



Fulton County, GA

Fourth Quarter 2009

Registrations and Elections *Elections Corner*

“News for & about the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections”

A Message from the Director

Greetings! Preparation for the upcoming, November 3, 2009 General/Special Election is aggressively underway in the Fulton County Registration and Elections Department. I want to take time to advise you, the citizens of Fulton County, of all efforts that are currently being made on your behalf to ensure a flawless election.

As many of you know, preparation for Election Day begins months before the actual day of the election. Hundreds of polling places and thousands of poll workers have to be determined as well as the accurate registration of tens of thousands of voters, absentee voting preparation and training of hundreds of temporary staff, just to name a few of the many activities currently taking place in our Registration and Elections Department.



One of the most important pieces for a flawless election day is the identifying and training of our precinct officials. The state of Georgia requires that every poll worker be trained and certified to work in any precinct. We absolutely value the hard work and dedication of our civic-minded precinct officials. Therefore, we want to ensure that our precinct officials are precisely trained to accurately serve the public in a fair manner to guarantee that all Fulton County citizens can exercise their constitutional right to vote. We provide a comprehensive classroom-type setting, complete with a lecture that includes a detailed PowerPoint presentation, a procedural manual, ballot examples and hands-on simulation of the actual equipment used in the polls on Election Day. Our training reenacts all of the tasks that are required to set-up and close-out of a precinct on Election Day according to our stringent procedures. This gives each individual the basics of the election process as well as what to expect in a real election and the roles different people play. In addition, a written exam is given to each potential poll official to access how well they have retained the information presented in the training. If an individual receives 70 or below on the exam, he/she is not allowed to work the election. Precinct training is serious business to us! It is not taken lightly because voters entrust precinct officials to record their vote accurately.

As we embark on three weeks of Early Voting, I want to assure you that our Registration and Elections Department is committed to the proper preparation and adherence of procedures necessary to ensure a flawless Election Day. We are prepared to work around the clock, if necessary, to provide outstanding customer service and dedication to make this election one of the best in the history of the State of Georgia.

Barry Garner
Director, Fulton County Registration and
Elections Department

Mission Statement

To ensure that the registration and elections process is efficiently and effectively provided to eligible citizens of Fulton County according to applicable laws and rules.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 5, 2009 - Last day a person may register and be eligible to vote in the Municipal General Election and Runoff.

October 12-23, 2009
Early Voting

October 26-30, 2009
Advanced Voting Week

October 30, 2009
Last day to request Absentee Ballot (by 5:00p.m.)

November 3, 2009
Municipal General Election

November 23-25, 2009
Early & Advanced Voting for Runoff (if necessary)

December 1, 2009
Runoff for Municipal General Election (if necessary)

5 Things to Know Before Election Day

1. **KNOW WHERE TO GO-** Check the location of your polling place to make sure it has not changed www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/elections
2. **KNOW WHEN TO GO-** Avoid the long lines in the mid-morning and mid-afternoon hours.
3. **KNOW WHAT TO BRING-** There are six (6) acceptable forms of identification. This includes:

- A. A Georgia driver's license, even if expired
- B. A valid state or federal government-issued photo ID
- C. Valid U.S. Passport
- D. Valid government employee photo ID
- E. Valid U.S. military photo ID
- F. Valid tribal photo ID

KNOW HOW YOU WANT TO VOTE-
Review the ballot before going to the polls www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/elections

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP-
Ask poll workers for assistance.

We're on the Web! See us at: www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/elections

The Board of Registration & Elections, from left to right: Cynthia Williams, William Riley, Dr. Roderick Edmond, Samuel Westmoreland, and Stan Matarazzo.



Meet the Board of Registration & Elections

Roderick B. Edmond, MD, JD: Chair

Dr. Edmond, a native of Atlanta, is a founding partner of Edmond & Jones, LLP, and serves as the firm's managing partner. He received a B.S. in Biology in 1983 from Morehouse College, a medical degree from Duke University in 1987 and a Juris Doctor Degree in 1993 from Georgetown University. He served 5 years as a physician and a Captain in the United States Army. Dr. Edmond currently practices law in the area of plaintiffs' personal injury.

William F. Riley, Jr.: Vice Chair

Mr. Riley received a law degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1981. In 1995, he was appointed to the bench as a judge and later as the Chief Judge of Atlanta Municipal Court. Upon his retirement as Chief Judge in 2004, Mr. Riley returned to private practice where he primarily focuses on municipal law, eminent domain and development authority representation.

