

**ELECTION PROTEST**

Use of this form is required by G.S. 163-182.9(c)

This form must be filed with the county board of elections within the timeframes set out in G.S. 163-182.9 (b)(4). Please print or type your answers. Feel free to use and attach additional sheets if needed to fully answer the questions below. You may also attach relevant exhibits and documents. Please number the pages of such additional sheets and attachments.

1. Full name and mailing address of person filing the protest.

Jason Jennings Silvers 4339 Jacks Creek Road Burnsville NC. 28714

2. Home and business phone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

828-284-3506 mandy.shuford60@gmail.com

3. Are you either a candidate or registered voter eligible to vote in the protested election?

If a candidate, for what office?

Yancey County Commissioner

4. List the date, location, and exact nature of the election protested. Name all candidates in the election and the number of votes each received. Note the winning candidate(s) elected or nominated.

Yancey County Commissioner Primary election 2026. March 3rd.

5. Does this protest involve an alleged error in vote count or tabulation? If so, please explain in detail.

\* See attachment

6. Does this protest involve an irregularity or misconduct not described in number 5 above? If so, please give a detailed description of such misconduct or irregularity and name those who committed such action.

\* See attachment

7. Please set out all election laws or regulations that you allege were violated in your responses to 5 or 6 above. State how each violation occurred. Please provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers of those who you allege committed such violations.

\* See attachment -

8. Please provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses to any misconduct alleged by you in this protest, and specify what each witness listed saw or knows.

9. What action do you desire the county board of elections to take in this matter?

\* See attachment -

10. Do you contend the allegations set out by you are sufficient to have affected or cast doubt upon the results of the protested election? If your answer is yes, please state the factual basis for your opinion.

Yes -

11. Have you read and reviewed the North Carolina law pertaining to election protests as set out in G.S. 163-182.9 through G.S. 163-182.14 and current North Carolina State Board of Elections regulations pertaining to election protests?

Yes

12. How many pages of additional answer are attached to this protest? 21

How many pages of attachments are attached? 21

\* Jason Silvers 3-12-26  
Signature of Protestor

Date/Time Filed with County Board

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(to be filled out by the county board)

**NOTE:** The county board must provide the State Board with a complete copy of a filed protest within one business day after it is filed. In addition, the county board shall provide a copy of the election audit with this copy of the protest.

Please direct any questions to your county board of elections or the North Carolina State Board of Elections, PO Box 27255, Raleigh, NC 27611-7255, (919) 733-7173.

## **ELECTION PROTEST**

**To:**

**Yancey County Board of Elections**

**Filed by:**

**Jason Silvers, Republican Candidate in the March 3, 2026 Primary Election in Yancey County**

**4339 Jacks Creek Road  
Burnsville, NC 28714**

**828-284-3506**

**jasonsilversforyanceycounty@gmail.com**

## **ELECTION IN QUESTION**

**March 3, 2026 Republican Primary Election  
Yancey County Commissioner**

**Candidates in the race:**

- **David Grindstaff (incumbent)**
- **Sandi Norton (incumbent)**
- **Stacey McEntyre Greene (incumbent)**
- **Randy Buckner (challenger)**
- **Jason Silvers (challenger / protestor)**

## **BACKGROUND OF THE PROTESTOR**

**Jason Silvers is a long-time resident of Yancey County and a registered voter in the county.**

**Public voter records from the North Carolina State Board of Elections show that Mr. Silvers has been a registered voter in Yancey County since March 10, 1994, and has participated in numerous elections over the past three decades.**

### **Voter Search**

**These records demonstrate that Mr. Silvers has consistently exercised his right to vote in local, state, and federal elections in Yancey County, including participation in:**

- general elections**
- primary elections**
- early voting**
- election day voting**

**Public records further show that Mr. Silvers has participated in many elections dating back to the 1990s, reflecting long-standing civic participation and engagement in the democratic process in Yancey County.**

### **Voter Search**

**Because of this long history of civic participation, Mr. Silvers has a strong interest in ensuring that elections in Yancey County are conducted fairly, transparently, and according to the law.**

