LWV-LCF Report

New Hanover County Board of Elections

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 (3 PM)

Board Attendees: Jonathan Washburn, Chairman; Jamie Getty, Secretary;

Thomas Pollard, Member and Parliamentarian

Attendees: Derek L. Bowens, Elections Director, Sornatha Fulford, Elections Compliance Specialist

Visitors: Democracy NC (3)

Derek L. Bowens, Elections Director Report:

1. Budget: ¾ through fiscal year with 83% of budget spent.
2. Potential funds: House Bill 655? would appropriate 50 million dollars in grant matching funds for all counties (500,000 per county) thus all counties would have additional resources for elections. New Hanover , instead of the current dual equipment system (one stop, election day) would have one voting equipment system. Current equipment is 10 years old (trade-in worth 975,000).
3. Vote list maintenance: current registered voters = 162,221. New registrants = 664 and removals = 731 (felons, death, moves). Of the 731 removals approximately 500 were voters who moved.
4. 2017 -2018 polling places re Board of Education sites. In the 2017-2018 Board of Election term May 8th will be a teacher workday thus allowing schools use for voting. In the 2018-2019 Board of Election term polling places in schools will be November 6th .
5. Local policy for records retention/disposition: resolution adopted to retain records of administrative value. Issue of determining the “value” of documents was discussed and developing a disposition manual. Mr. Bowen is apt to save everything as it was brought out that what is perceived to have value changes and historic aspect of documents and signatures is important. Issue of keeping digital records was discussed and supported.
6. Compensation for New Hanover County Precinct Officials was discussed. New Hanover pays beyond minimum wage (7.25 min. wage). State statute states training of $15. New Hanover to pay $20 for Asst. training and $25 for Chief Judge training.
7. Mr. Bowen will explore Forsythe County Board of Election strategy (tableau app) for obtaining immediate feedback re wait time at precinct sites.
8. In my asking a question of clarification in the Public Comment section of the meeting, the Chairman took issue with the asking a question (which the Board would need to respond) rather than making a comment. There was no resolution.

Submitted by Meredith Glicksman