Stan Matarazzo, CPA

Mr. Matarazzo graduated Cum Laude from Syracuse University with a degree in Accounting. He also has an MBA from Georgia State University. He has an active career in the world of finance. This includes lecturing, publishing finance articles and hosting several daily and weekly radio programs.

Samuel P. Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland was a founding member of the Mississippi Housing Law Clinic. He graduated from Troy State University, Summa Cum Laude, in 1991 and was the 1991 recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award — the university's highest honor. In 1994, he received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi.

Cynthia Williams

Mrs. Williams, a native of Atlanta, has established herself as a devoted social, political, and community service activist for more than 25 years. She started her own business in 1990 and is an accomplished entrepreneur. She is a long time community advocate who believes strongly in social change through political involvement.

Poll Worker Training!



We provide very extensive training for our poll workers (managers, assistant managers and clerks) before each election. Training lasts 4 hours and includes a combination of lectures, hands-on training, class exercises and an examination at the end of class. We provide Training Labs for practice as well. Only those that pass the exam are allowed to work on Election Day.

Georgia Election Code O.C.G.A. § 21-2-99 requires all poll officials to receive training prior to performing poll worker duties. Training usually starts six weeks before the Election and is held at several locations. Training takes place at the North Fulton Service Center, South Fulton Service Center and the Election Preparation Center to accommodate the various areas of Fulton County.

Who we are-

Barry Garner: Director, Registration and Elections

Mr. Garner, the former Assistant Deputy Elections Supervisor for the Miami-Dade County Florida Board of Elections, was named Fulton County's Director of the Department of Registration and Elections. His appointment was unanimously approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners (BOC) in May. He began work on July 8, 2009.

In his new role, Garner serves as the Supervisor of Elections and Chief Administrative Officer for the Board of Registration and Elections. Also, he ensures Board policies are implemented as well as directs the scheduling of meetings and agendas.

Garner has extensive experience as a government elections official, having served more than 16 years in the elections field in senior level management positions. Prior to working in Miami, Garner was the Director of Elections in Hillsborough, North Carolina. He also was the Deputy Director of Elections in Durham, North Carolina, and the Research and Education Director for the North Carolina State Board of Elections in Raleigh.

While working as the Assistant Deputy Supervisor of Elections in South Florida, Garner was involved in establishing a new voting system to better serve the Miami-Dade area, the eighth largest county in the US, with 1.2 million registered voters.

Garner's significant election experience and knowledge will be an asset to Fulton County. He is honored and excited to work with such a great team of Board members and staff. "This is the best job in the world," said Garner. "Election officials are the protectors of democracy. There is perhaps nothing more central to the democratic system than voting."

The voters of Fulton County are Garner's first priority. "I want the voters of Fulton County to know they can come to a clean, safe, and friendly voting site and cast a secret ballot for or against the candidate of their choice," remarked Garner. "I want the voters to know their vote will be honestly counted and reported."

Dwight Brower: Elections Chief

Mr. Brower has served as Elections Chief since December 2006. He came to the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections with 10 years of experience from DeKalb County as their Elections Coordinator. He also is a 20 year veteran of the U. S. Army where he was a Telecommunication/Information Systems Manager as well as the Military Voting Assistance Officer.

Brenda Williams: Registration Chief

Ms. Williams, a California native, came to the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections after a twelve year career with Los Angeles County where she worked with the Department of Public Social Services as an Administrative Service Manager. She also worked for the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in Election Logistics. She has served as the Registration Chief for Fulton County since December 2007.

April Pye: Administrative Chief

Ms. Pye, a graduate of Georgia State University, has worked with the County for more than 12 years in many capacities. Her most recent has been in the Department of Registration and Elections, where she has served the past 5 years as Administrative Chief. In addition, she stepped in as the Interim Director when called upon.

What we do-

The Registration & Elections Department consists of three divisions to carry out its mission:

The Elections Division has the responsibility of conducting national, state, county and municipal elections, maintaining campaign disclosure reports, and conducting school and organizational elections. The Division is also responsible for selection, preparation and equipping of polling places, precinct management (redrawing precinct lines), recruiting, training and assigning poll workers, and maintaining, preparing, distributing and retrieving voting equipment, and maintaining inventory of voting equipment and supplies.

