

Brunswick Board of Elections
Special Meeting followed by Canvass and Regular Mtg.
Friday, May 18, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. - Special and Canvass mtg.
Monday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m. for Regular mtg.

Present: Boyd Williamson and Carolyn Franklin and Stuart Smith by phone.
Visitors from the League: Gail Bromley on May18 and Gail Bromley, Beth Kirschner and Karen Spaight at May 21 (Gail Bromley reporting)

Voting tabulation issues: At the beginning of the Special Meeting, a review of issues encountered on and after Election Day for some ballots were presented by Sara Knotts, Director. The affected ballots were from Bald Head Island. It seems that some coding issues between what the SBOEEE (State Board of Elections and Ethical Enforcement) and the county coders encountered, caused the tabulator machines to reject the ballots on Election Day. Corrections after Election Day for this were also complicated as the BOE staff worked with those who do coding at the State level. After some changes were made, the tabulator accepted the ballots but the placement of the boxes for **Yes** and **No** were adjusted such that a no vote could be read as a **Yes** vote. More adjustments were clearly needed.

These issues were corrected so that the tabulator at the 5/18 meeting read the votes on the ballots correctly. The bottom line is this: The mistakes were identified and corrected and the outcome of the overall approval vote for the bond stands. Sara announced that several steps will change in the future to ensure that data the state provides and coded locally for ballots will be carefully tested. All agreed that this happening during a primary was much better than during the general election.

At the 5/21 regular meeting, it was announced that the BOE staff learned that 12 ballots were still not counted for Bald Head Island and that the Board needs to reconvene the following day to amend the canvass results. They need members physically present. The final outcome of the bond referendum is unlikely to change, even if all ballots are marked NO. This primary has proven to confirm Murphy's Law.

At the canvass: The provisional ballots were reviewed. Provisional ballots are given to those who present for voting because: they voted out of precinct; they have no record of registration; they selected the wrong party's ballot, etc. Out of the ballots reviewed, staff suggested that 44 be approved and that 14 be disapproved while 1 needed a Board decision of acceptance or rejection, due to incomplete information provided by the voter at the DMV. Several attempts to correct this were pursued by the BOE. The majority of provisional ballots were due to out-of-precinct voting. Voters do not seem to understand this part of the law properly.

At the regular meeting on 5/21, the Board discussed many issues around finding good Election Day Precinct polling locations or Early voting sites. Also, the Board

adopted the Duties of the Director as required by the SBOEEE and also adopted the Rules of Procedures as outlined and amended by the Brunswick County Board.

Gail Bromley also announced that the LWVLCF was working to provide a candidates forum both for North and Southern parts of the county.

The Brunswick Board of Elections reminded everyone that on Tuesday, June 19 at 2:00 p.m. at the Brunswick County Commissioners Chambers, a Special Meeting will be held on Early Voting Sites and hours. This is an important meeting for League members to attend as we will once again advocate for some Sunday voting hours.