

## Brunswick County Board of Elections Report

The regular meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Elections was held on Monday, September 19, at 2:P.M. All three board members were present as were the Director and Assistant Director, and Gail Bromley and Beth Kirschner representing the League of Women Voters.

The first order of business was a voter challenge. Two names were presented as having last voted in 2012 with information which indicates that these people are deceased. Probable cause was found to continue investigation as required by law before dropping these names from the rolls.

The following information was presented in the Director's report:

The One Stop Early Voting Schedule has still not been approved by the State Board of Elections. Since the Brunswick County Board was unanimous in approving their voting schedule, this should be a matter of stamping approval, but no information has been forthcoming from the state. Currently, the staff can only proceed in the hope of approval, while they are aware that they may have to make changes at the last minute.

The request to combine Bellville precincts 2 and 3 with both voting at the Leland Cultural Arts Center has been denied by the state. The reason given was that the precinct would be too large and might increase wait time for voting. The two precincts will vote at their previous location for Election Day.

A training and brainstorming session has been held for staff in preparation for the November election. Training for election workers starts on the evening of September 19.

The State Board of Elections is working with the Dept. of Homeland Security regarding security concerns over possible hacking of election results. Randy Pelton, one of the board members explained that all Brunswick County's voting machines are stand alone computers, which means they are not connected to the internet in any way. At the end of the day, information is downloaded from each machine, and transported to the offices in Bolivia where the information is loaded onto one stand alone machine to be counted. The results are then downloaded and fed into a computer system that is connected to the State's computer. Should there be any concerns about infiltration at the state level, our election results would still be available to reproduce on each voting machine and the dedicated Brunswick County Computer.

As has been done in the past the Dept. of Elections will work with the State Board of Health to offer Flu Vaccinations at the polls on Election Day. The Department of Health will vaccinate at three locations in Brunswick County, and this year Walgreens has offered to provide services at six more locations.

Sample ballots for the election are available on line at the Brunswick County Board of Elections website. Voters can print the ballot, mark their choices ahead of time, and **MAY TAKE THESE SAMPLE BALLOTS WITH THEM TO USE AS A GUIDE WHEN THEY VOTE.** This is important as the ballot is five pages long and could take voters more time than usual this year. Being prepared could save time, and ensure that people don't miss voting in some categories.

Sarah, the Director, has done and will be doing speaking engagements giving voter information and registering voters at several locations, some of which have been assisted by Gail Bromley from the League.

Under new business, the board approved a plan to handle the duplication of ballots so that all valid votes can be counted. For example, when paper ballots such as absentee ballots are counted, they have sometimes been damaged in the mail and cannot be fed into the voting machine. In that case a bipartisan team of the board of elections will duplicate the ballot so that it may be counted. After the duplicates are marked and verified by all board members. The originals will be marked as such and placed in a sealed envelope and retained for the same period as all Election Day materials.

The board then moved into

Beth Kirschner