The Administrative Division is responsible for the daily operations of the department; to include legislative actions, departmental budget preparation and monitoring, recruitment and employment screening/hiring, procurement, maintaining minutes of the Board of Registration and Elections, ensure compliance of Board policies, training and special projects; and handling any and all other administrative

and personnel matters within the department. Additionally, the Division provides additional administrative services to support the election process.

The Registration Division is responsible for proper registration of all qualified residents of Fulton County. This division also maintains accurate master lists and prepares elector lists before elections, notifies electors of polling places when the county is reapportioned or a change is made in polling places, performs purges (criminal and deceased), processes, mails absentee ballots verifies petitions and conducts high school and neighborhood registration.

Early & Advanced Voting Information

In accordance with Georgia Election Code 21-2-380 amended in 2007, Senate Bill 387, states that Georgia voters no longer require a reason to vote prior to Election Day either by mail or in person. To have a ballot mailed to you, you may submit a request 180 days (6mths) prior to an Election via mail, fax or in person. In-person voting will begin on October 12, 2009 at county facilities and all other locations will be open during the week of October 26-30, 2009 only.

EARLY VOTING for the November 3, 2009 Municipal General Election will be held October 12-23, 2009 at the following locations from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Fulton County Government Center (Downtown)
141 Pryor Street, Suite 4064
(404) 612-7060

North Service Center
7741 Roswell Road, Room 209
(404) 613-7675

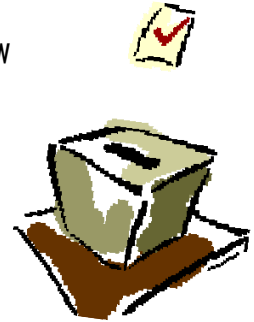
South Service Center
5600 Stonewall Tell Road, Room 105
(404) 612-3050

ADVANCED Voting for the November 3, 2009 Municipal General Election will be held the week of October 26 - 30, 2009 at the Early Voting sites along with the following sites:

Adamsville Recreational Center
3201 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SW
Atlanta, GA 30311
(404) 505-3181

College Park
3667 Main St.
College Park, GA 30337

North Atlanta High School
2875 North Side Dr. NW
Atlanta, GA 30305



VOTING HOURS WILL BE EXTENDED TO 8:30 AM TO 7:00 PM AT ALL LOCATIONS DURING THE LAST WEEK.

Participating Municipalities -

- Alpharetta
- Atlanta
- College Park
- East Point
- Fairburn
- Milton
- Roswell
- Sandy Springs
- Union City

Municipal Elections and Run-Offs

On November 3, 2009, municipalities within the State of Georgia will conduct their General Elections. The Georgia Elections Code defines a municipality as an incorporated city. Municipal officers are those positions in which candidates are elected by a vote of the electors (registered voters). All Municipal Elections in Georgia must follow all guidelines of the Laws of the State of Georgia and the municipal or city charters in which the election takes place. Municipal officers include the mayor, district council representatives or aldermen, and at-large (citywide) representatives and school board members. In Fulton County, a majority of the municipal elections that take place are conducted by the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections (FCDRE), which is governed by the County Board of Registration and Elections (BRE). All County Elections Offices are governed by the Georgia Election Code, which is enforced by the State Election Board, which is chaired by the Georgia Secretary of State.

All candidates qualifying for office must be certified by a municipal executive committee and must meet all statutory qualifications for holding the office being sought. Once the Election takes place, if a Run-Off is necessary, the following applies;

According to the Election Code of the State of Georgia (21-2-501), Run-Off Elections take place when the front runner in a particular race does not win the election by a margin of more than 50% of the total votes cast by electors in a particular race. In that event, the two candidates with the highest number of votes will face off in a Run-Off. Run-Off elections are a continuation of the same election. It is important to note that all electors that are eligible to vote in the Run-Off, whether or not they voted in the preceding primary or general election (21-2-216). Fulton County voters should be aware that there are municipalities within Fulton County that do not have Run-Offs and will subsequently decide election races by the plurality of the votes cast. This means the candidate that gets the most votes wins the election. Except for the U.S Presidential Electors, all candidates running for elected office in the United States of America must win by receiving a majority of votes.

FYI

- Secretary of State Website; For election information and registration applications: www.sos.state.ga.us
- Fulton County Websites For poll worker and absentee ballot applications and election results: www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/elections or www.myfultoncountyga.com
- State of Georgia Website For Georgia Government: www.georgia.gov
- Federal Voting Assistance program Website For absentee ballot application form for Military and Overseas citizens: www.fvap.gov