

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ken Raymond
Chairman

Stuart Russell
Secretary

Fleming El-Amin
Member



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

Lamar Joyner
Deputy Director

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 27, 2013

Meeting Called to Order

A meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was held in the elections conference room on November 27, 2013. 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: Director Robert Coffman, Deputy Director Lamar Joyner, Chris Duffey, Assistant County Attorney Lonnie Albright

Public Comment Session

Chairman Raymond began by stating that the meeting had been called initially for a closed session and that he would like the Board members to consider refraining from a public comment session and begin the agenda immediately. Member El-Amin made and Secretary Russell seconded a motion to refrain from holding a public comment session. **Motion carried unanimously.**

List Maintenance/Verification Cards

Chairman Raymond began discussion by distributing an article that appeared on the Civitas website last week. As the topic concerned list maintenance and voter registration cards, he reminded the Board members that he had retrieved undeliverable voter cards from WSSU in August 2013. Since then, a Civitas representative had made a public information request and copied 500+ WSSU cards at the Board of Elections. The writer mentioned that the majority of the cards were verification cards and that 20 cards were from individuals who voted in 2012 but appeared to lack verification to vote. Secretary Russell expressed a concern that the print date of one card was after the election date voted; and, that the voters had not been verified before the election. He referred to NCGS 163-82.6A(d) that states within two business days of a person's registration, the county board in conjunction with the State Board of Elections shall verify the driver's license or social security number.

Member El-Amin commented that more time was needed to review the document and wondered if there were more than two cards involved.

Mr. Coffman stated that the writer could have discovered the exact processing of the voter cards by checking with the office. The database shows that a voter in question was originally verified with a first card before the 2012 election. Later, another voter registration card was sent in an administrative mailing in order to clear up a geocode issue with the WSSU address. Voters at the address had initially been listed by two options, as WSSU and also as

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601 S. Martin Luther King Drive. Mr. Coffman stated that the geocode system address was changed by indicating 601 S. Martin Luther King Drive as WSSU in order that all cards would be universal, less confusing and evident as the student address on campus. The voter verification dates may be reviewed in the Board of Elections database.

Member El-Amin stated that the title of the Civitas article, Game-Playing at Forsyth Elections Board, presents a concern that there is an intent to deceive the public. If the article, described as research based, had been an investigation or inquiry, the information could have been accepted more readily. Using only three examples of evidence, it seems to be a very prejudicial title for the article.

Mr. Coffman confirmed that of the returned WSSU cards, there were 107 list maintenance cards from 2009, three list maintenance cards from 2011, and 276 list maintenance cards from 2013 for a majority total of 386 cards.

To satisfy all concerns, Chairman Raymond proposed in a motion that the same cards researched by Civitas be sent to the State Board of Elections for review in order to confirm or refute the findings of the writer. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Coffman stated that a more narrow scope of investigation may be more helpful to the State Board staff, rather than investigating 500+ cards. He acknowledged that it is clear that the article is an editorial, not an investigation.

Closed Session

Member El-Amin made and Secretary Russell seconded a motion for closed session. Chairman Raymond stated: I move that the Board go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer of employee, pursuant to the provisions of NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6). **Motion carried unanimously.** Board members went into closed session at 4:52 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting left closed session and was adjourned at 5:46 PM.

Approved:

Ken Raymond, Chair

Date

Stuart Russell, Secretary

Date

Fleming El-Amin, Member

Date

Attachments on File: Game-Playing at Forsyth Elections Board