**Board of Elections for Brunswick County**

**March Meeting, March 20, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Observation Report**

**Attendance**: Board Members Stuart Smith, Chariman, Randy Pelton and Boyd Williamson were present. Sara Knotts, Director and Melissa Monroe, Deputy Director, were staff present.

Gail Bromley and Beth Kirschner represented the LWVLCF.

**Highlights***: The Board and our advocacy. As reported last month, we were asked to help advocate for change in voting law that would allow for voters to be able to vote at any precinct within the county on Election Day, thus eliminating the out-of-precinct issue. I announced our efforts to help and the Board members were most pleased and thanked us for any help we can offer.*

*Growth in the county will necessitate even more precincts being identified, thus increasing costs on Election Day. The SBOE is looking at how precincts are being determined and if that needs to change.*

*The bulk of the meeting was then devoted to discussing their own advocacy with the State Legislature for changes in law, including the aspect we hope to formally support.*

**Other Items of Note:** Sara has provided the County Comissioners with a budget for the upcoming year. This year they are asking to add three new scanners (read paper ballots) to their inventory. Next year, money will need to be added for all the new voting machines required for 2018-19 test and use. This additional expense will run anywhere from $1 million to $1.3 million.

The County is hiring an additional IT person who will help the Board of Elections with their IT issues.

Sara and Stuart met with the Brunswick County Board of Education to ask for a teachers’ day for election days. The Board of Ed. agreed to that for the November Election date, but not for the primary. Until the State allows for more flexibility for teacher days or days when school will not be in session, they cannot help with further days without students present.

The Courts in NC have determined that the Boards of Elections at the State and County levels will remain the way they are configured now and not as the Legislature had decided by passing a law just before Governor Cooper assumed office.

On April 10 and 11, there will be a conference for Boards of Election held in Wilmington.

Notes provided by: Gail Bromley