

DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, February 26, 2026

The Davidson County Board of Elections met on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Elections office located at 945 N. Main Street, Suite A, Lexington, North Carolina 27292.

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with the following members present: Secretary Belinda Clark, Richard Johnson, and Jason Cheek. Member Dan Francis was not present. Director Andrew Richards, Deputy Director Adam Moore, Elections Administrative Manager Olivia Phillips, and Assistant County Attorney Ryan Hargrave were present. There was one visitor.

Chairman Freeman made a motion to take the board into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) for the purpose of consulting with counsel on a matter relevant to the scope and authority of the Davidson County Board of Elections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cheek and was unanimously approved and the board went into closed session.

Chairman Freeman made a motion to return to open session at 6:18 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and was unanimously approved.

Assistant County Attorney Ryan Hargrave gave a report regarding the closed session held by the board to the public.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with Absentee Ballots that were approved at the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and approve the ballots from the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Cheek and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with Absentee Ballots that were approved at the February 10, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and approve the ballots from the February 10, 2026 Board Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Cheek and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with Absentee Ballots that were approved at the February 17, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Cheek made a motion to ratify and approved the ballots from the February 17, 2026 Board Meeting. It was seconded by Secretary Clark and unanimously approved.

Election Administrative Manager Olivia Phillips presented the board with 51 Civilian Absentee Ballots recommended for approval. After review, Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the 51 Civilian Absentee Ballots. It was seconded by Secretary Clark and unanimously approved.

Ms. Phillips presented the board with 9 Civilian Absentee Ballots with the Photo ID Exception form recommended for approval. After review, Secretary Clark made a motion to accept the 9 ballots. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Ms. Phillips presented the board with 1 Military Ballot Return Packet recommended for approval. After review, Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the 1 Military Ballot Return Packet. It was seconded by Mr. Cheek and unanimously approved.

Ms. Phillips presented the board with 1 Civilian Absentee ballot recommended for rejection due to a lack of acceptable Photo ID or Photo ID Exception form. After review, Secretary Clark made a motion to reject the 1 ballot. It was seconded by Mr. Cheek and unanimously approved.

Once the ballots were tabulated, Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the cumulative tabulation of absentee ballots at 118. It was seconded by Mr. Cheek and unanimously approved.

Secretary Clark read the minutes from the November 14, 2025 Board Meeting. Mr. Cheek made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with the list of Early Voting judges for each early site for the March 3, 2026 Primary Election that was approved at the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and approve the Early Voting judges. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with a list of Election Day precinct judge appointments and Emergency Judge appointments that were approved at the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and approve the list of Election Day judge appointments. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with a proposed resolution to allow for the early tabulation of absentee ballots on Election Day within the parameters set forth in NC General Statute 163-224 that was approved at the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with a proposed resolution to adopt a review policy for absentee ballots within the parameters set forth in NC General Statute 163-230 that was approved at the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Cheek made a motion to ratify and adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Secretary Clark and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with a resolution to authorize staff to fill judge vacancies for Early Voting sites or Election Day precincts in emergency situations that was approved at the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Cheek and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with a resolution to establish protocols for inclement weather during the Early Voting period for the March 3, 2026 Primary Election that was approved at the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to ratify and adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Secretary Clark and unanimously approved.

Secretary Clark read the minutes from the February 3, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Cheek and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with an Emergency Judge Appointment for the Democratic Judge at Precinct 30 – Dunbar that was approved at the February 10, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and approve the emergency judge appointment. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with a list of At-Large Poll Observers submitted by the Davidson County Republican Party for the Early Voting period of the March 3, 2026 Primary Election that was approved at the February 10, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and approve the list as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with a Resolution to Delegate Authority to the Deputy Director for the March 3, 2026 Primary Election that was approved at the February 10, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to ratify and adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Secretary Clark and unanimously approved.

Secretary Clark read the minutes from the February 10, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Secretary Clark and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board with an Emergency Judge Appoint for Precinct 46 – North Davidson that was approved at the February 17, 2026 Board Meeting. Secretary Clark made a motion to ratify and approve the Emergency Judge Appointment. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Secretary Clark read the minutes from the February 17, 2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Cheek made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

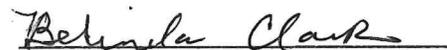
Director Andrew Richards presented the board with a list of At-Large Poll Observers submitted by the Davidson County Democratic Party and the Davidson County Republican Party for the Early Voting period of the March 3, 2026 Primary Election. After review, Secretary Clark made a motion to approve the list as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Director Andrew Richards presented the board an Emergency Judge Appointment for the Democratic Judge at Precinct 54 – Silver Valley. Secretary Clark made a motion to approve the emergency judge appointment. It was seconded by Mr. Cheek and unanimously approved.

The Board discussed the Davidson County Buffer Zone policy and whether the policy needed to updated with clearer guidelines. After discussion, Chairman Freeman made a motion to revisit the Davidson County Board of Elections Buffer Zone policy to update clearer guidance at the first regularly schedule board meeting following the Canvass of the March 3, 2026 Primary Election. It was seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. It was seconded by Secretary Clark and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

 Belinda Clark, Secretary

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