**These issues include:**

- **Illegal sample ballots distributed to voters**
- **Failure of election officials to stop the distribution of those ballots**
- **Polling places opening late without extending voting hours**
- **Potential conflicts of interest involving individuals connected to the election process**
- **Misuse of government resources and official county imagery by incumbent candidates during the campaign**
- **Public accusations and statements made by government employees regarding a candidate**

**Taken together, these actions created an election environment that could reasonably have influenced voters and affected the outcome of the election.**

## **ISSUE 1**

### **Illegal Sample Ballots Handed Out During Early Voting**

**During the entire early voting period at the Yancey County Board of Elections, an individual named Joan Schultz stood in the parking lot handing voters printed ballots telling them who to vote for.**

**These ballots closely resembled official ballots.**

**The only wording written on them was:**

**“Recommended Republican Candidates.”**

**During discussions surrounding this protest, members of the Yancey County Board of Elections insinuated that Mr. Silvers had changed his political party affiliation. Any such suggestion is not relevant to the legitimacy of this protest.**

**North Carolina law allows voters to change party affiliation at any time. A voter's decision to change party affiliation does not diminish their right to participate in elections, run for office, or raise legitimate concerns regarding election integrity.**

**As both a registered voter and candidate in the March 3, 2026 election, Mr. Silvers has standing to file this election protest under N.C.G.S. §163-182.9.**

#### **STATEMENT OF MY PROTEST**

**I am filing this election protest pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §163-182.9, which allows a candidate to challenge an election when misconduct, irregularities, or violations of election law occur that could affect the outcome of the election.**

**The voters of Yancey County deserve elections that are conducted fairly, transparently, and according to the law.**

**Several serious irregularities occurred during the March 3, 2026 primary election, particularly during early voting and on election day.**

**There was no disclaimer identifying who produced the ballot or who paid for it.**

**Under North Carolina election law, political materials such as sample ballots must clearly identify who produced them.**

**Campaign disclosure laws require language such as:**

**“Paid for by [candidate committee or organization].”**

**This requirement exists so voters understand who is attempting to influence their vote.**

**These ballots did not contain that legally required disclosure.**

**Because these ballots were being handed out in the Board of Elections parking lot, many voters could reasonably believe the ballots were official or endorsed by election officials.**

**This type of confusion is exactly what North Carolina election law is designed to prevent.**

### **Additional Statements Made While Distributing Ballots**

**Joan Schultz reportedly told voters that she was handing these ballots out on behalf of the Yancey County Republican Party and that Gary Banks had spoken with her about how the ballots should be filled out.**

**Witnesses also report that Ms. Schultz told voters she had seen that Jason Silvers was a “very bad person” and that she had read his “psychoevaluation,” which she claimed came from DSS records.**

**These statements were made while she was distributing ballots instructing voters how to vote.**

**Such statements could reasonably influence voter perception immediately prior to voters casting ballots.**

**These statements are also relevant to Issue 6 regarding potential misuse of confidential records.**

## **ISSUE 2**

### **Board of Elections Failed to Stop Illegal Ballots**

**Witnesses report these ballots were handed out throughout the early voting period.**

**The Director of the Yancey County Board of Elections reportedly did not address the issue until halfway through the final day of early voting.**

**Even after the statute was referenced, the ballots reportedly continued to be distributed.**

**Allowing non-compliant campaign materials to be handed out outside the polling location throughout early voting raises serious concerns regarding oversight and enforcement of election law.**

## **ISSUE 3**

## **Illegal Ballots Distributed Throughout the County**

**These same ballots were reportedly:**

- **handed out across Yancey County**
- **shared with voters**
- **sent through mass text messages**

**This protest requests investigation into:**

- **who produced the ballots**
- **who paid for them**
- **who authorized their distribution**
- **who sent them through text messaging**

## **ISSUE 4**

### **Polls Opened Late on Election Day**

**Two precincts vote at Blue Ridge Elementary School:**

- **Prices Creek**
- **Jacks Creek**

**North Carolina law requires polling locations to open at 6:30 AM.**

**Reports indicate that the Prices Creek precinct did not open until approximately 7:00 AM.**

**This meant voters arriving between 6:30 AM and 7:00 AM were unable to vote during the time required by law.**

**Some voters reportedly left for work and may not have returned.**

## **ISSUE 5**

### **Voting Time Was Not Extended**

**North Carolina law allows voting hours to be extended when polling places open late.**

**However, voting still ended at 7:30 PM, meaning voters lost approximately 30 minutes of legally required voting time.**

