



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

County Courthouse ♦ 842 West King Street Boone, North Carolina 28607

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE
3. CLOSED SESSION
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2025
5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
6. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. 2026 PRIMARY EARLY VOTING PLAN
9. ADJOURNMENT



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County Board of Elections

The Watauga County Board of Elections met on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Watauga County Courthouse located at 842 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607. Board Members in attendance were Chairperson Eric Eller; Members Leta Councill, Pamela Cline, Elaine Rothenberg and Secretary Terry Cirone. Also attending: Elections Director Matt Snyder and Deputy Director Donna Houck.

November 7, 2025

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Eric Eller called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE

All present pledged allegiance to the flag

3. CLOSED SESSION: ATTORNEY CONSULTATION -G.S.143-318.11(a)(6)

Member Cline made a motion for the Board to go into Closed Session to discuss Civil Action No. 5:25-cv-157 with County Attorney Nathan Miller. The motion was seconded by Member Councill and passed 5-0) The Board Members retired to a separate room to discuss a specific legal matter with the Watauga County Attorney. When the session concluded, Member Rothenberg made a motion for the Board to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Member Councill and passed 5-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Member Councill moved to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2025, meeting which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Snyder read an email which he had from an AI & Elections Clinic Advisory board member concerning his opinion of how election officials' jobs have evolved. No action was required. Next, Director Snyder discussed the recount procedure (which was included in the Board packet) as there is a close race in the Blowing Rock Town Council election. Additionally, he advised the Board that voter history for this election looks clean.

6. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Director Snyder then briefly explained the procedure for voting on Provisional Ballots. Staff has previously reviewed the Provisional Ballots and made recommendations on their approval/non approval, but the BOE members can vote regardless of the recommendations. The Provisional Ballots are separated into categories based on the reason for their being provisional. When large groups of Provisional Ballots are reviewed, they can be voted on by the Board as a slate. The vast number of Provisional Ballots cast fell under the category of incorrect precinct.

The Board then began the process of reviewing the ballots. The first group reviewed was under the category of DL/SSN which included voters flagged under the statewide ballot repair project. There was one (1) provisional ballot in this category. Member Cline made a motion to approve the Provisional Ballot which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 5-0.

The next group reviewed was the No ID provided - No Exception/Return with ID category which had one (1) ballot. Director Snyder informed the Board that the voter had not returned to the BOE office with an ID. Member Council made a motion to not approve that Provisional Ballot which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 5-0.

The next group reviewed was the Jurisdictional Dispute category which had four (4) ballots. Staff found that this was a geocode issue and all voters did reside in the jurisdictions that they voted in. An update to the system will be needed to correct this prior to canvass. Member Council made a motion to approve all four (4) of the Provisional Ballots which was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 5-0.

The next group reviewed was the No Record of Registration category which had one (1) ballot. Director Snyder explained that the voter had registered at the DMV on October 13, 2025, which was after the registration deadline for the November 4, 2025, elections. Member Cline made a motion to not approve this Provisional Ballot based on the registration being made after the deadline. The motion was seconded by Member Rothenberg. The motion passed 5-0.

The next group reviewed was the Previously Removed category which had one (1) ballot. Director provided the details surrounding the circumstances of this voter being removed from the Watauga voting rolls which were the result of Hurricane Helene. Member Rothenberg made a motion to approve this Provisional ballot which was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 5-0.

The next group reviewed was the Unreported Move category which had one (1) ballot. Director Snyder informed the Board that this voter had moved and when they went to early vote and update their address they were identified as no longer living in the voting jurisdictional area. Member Rothenberg made a motion to not approve this ballot which was seconded by Member Cline. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board then reviewed the group of Provisional Ballots in the category Incorrect Precinct which had seventy-two (72) ballots. The Board first reviewed two (2) ballots where the voter addresses were outside the election jurisdictional limits. Member Rothenberg made a motion to not approve these two (2) ballots which was seconded by Member Cline and passed 5-0. The rest of the Provisional Ballots in this category, seventy (70) were researched by Staff by reviewing addresses and were deemed to be in the correct jurisdictional locations and eligible to vote. Member Council made a motion to approve these ballots which member Rothenberg seconded and passed 5-0.

There were a total of eighty-one Provisional Ballots cast. Seventy-six (76) were approved with five (5) not being approved. The approved Provisional Ballots were then opened and placed into the DS300. After all the ballots were submitted the report tapes were printed out and signed by the BOE members as required.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Several speakers spoke specifically to their support and the hope that the BOE would keep Plemmons Hall on the ASU campus as an official voting location. They cited the importance of that location to not just students but many other Watauga residents as well. Additionally, one speaker requested that the BOE work to settle the recent lawsuit against the BOE out of court to save taxpayers money.

8. 2026 PRIMARY EARLY VOTING

Director Snyder informed the Board Members that he saw no reason the previously utilized early voting sites could not be used again in 2026. Those sites are the County Administration site; the location on the ASU campus; the Meat Camp Fire Dept; the Deep Gap Fire Dept.; the American Legion Hall in Blowing Rock; and the Western Watauga Community Center. By law all locations must be open and then close at the same time on the same days. Member Council made a motion to accept the 2026 Primary Early Voting Plan as presented by Director Snyder which was seconded by Member Rothenberg and passed 5-0.

After the vote Chairman Eller made spoke to the issue of the Early Voting Plan stating that it has been in place for several years and has developed because it was the best plan for the maximum number of voters. He indicated that there has been no serious discussions to remove the ASU site in years and that all BOE members have the goal of meeting the voting needs of all Watauga County residents. The current early voting plan does that.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Member Rothenberg made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Member Council. The motion passed 5-0.



Eric Eller, Chair



Terry Cirone, Secretary



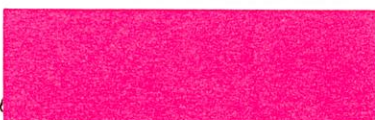
Pam Cline, Member



Leta Council, Member



Elaine Rothenberg, Member



Matthew Snyder, Director

COUNTY: WATAUGA
PROVISIONAL VOTERS STATISTICS BY RESULT
ELECTION: 11/04/2025 - 11/04/2025 MUNICIPAL GENERAL

Vote Count	Total
NOT APPROVED	5
APPROVED	76
Grand Total:	81