BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton CHAIR

Frank M. Dickerson SECRETARY

Jerry D. Jordan MEMBER



FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Present:

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

Staff:

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

Call to Order

Ms. Sutton called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM in the Board of Elections Conference room.

Approval of Absentee Ballots

The Staff recommended nine absentee ballots for approval and zero for disapproval. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve all absentee ballots as recommended by staff. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Coffman discussed the possible UOCAVA revision of federal statutes recently being considered to change the amount of time that ballots are sent.

Letter of Complaint

The Board discussed a letter of complaint written by Joycelyn Johnson, Winston-Salem Council Member. The letter stated that WSSU students may have been wrongly assisted with One-Stop registration by the school officials. In verifying their residency, it appeared that a form was not individually signed for each student by the Housing official. In researching this situation, the Board sent correspondence to the Housing office to verify the residency of the new WSSU registrants. Early One-Stop voter registrations require a document proving residency as well as the registration form. The Housing office was able to verify all 213 student registrants except for two. Mr. Dickerson stated that there was no proof of promises made by the University to the WSSU students of any special benefits for voting for a specific candidate. Mr. Dickerson moved to disallow the two voter's registration for the reason of no proof of residency; their ballots should be rejected and correspondence should be sent to confirm their voter registration. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Coffman stated that a letter of explanation would be sent to Ms. Johnson concerning this issue.

Municipal General One-Stop

The Board discussed that Early Voting would begin on October 15 for the Municipal General Election. Ms. Sutton stated that after discussion with several council members, it was found that there was no interest in additional sites. However, the Board decided that additional weekend time seemed advisable for increasing voter turnout and discussed specific hours of operation. Mr. Dickerson moved that the weekend days and hours for the Early One-Stop site at the Forsyth County Government Center be as follows: October 17, 18, 24, 25 and 31. The first two Saturdays would be 8 am to 5 pm; the third Saturday would be 8 am to 1 pm. The two Sundays would be 1 pm to 5 pm. The motion passed with Mr. Jordan dissenting. The Board decided that they would convene until that night to count ballots for the Primary. The next meeting would occur on September 22, 2009 at 11:00 am for the Canvass of votes

Adjournment

Mr. Jordan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 PM.

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

Jerry D. Jordan, Member