### **Request for Subpoena and Testimony**

**In order to determine what occurred, the protestor respectfully requests the Board of Elections subpoena the following individuals to testify regarding the opening and closing of the polling location:**

- Joyce Anglin**
- Rebecca Robinson**
- Taylor Whitson**
- Basil Maas**
- Chris Morgan**
- Cathy King**

**These individuals should be asked:**

- What time did voting actually begin at the precinct?**
- What time did voting close?**
- Was the delay reported to the Yancey County Board of Elections?**
- If so, who was notified?**
- Was the delay reported to the North Carolina State Board of Elections?**

- Was any discussion held regarding extending voting hours?
- If voting hours were not extended, why not?

These questions are necessary to determine whether voters were disenfranchised.

## **ISSUE 6**

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Chris Morgan served as a Republican judge at the Prices Creek precinct.

Mr. Morgan is married to Sonya Morgan, Director of the Yancey County Department of Social Services.

During the campaign, confidential DSS records related to the protestor were publicly referenced.

Legal action is currently underway to determine:

- who accessed those records
- who released them
- whether government employees were involved

## **ISSUE 7**

### **Misuse of Government Office and County Seal**

The three incumbent commissioners:

- **David Grindstaff**
- **Sandi Norton**
- **Stacey McEntyre Greene**

**participated in campaign photography inside the Yancey County Commissioner office beneath the county seal.**

**These images were used in:**

- **newspaper advertisements**
- **campaign social media**
- **campaign materials distributed throughout the county**

**Use of government offices and official seals in campaign promotion raises concerns regarding misuse of public office and government resources.**

## **ISSUE 8**

### **Possible Open Meetings Law Violation**

**Three commissioners appearing together in the commissioner office constitutes a quorum of the board.**

**Under N.C.G.S. §143-318.10, meetings involving a quorum discussing public business must be properly noticed and open to the public.**

**No such meeting was announced.**

## **ISSUE 9**

## **Improper Campaign Disclaimers in Advertisements**

**Campaign advertisements associated with the above photograph reportedly lacked proper disclosure identifying who paid for or authorized the advertisement.**

**North Carolina law requires clear disclosure in political advertising.**

## **ISSUE 10**

### **Public Statements by County Employee**

**Yancey County employee Andrew Bishop publicly shared a social media post referring to Jason Silvers as a “pedophile.”**

**Such accusations of serious criminal conduct against a candidate during an election have the potential to influence voter perception.**

**A screenshot of this post can be provided to the Board.**

## **ISSUE 11**

### **Statements Suggesting Efforts to Obtain Confidential Records**

**Andrew Bishop also reportedly told voters that his supervisor was attempting to obtain court or DSS records about Jason Silvers in order to prevent him from being elected.**

**These statements raise concerns regarding potential misuse of confidential government records for political purposes.**

**Witness statements can be provided.**

### **COMBINED IMPACT ON THE ELECTION**

**When considered together, these issues created an election environment that could reasonably influence voter perception.**

**Specifically:**

- **illegal sample ballots were distributed**
- **ballots lacked legally required disclaimers**
- **ballots were handed out at the polling site**
- **polling locations opened late**
- **voting hours were not extended**
- **government resources were used during the campaign**
- **damaging accusations were spread about a candidate**

**In a local election decided by a small margin, even a modest shift in voter perception could affect the outcome.**

### **REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Yancey County Board of Elections:**

- **Conduct a full investigation into the illegal sample ballots distributed during early voting**
- **Determine who produced and distributed those ballots**
- **Investigate the late opening of the polling location**
- **Determine why voting hours were not extended**
- **Subpoena witnesses regarding the opening and closing of the**

polling place

- Investigate potential misuse of government resources
- Investigate statements made by government employees

regarding the candidate

- Investigate whether confidential records were accessed or released improperly

If the Board finds that these irregularities affected the fairness of the election, I request that the Board take whatever corrective action North Carolina law allows.

