

## Election Canvass today

Written by

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Last week's Boone municipal election was close- so close, that in fact, today's election canvass could change the results. 2,199 people turned out to vote, a record, according to Watauga County Board of Elections chair Jane Hodges.

The top five council candidates were separated by a mere 51 votes. Those candidates, leader Stephen Phillips with 1,062 votes, incumbent Lynne Mason with 1,038 votes, incumbent Dempsey Wilcox with 1,028 votes, Liz Aycock with 1,015 votes and incumbent Bunk Spann with 1,011 votes, could get to do it all over again. The fourth and fifth place finishers, due to the close numbers, are given the option of requesting a revote. The question that remains is: will the 83 provisional votes change the rankings?

Provisional votes, those cast by people who believe they are registered, but whose names do not appear on the registration rolls, will be analyzed and possibly added to the totals at canvassing. Both Aycock and Spann told Aisling Broadcasting that they were waiting on the provisional ballots to decide whether to request another vote.

Should a runoff be held, it would take place on November 6, the same date as elections in Watauga County's other municipalities, Blowing Rock, Beech Mountain and Seven Devils.

A revote would require Watauga County to pay to open Boone's precinct polls, and it could be costly, election officials say.