

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2026 – 11:00 AM
CANVASS MEEETING**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Friday, March 13, 2026, at 11:00 am at the Board of Elections Office, 240 Cherokee Camp Road, Reidsville.

Board Members Present: Don Powell, Chairman; Bert Jones, Secretary; Sarah Totten, Member; Wally White, Member; and Ophelia Wright, Member.

Staff Members Present: Paula Seamster, Director and Michelle Evans, Senior Deputy Director.

ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Chairman Powell.

ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Totten moved, seconded by Member Wright to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #3 – 2026 PRIMARY POST-ELECTION AUDIT

The Director stated that she provided the Board with an email from the State Board on the 2026 Primary Post-Election Audit. “The audit identified ballots that were potentially ineligible to be counted for the following reason:

- Death – Voters with pending voter history who match a deceased person from the current and past two calendar years of DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) data imports.
- Felony conviction – Voters with pending voter history who match a person serving a felony sentence from the most recent DAC (Department of Adult Corrections) data import.
- Duplicates (exact match) – Voters with pending voter history on both records who match on one or more of the three different matching criteria listed below:
 1. Last name, first name, birth date, and driver license number, or
 2. Last name, first name, birth date, and SSN, or
 3. Last name, first name, birth date, middle name, birth state, race, and gender
- Duplicates (NCID match) – Voters with pending voter history on both records who match on NCID
- Removed registrations – Voters with pending voter history currently in a removed status
- Denied registrations – Voters with pending voter history currently in a denied status”

The Director went through the Post-Election Audit by category:

Death – Rockingham County did not have anyone listed.

Felony conviction – Rockingham County did not have anyone listed.

Duplicates (exact match) – Rockingham County did not have anyone listed.

Duplicates (NCID match) – Rockingham County did not have anyone listed.

Removed – Rockingham County had two listed and these two would be discussed and voted on by the Board.

Denied – Rockingham County did not have anyone listed.

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Removed Registrations

Alissa Michele White – The Director stated that she received an email from Legal Counsel at the State Board on this one and the Board was given a copy of it. The Director sent an email to Legal Counsel stating that Ms. White’s registration date was January 29, 2026, and her registration card was issued on February 3, 2026. Ms. White voter registration card was returned on February 17, 2026, stating that she lives in Danville, VA. According to Legal Counsel “this appears to be a situation where the voter had a mail verification card returned after voting in person. Since this voter voted early in person before their mail verification card came back, there should not be challenged, and the process for treating them as a registered voter in NCGS 163-82.7(g) should be followed.” The Director read NC GS 163-82.7(g) “Voting When Verification Process Is Incomplete – In cases where an election occurs before the process of verification outlined in this section has had time to be completed, the county board of elections shall be guided by the following rules: (1) If the county has made a tentative determination that an applicant is qualified to vote under subsection (a) of this section, then that person shall not be denied the right to vote in person in an election unless the Postal Service has returned as undeliverable two notices to the applicant:...”

The Board had some discussions on the matter.

Secretary Jones moved, seconded by Member Totten, to not remove Alissa Michele White from the voter rolls and that her vote should be counted. The motion carried unanimously.

Gayle Robertson Bowman – The Director stated that she received an email from Legal Counsel that stated that Ms. Bowman was in the system twice, one as Gayle Robertson Bowman and one as Wanda Gayle Bowman. She stated that the identifying numbers were the same so the Gayle Robertson Bowman registration was removed but her vote should count since she is still registered as Wanda Gayle Bowman.

Secretary Jones moved, seconded by Member Wright to approve Gayle Robertson Bowman aka Wanda Gayle Bowman’s ballot and that it should be counted. The motion carried unanimously.

Deceased Voter

The Director stated that Rockingham County did not have anyone listed on the Death list but was notified by the DHHS list maintenance on March 11, 2026, that Linuel Dennis Troxler passed away on March 2, 2026, the day for Election Day. The Director sent an email to Legal Counsel at the State Board seeking advice on this voter since the death notification was not received in the Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on March 10, 2026. Legal Counsel’s response was “On one hand, it sounds like it very likely is the case that the deceased person and the voter are the same person, and their ballot would not be eligible to be counted since they were not alive on Election Day. On the other hand, the mechanism for removing the ballot from the count is not available, because the deadline to file a challenge was 5pm on March 10. As explained in Numbered Memo 2022-05, specifically footnote 6, before a county board can discount a ballot at canvass, they would need to have given the voter due process in case there is a mistake. That

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involves giving the voter notice and a meaningful opportunity to contest the challenge to their ballot. That notice and opportunity needs to be given even if the records available show that they had died. As explained in the memo, however, there is not enough time at this point before tomorrow to give the voter due process. Moreover, as the memo explains at the top of page 2: “Except for the retrieval process prescribed for same-day registrants in G.S. 163-82.6B(d), the only method to retrieve and discount the ballot of an absentee or early voting voter is through a timely and successful challenge.” Taking all that into account, I think the only real option is for your board to acknowledge at the canvass meeting that you have an official document showing that a voter died the day before Election Day, that notification of the death came after the deadline to challenge a ballot, and that in line with Numbered Memo 2022-05 the ballot could not be challenged and discounted at this time by your county board. The State Board could then address the matter as it sees fit when canvassing the election, since this contest is within the jurisdiction of the State Board under NCGS 163-182.4.”

There was a lot of discussion from the Board on this case.

Member Totten moved, seconded by Member Wright to count Mr. Troxler’s ballot. The motion carried by a vote of four to one with Chairman Powell voting no.

ITEM #4 – RECESS

Member Wright moved, seconded by Member Totten for the Board to take a brief recess for the Director to finalize the voter history. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #5 – CANVASS

The Director informed the Board that there were 10354 ballots cast during Early Voting; 93 absentee by mail ballots were approved by the Board, 97 provisional ballots were approved by the Board; and there were 7,875 ballots cast on Election Day for a total of 18,419 ballots cast for the 2026 Primary Elections.

The Director then proceeded to go through the Reconciliation Worksheet explaining the columns to the Board members and those present in the meeting.

The Director stated that the Board had been presented with the Abstract of Votes for Rockingham County, NC form, March 3, 2026, Primary Election Results by Precinct form, and the March 3, 2026, Primary Election Results by Contest form and she asked for the approval from the Board on all these forms.

Secretary Jones moved, seconded by Member Totten to approve the March 3, 2026, Primary Election Results by Contest form. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Totten moved, seconded by Member Wright to approve the March 3, 2026, Primary Election Results by Precinct form. The motion carried unanimously.

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Member Totten moved, seconded by Member White to approve the Supplemental Absentee Certification for the UOCAVA voters, which there were none. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board signed all the forms.

ITEM #6 – ADJOURNMENT

At 12:12 p.m. Member Wright moved, seconded by Secretary Jones to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula P. Seamster, Director

Don Powell, Chairman