The voters of Yancey County deserve elections conducted honestly and according to the law.

This protest is not about politics.

It is about ensuring the election process is fair, transparent, and worthy of the public's trust.

Jason Silvers



3-12-26

Candidate for Yancey County Commissioner

Sample Ballot - Republican Party Primary  
Yancey County, North Carolina  
March 3, 2026

Republican  
\* Recommended Primary

R0012



PCT: 01 BUR\_BURNSVILLE

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
- B. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.



PARTISAN NOMINATIONS

US Senate  
(You may vote for ONE)

- Margot Dupre
- Richard Dansie
- Donald M. (Don) Brown
- Michael Whatley
- Elizabeth A. Temple
- Michele Morrow
- Thomas Johnson

US House of Representatives  
District 11  
(You may vote for ONE)

- Chuck Edwards
- Adam R. Smith

NC Court of Appeals Judge  
Seat 1  
(You may vote for ONE)

- Michael C. Byrne
- Matt Smith

NC District Court Judge  
District 35 Seat 1  
(You may vote for ONE)

- Eric F. Eller
- S. Justin Ray

Yancey County  
Board of Commissioners  
(You may vote for THREE)

- Randy Buckner
- Jason J. Silvers
- Sandi Norton
- David Grindstaff
- Stacey McEntyre Greene

End of Ballot

of  
Early  
Starts  
Election  
March  
Notifying Elections  
Feb. 12  
Don't  
3/3

Info for:

Joan Schultz -  
953 Deep Gap Road  
Burnsville NC 28714  
Phone # 321-231-1169  
Email:  
beachlady2@bellsouth.net

Who stated she was advised  
by Gary Banks to hand these forms out.

\*Nancy Grindstaff mother of David  
Grindstaff also was with Joan handing  
out said forms also. Video

#1  
issue

We've seen this before in a past Clerk of Court Republican primary when certain folks in the Republican party pushed one candidate and tried to freeze out the other.

All it did was split Republicans for pride.

Now we've got "recommended" sample ballots being handed out again.

Here's the plain rule: if a political group hands out something that looks like a ballot and it's colored in with recommended choices, NC law says it must clearly say who made it and that it's not official.

To be legal, it should say something like:

**"Prepared/Distributed by the Yancey County Republican Party.**

**NOT produced by the Yancey County Board of Elections.**

**NOT an official ballot."**

This is per law N.C.G.S. § 163-165.2(b)

