with the Board of Election's early voting weekday hours to be 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; and, instead of the Clemmons Branch Library, the Lewisville Branch Library to be used as an early voting site. **Motion carried two to one with Member El-Amin in abstention.** Member El-Amin agreed that a minority early voting plan would be presented to the State Board as well as the majority plan. Mr. Joyner agreed to check whether the Kernersville Branch Library would be available on May 2nd. Board Members stated that the number of hours for the satellite locations may need to be adjusted.

Director of Elections Recruitment and Selection Process

Chairman Raymond announced that Human Resources would post the Director of Elections position from February 11, 2014 until March 10, 2014. Advertising would be processed locally, statewide and nationally through the Forsyth County application system and the UNC School of Government lists. Chairman Raymond stated reluctance to advertise on a national level at first as he preferred a North Carolina applicant. The legality of changing the application process was questioned and Secretary Russell stated that casting a broad net would not do any harm and that a two stage process may also take longer. Chairman Raymond moved for a vote of whether the Director of Elections position should be advertised nationally in the initial process. **Motion carried two to one with Chairman Raymond in abstention.**

Ms. Hunter reviewed the minimum qualifications and the Human Resources screening process for the Director position. Secretary Russell stated that he preferred that the Board members take the time to screen and draft questions to the applicants while consulting with Human Resources and members of the legal staff. Secretary Russell moved and Chairman Raymond seconded a motion that the Board members screen all applicants for the Director position and consult with Human Resources and legal staff in their discretion; and, also, to modify the plan so that the Board drafts the interview questions while consulting with HR and

legal staff in their discretion. **Motion carried two to one with Member El-Amin in abstention.**

Ms. Hunter reviewed the market-based system of compensation for the Director of Elections position and the process of posting the position with the ESC. Secretary Russell moved and Member El-Amin seconded a motion to adopt the plan as presented with modifications. **Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business

Campaign Finance Discrepancy Notifications

Chairman Raymond asked that the Board Members be forwarded a copy of candidates' campaign finance discrepancy reports on an informational basis. Mr. Albright agreed that he would research whether it would be legally permissible. Secretary Russell agreed and moved to revisit the discussion after Mr. Albright had a chance to check the legalities of Chairman Raymond's proposal. Member El-Amin seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Other Business

Mr. Joyner informed the Board members that a mandatory NC State Board of Elections meeting would occur on March 24-25, 2014 in Cary, NC.

Mr. Joyner questioned and the Board members agreed that the new Voter Registration Drive procedure should be implemented at this time.

Mr. Joyner informed the Board members that the staff would be assisting with the voting of the mascot at the Winston-Salem Symphony on February 16, 2014; and, assisting with voting during the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System Book Awards.

Adjournment

Secretary Russell moved and Member El-Amin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** and the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM.

Approved:

Ken Raymond, Chair

Date

Stuart Russell, Secretary

Date

Fleming El-Amin, Member

Date

Attachments on File: 2014 Primary Early Voting Locations and Hours Option 6, City of Winston-Salem and Other Municipalities Age Demographics, 2014 Primary Early Voting Locations map.