

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton
Chair

Michael Flatow
Secretary

Jonathan S. Dills
Member



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

Lamar Joyner
Deputy Director

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 6, 2012

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was held in the Multi-Purpose Room located on the fourth floor of the Government Center on August 6, 2012. The meeting convened at 5:45 PM, Chairman Linda Sutton presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Chairman Linda Sutton, Secretary Michael Flatow, Member Jonathan Dills

Staff Members in attendance: Director Robert Coffman, Chris Duffey, Judy Speas

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Sutton requested that the Board review the minutes of July 31, 2012. Member Dills moved and Secretary Flatow seconded the motion to approve the minutes of July 31, 2012. Motion carried.

One Stop Plan

Board members began discussion on the 2012 General Election One Stop Plan with Secretary Flatow stating that the Board's responsibility was to create a fair environment for access to voting; inform the community about the process; maintain an independent role; and, build trust and integrity within the community. The voting process has several parts (Early Voting, Absentee Ballots and Election Day Voting) which give an opportunity to vote. The Board may need to compromise in order to move things forward.

Chairman Sutton acknowledged that the One Stop schedule should provide and possibly improve the locations and hours that were available in the 2008 General Election. Chairman Sutton stated that the Board's intention has always been to approach a discussion in a non-partisan manner that creates no divided feelings. The fact that 83,000 registered voters reside in the county and 149,000 registered voters reside within the city wards should aid in the selection of locations.

Mr. Coffman began an evaluation of proposed One Stop Plans by projecting several representative maps of the locations on the overhead screen:

#1 Proposed CC/PH Location – Staff recommended plan: this plan is a second draft that adds a thirteenth site for the Country Club/Peace Haven area. Locations are now the BOE Office, Lewisville Library, Polo Park Rec, Rural Hall Library, Mazie Woodruff, Clemmons Library, Kernersville Senior Center, Sedge Garden Rec Center, Southside Library, Walkertown Library, WSSU (Anderson Center), Old Town Rec Center and the Country Club/Peace Haven location.

#2 Sutton Plan – Chairman Sutton's plan includes fifteen locations which are the thirteen Staff recommended locations plus Brown & Douglas Recreation Center and Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center.

#3 Brown & Douglas Addition – this fourteen site plan adds Brown & Douglas Recreation Center to the thirteen Staff recommended locations.

#4 Proposed Location: Malloy/Jordan – this fourteen site plan adds Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center to the thirteen Staff recommended locations.

#5 Proposed Location: Miller Park Recreation Center – this thirteen site plan adds a Miller Park location to the original twelve Staff recommended locations. The Country Club/Peace Haven location is not included.

Secretary Flatow stated that the addition of a Country Club/Peace Haven location seemed to be a common thread in the plan options. The issue would be whether the budget would allow for more than fourteen sites. Chairman Sutton suggested that the Sutton Plan with fifteen locations may satisfy all concerns. However, Mr. Coffman stated that the budget would allow for staffing at no more than fourteen locations. Also, long lines would most likely be avoided with the existing amount of voting equipment for fourteen locations. The same equipment must also be used in Election Day Voting. Accordingly, with fourteen locations, Staff members are required to reallocate the One Stop voting equipment for use in Election Day voting immediately after the deadline of One Stop Voting. For those reasons, Mr. Coffman recommended no more than fourteen One Stop locations for the 2012 General Election.

Member Dills stated that a plan with no more than fourteen locations would provide uniform coverage in the county. The Country Club/Peace Haven location and one other location would be an appropriate compromise, even though there seemed to be an overlapping of coverage in the urban area. This plan would allow for the limitation of equipment, budget and staff and be good stewards of the county money. Secretary Flatow stated that Brown & Douglas Recreation Center would seem to be an appropriate location addition for the One Stop plan. Chairman Sutton questioned the use of the Fourteenth Street Community Center.

Board members agreed that no public comment would be taken at the meeting. However, they would engage in discussion afterwards. Chairman Sutton stated that she would be unable to reach a consensus with a One Stop plan that decreased the number of locations in the more populated areas of the county. Secretary Flatow moved and Member Dills seconded the motion to accept the One Stop proposal labeled #3 Brown & Douglas Addition. This plan includes fourteen locations with Brown & Douglas Recreation Center and a Country Club/Peace Haven location. Motion carried with Chairman Sutton dissenting.

Mr. Coffman explained the recommended dates and hours of the proposed One Stop Plan with a 2012 General Election One Stop Schedule. As Early Voting progresses, it is preferred to maximize the budget by staggering the opening of the locations. The budget amount of \$150,000 for One Stop staff was detailed in available units for one day of One Stop voting at one location. Board members examined a Proposed First Week Locations map recommended by staff which included the BOE office, Clemmons Library, Kernersville Senior Center, Mazie Woodruff and Old Town Rec Center. Secretary Flatow questioned whether better coverage would be achieved by eliminating the satellite locations on October 22, 2012, the first Monday, and including an additional satellite location during the remainder of the first week of One Stop Voting. The Board of Elections office location would be available at all times. Chairman Sutton stated that the satellite sites during the first week of One Stop Voting should provide coverage in all directions of the county. After discussion, Secretary Flatow moved and Chairman Sutton seconded a motion to eliminate the satellite locations on October 22, 2012, the first Monday, in order to fund the staff recommended locations as well as an additional satellite location at Southside Library during the remainder of the first week of One Stop Voting. Member Dills mentioned that statistics suggest that better coverage for the first week may also be appropriate in the western area of the county. Motion carried with Member Dills dissenting.

Chairman Sutton reviewed the operating hours of One Stop Voting. Mr. Coffman stated that the hours of the satellite locations revolve around the library hours when the facility is available. It was explained that extending the hours of Early Voting on Saturday, November 3rd, would be a cost issue. However, any voter in line at the deadline of 1:00 PM would be allowed to vote. Secretary Flatow moved and Chairman Sutton seconded a motion to accept the staff recommended hours of the 2012 General Election One Stop Schedule. Motion carried with Member Dills dissenting.

Other Business

none

Adjournment

Member Dills moved and Secretary Flatow seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Approved:

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Date

Michael Flatow, Secretary

Date

Jonathan S. Dills, Member

Date

Attachments on File: Forsyth County Polling Locations maps (#1 – Proposed CC/PH Location, #2 – Sutton Plan, #3 – Brown & Douglas Addition, #4 – Proposed Location: Malloy/Jordan, #5 – Proposed Location: Miller Park Recreation Center, #6 First Week Locations; One Stop Voting 11/4/2008; One Stop Schedule General Election 2012 Draft