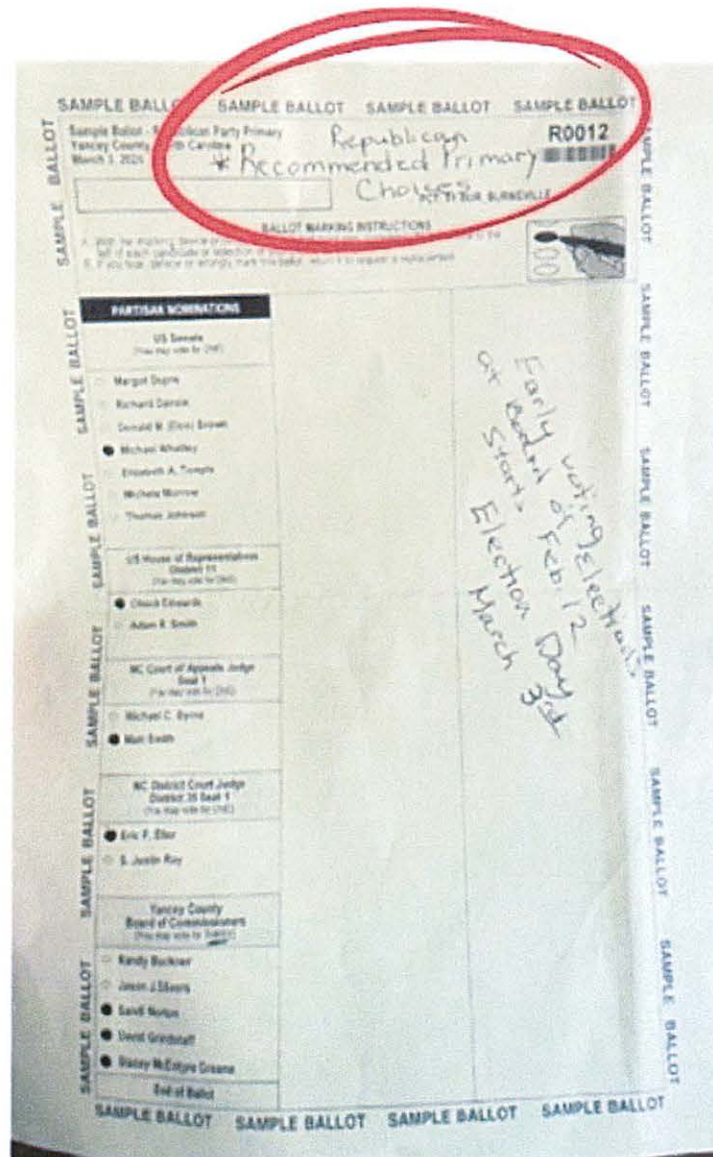
**Why this is a problem:**

**Because folks trust anything that looks official. If it doesn't say who produced it, it can confuse voters and make it look like the Board of Elections is recommending candidates, and they're not. They're neutral.**

**Vote how you want. That's your right.**

**I just want our elections honest, clear, and lawful and I'd like to know why that's so hard for the powers that be!?**

**I'm tired of people splitting the party for pride instead of respecting You, the voter.**





SANDI  
NORTON  
YANCEY COUN  
COMMISSIONER

VOTE  
REPUBLICAN!  
name ♥ Ballot

Re-Elect  
DAVID  
GRINDSTAFF  
YANCEY COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER

Candidate for  
Yancey County  
Commissioner  
★★★★★  
STACEY  
MCENTYRE GREENE

MICROKY, NC  
IN GOD WE TRUST  
TAB-9223  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SteveWhiteMotors.com

#9.

16.

< Andrew Bishop



Issue # 10

All Photos Reels



Andrew Bishop

4h · 🌐

!!!! Yancey County wake up!!! Vote for the right County Commissioners!! Let's keep pedophiles out of the local government!!! Vote for Sandi Norton, Stacey Greene and David Grindstaff they are the ones that gets the job done and of course the BEST for the job!

Andrew Bishop county employee



SKYline News

4h · 🌐

TRANSPARENT EMAILS - ALLEDGED ALLEGATIONS OF BEING A PERVERT - TO JASON SILVERS - CANDIDATE FOR YANCEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS -... See more

DIA REQUEST - Allegations of being a pervert



Me

11:36 PM

To: jasonsilversforyanceycounty@g...

March 21st 2013, were you ordered to have no contact with a juvenile

Silvers,

you are running for County Commissioner for Yancey County, an elected public position. My line has questions concerning allegations of you being a pervert.

esbitt

In March 12th 2012 did you receive a homosexual evaluation at Comprehensive Assessment and Treatment Services?

Has the Yancey County Department of Social Services ever investigated allegations of you secretly watching a naked juvenile for sexual gratification?

Has a psychosexual evaluation ever been given to you that your sexual interests lie with



+ Add friend

Message



Home



Friends



Marketplace



Groups



Notifications



Profile

17.

