

The Union County Board of Elections met on October 25, 2024. Those in attendance were Chairman Dean Cook; Board Members Jeff Robinson, Barbara Luke, and William Steele; Director Brandon Clay, Deputy Director Michelle Forrider; Secretary of State Liaison Susie O'Brien, and Election Specialist Vicki Flanders.

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Proposed 2025 Budget

Deputy Director Forrider presented the budget for review and approval by the board. An increase in the supply budget is necessary due to the depletion of supplies created by the 2024 general election. The price of vendors is up slightly, medical and dental benefits increased; however, vision stayed the same. Board Member Steele recommended a higher wage rate for the Board of Elections staff due to cost-of-living increases and employee retention.

Board Member Steele recommended a wage increase of 7.5% with Board Member Robinson seconding the motion.

- Motion passed unanimously

The rest of the budget stayed relatively the same as 2024.

Board Member Luke motioned to approve the 2025 budget with Board Member Robinson seconding the motion.

Ballot Remakes

There are 80 paper ballots that need remade due to a malfunction of the Ballot on Demand printer. The ballots were printed slightly offset making them invalid, the OVO scanner will not read them as is. A new printer has been received and installed.

Board Member Steele motioned to approve the remake of 80 paper ballots by the Board of Election staff with Board Member Robinson seconding the motion.

Miscellaneous

A petition is expected to be turned into the Board of Elections by the City Law Director with 2400 signatures the week of the General Election. This petition, if approved, would go on a Special Election in May of 2025. It is understood that due to the timing of the current election, signatures may not be verified and the petition completed until December of 2024.

Attest: Vicki Flanders Chairman: Dean Cook
Vicki Flanders, Election Specialist Dean Cook, Chairman