

## **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**Ken Raymond**  
Chairman

**Stuart Russell**  
Secretary

**Fleming El-Amin**  
Member



**Tim Tsujii**  
Director

**Lamar Joyner**  
Deputy Director

## **FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS** **Emergency Meeting – Re-canvass** **May 12, 2016**

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence
4. Public Comments
5. Tabulation for Recanvass
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

**FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**Emergency Meeting – Re-canvass**  
**May 12, 2016**

**Meeting Called to Order**

An emergency meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was called to order in the second floor meeting room on May 12, 2016. The meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m., Chairman Ken Raymond presiding.

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

Staff Members in attendance: Director Tim Tsujii, Deputy Director Lamar Joyner, Chris Duffey, and Kimberly Stuck

Other Staff: Assistant County Attorney – Lonnie Albright

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Raymond led the pledge of allegiance.

**Moment of Silence**

Chairman Raymond led a moment of silence.

**Public Comments**

No public comments were heard due to nature of meeting.

Chairman Raymond advised that the meeting was at the directive of the State Board to reconsider provisional ballots cast on March 15, 2016 due to flaws on forms asked to sign by voters and turned the meeting over to Director Tsujii.

Director Tsujii stated that 167 provisional ballots from the March 15, 2016 election were cast without the voters' signature and upon completion of Forsyth County's original Canvass have been provided guidance and direction from the State. Prior to reading the directive, Chairman Raymond informed the public that Secretary Russell was present via conference call.

Director Tsujii read the directive from Executive Director Kim Strach of the North Carolina State Board of Elections issued May 11, 2016 (see attached). Mr. Tsujii reiterated that the mistake did not call into question the abilities of the poll worker but rather a defect in the provisional application form. Director Tsujii stated that in preparation for re-canvass the staff were only able to identify and retrieve 143 provisional ballots; at the completion of the original canvass, 24 provisional forms were separated from the ballot and used to register voters. Mr. Tsujii stated that of the 143 provisional ballots that were retrieved; the staff recommended 95 provisional ballots for full approval; 35 for partial approval of which included eight with being wrong party ballots, and seven which were wrong locations. Providing a total of 130 provisional ballots for either full or partial approval. Mr. Tsujii stated that 13 provisional ballots were outstanding; 10 were recommended to remain disapproved; 6 of the 13 were not registered at all, two voters lived out of the county, one voter registered after the deadline, and one lacked photo id and did not present prior to Canvass. Two

ballots were inserted into the tabulator, which are not retrievable and one envelope that did not include a ballot.

Director Tsujii asked the Board to take action on the 130 provisional ballots. Chairman Raymond clarified the provisional ballot numbers presented and called for discussion. Member El-Amin also requested clarification on those ballots that would remain in disapproval status. Director Tsujii addressed a best practice going forward to eliminate the provisional paperwork from being separated from the provisional envelope; a copy would be made of the paperwork to enable processing as voter registration. Chairman Raymond asked if Secretary Russell had any questions prior to moving forward, he indicated that he did not; adding only that poll workers are put in a precarious situation when given a defective form. Member El-Amin inquired how the matter would be handled going forward with the equipment we have; Director Tsujii stated that the process for provisional ballots going forward would be a more manual process eliminating the use of the e-pollbook system, and supply polling locations with a pre-printed application.

Chairman Raymond moved to fully approve 95 provisional ballots, and partially approve 35; Secretary Russell seconded; **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Raymond concurred with Secretary Russell's statement regarding the flawed form and how it would be addressed going forward.

Director Tsujii addressed those 35 ballots that required remarking and presented them to the Board for review and directed staff to tabulate the 95 ballots that were fully approved.

Director Tsujii addressed vacancies for poll workers; noting that many were due to work or vacation conflicts; asking both the Board and the public to assist in finding people interested in working at the polls and to have them contact the office. Additionally, training is set to begin May 23, 2016 with multiple sessions and make up sessions; noting training will be set up much like a voting enclosure. Director Tsujii stated that training will no longer be lecture-based, and will require precinct officials to participate with the equipment.

Director Tsujii provided an overview of the Early Voting schedule to the Board; advising that training will coincide with Early Voting.

Member El-Amin stated that he was very happy about the hands-on training and believed it would be helpful and productive. Member El-Amin also inquired about the number of officials needed; Mr. Tsujii stated that it was approximately 20 officials both Republican and Democrats; noting that the number did not include assistants needed. Chairman Raymond believed the transition from lecture-based to hands-on will make a big difference enabling poll workers to have a greater understanding of the process.

Director Tsujii addressed the State mandated instructional meetings; he also discussed the benefits to having two separate training sessions one of which will enable Mr. Tsujii to direct instruction to those topics that are needed. Additionally, at the time of the instructional meeting Chief Judges will also be picking up their supplies to handle that process more efficiently. Member El-Amin inquired about requiring all precinct officials to attend the hands-on training session separate from the mandated instructional meeting; he also addressed the need for a pay increase. Director Tsujii stated that he had looked into pay prior to his coming to Forsyth County, finding that officials are being paid comparable to larger counties. However, there is a need to adjust the pay rates for the One-Stop Early Voting Leads and he will make those adjustments as they transition over from temporary services to county personnel..

Member El-Amin asked for a point of privilege to encourage each party to seek more people interested in participating in the process to contact the office.

Director Tsujii clarified for the Board, that regardless of the outcome of the processing; the ruling regarding the South Ward will go forward as directed. Director Tsujii provided the Board with the preliminary reports for review and signature. Secretary Russell stated that he would come by the office to sign the documents.

Mr. Tsujii provided a reminder to the Board of the May 17, 2016 meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Raymond called for any other business; no additional business was raised. Secretary Russell thanked Director Tsujii for the re-canvass.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Raymond moved to adjourn, Secretary Russell seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Board of Election Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2016

Approved:

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Ken Raymond, Chair

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Date

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Stuart Russell, Secretary

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Date

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Fleming El-Amin, Member

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Date