Andrew Bishop 8h · 🌐



All comments ▾

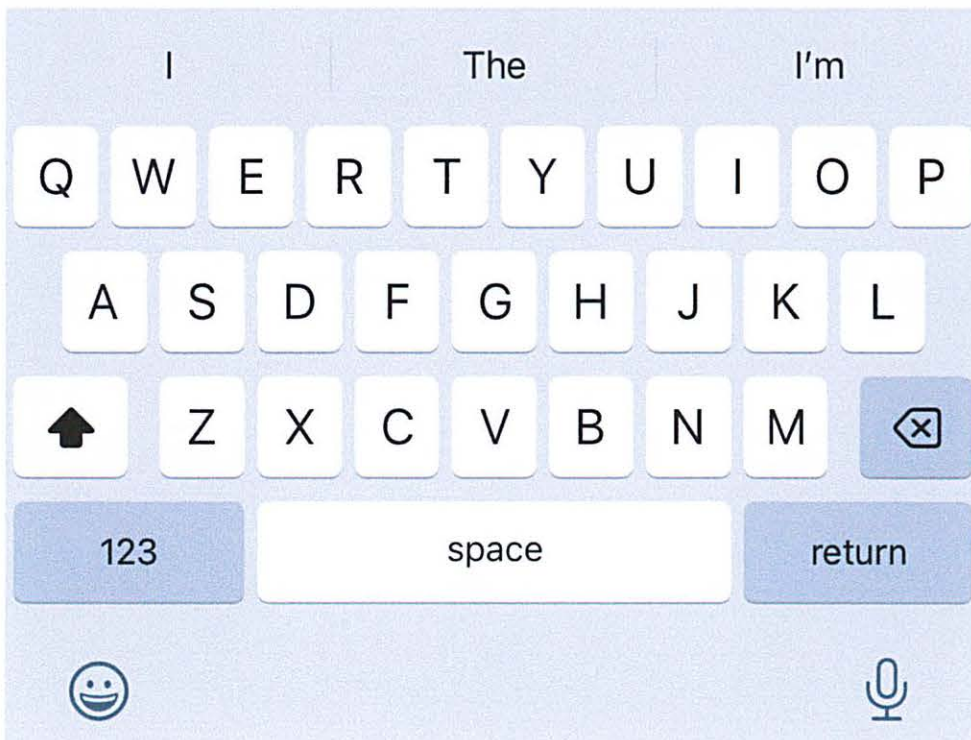
Lindsey Autrey · 1h  
👏  
Reply

Kristy Bryant · 24m  
Sad and sickening  
Reply

Andrew Bishop · 19m · Author  
Kristy Bryant very sickening!  
Reply

Ashley Ayers Bishop · 34m  
Disgusting. No one with a history of this should be able to hold any type of elected office!  
Reply 2

Comment as Mandy Shuford 🗿 GIF 😊



Continue of #10 County employee Kristy Bryant and Andrew Bishop Yancey Co. EMS -

9:09



Andrew Bishop

9h · 🌐



All 14



8



3



2



1

# 10 -

Same post!



Pamela Burgin

158 mutual friends



Message



Lindsey Autrey

211 mutual friends



Message



Gary Banks

511 mutual friends



Message



Tyler Holcomb

221 mutual friends



Message



Bryce Miller

185 mutual friends



Message



Destini Stinson

105 mutual friends

Add friend



Pam White

34 mutual friends

Add friend



Kassie Hughes

190 mutual friends

Add friend



Lila Hughes

81 mutual friends

Add friend



Hannah Marie

203 mutual friends

Add friend



Sharon Slagle Bishop

55 mutual friends

Add friend




Allison McKinney

146 mutual friends

Add friend

19.




<  **April M Grindstaff**  
17m · 👤

**TARGETING CHILDREN AND  
FUNSHINE CAMP!!  
DO BETTER!!!!**

Issue #  
10 -

👍 8    💬 2    💬    👍👎

 **Kristy Bryant** · 14m  
**PREACH** 🙌  
Reply

 **Kellie Mckinney** · 13m  
Let me guess who 🙄  
Reply

\* April Grindstaff wife of David Grindstaff

\* Kristy Bryant county employee on duty while at David Grindstaff bussiness and commenting on post while in bussiness with David. and April Grindstaff could provide photo proof.

All Photos Reels



Ashley Ayers Bishop

16m · 🌐

!! ATTENTION YANCEY COUNTY RESIDENTS!!!

SOS

Whether you are political or not...take a stand for what is RIGHT! PROTECT OUR CHILDREN! No one with a history of this should serve in an elected position 🤔

Jason Silvers should practice his "transparency" stand and give the voters ANSWERS to the questions that are being asked.



SKYline News was live.

21h · 🌐

NESBITT LIVE - YANCY COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE JASON SILVERS HAS NOT RESPONDED TO QUESTI... See more



Ashlev Avers Bishop undated her



#11  
Wife of  
Andrew  
Bishop  
County  
employee of  
EMS

21.