



BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 13, 2025

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, March 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

**The meeting was recorded and is available for your review on
FGTV YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYH7E0jH6HxE-3KTRluH8SQ>

Board Members Present Ms. Sherri Allen, Chairperson
Mr. Aaron V. Johnson, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Michael Heekin
Mrs. Teresa Crawford
Ms. Julie Adams

Staff Attending: Mrs. Nadine E. Williams, Director; Mr. John Ross, Election Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Election Chief; Mrs. Kathryn Glenn, Registration Chief; Mr. Jermaine Blackburn, Registration Manager; Mrs. Jodi Brittan, Absentee Manager; Mrs. Shoshauna Goins, Absentee Supervisor; Mrs. Janell Barginier, Financial Systems Manager; Ms. Janice Dickenson, Administrative Manager; Ms. LaShandra Little, VEO Manager; Mr. Corey Henson, Elections Equipment Manager; Ms. Amber Culver, Administrative Coordinator; Ms. Regina Waller, Division Manager; Mr. James Reese, Mr. Tyree Spencer, Mr. James Artis

Legal: Mr. David Lowman and Mr. Chad Alexis

ACRONYMS:

BRE- Board of Registration and Elections
DRE- Department of Registration and Elections
EHOC- Elections Hub and Operations Center
BOC- Board of Commissioners
ABM- Absentee by Mail
L&A- Logic and Accuracy Testing
VEO- Voter Education and Outreach
REIF- Reporting Elections Systems Issue Form

BMDs- Ballot Marking Devices
SOS- Secretary of State's
SEB- State Election Board
DDS- Department of Driver Services
CERA- Certified Elections Registration Administrator
GARVIS- Georgia Registered Voter Information System
GAVREO- Georgia Voter Registration and Elected Officials

The meeting volume was extremely low.

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Allen entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by **Mr. Heekin**, seconded by **Mrs. Crawford**, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Timestamp: 12:50-17:50

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xbc0rhDTnc>

There were 2 public comments recorded.

#3-2024 FULTON'S MONITORING TEAM PRESENTATION

Presenters: Ryan Germany and John Stonestreet

Robust discussion: 18:10- 1:02

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xbc0rhDTnc>

Summary Observations:

Throughout the election, the staff of the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections (FCDRE) provided the access, information, and answers needed to conduct a thorough, credible observation effort. The overall conclusion was that Fulton County conducted an organized and orderly election process that enabled voters to cast their votes securely and conveniently and ensured that votes were tabulated accurately. The implementation of the 2024 general election in Fulton County showed substantial improvement when compared with the 2020 election. Both FCDRE staff and the members of the Fulton County Board of Registrations and Elections were dedicated and hardworking, which was a 2 major factor in administering a smooth, secure, and accurate election. The centralization of election operations at the new Fulton County Elections Hub and Operations Center contributed significantly as well. However, no election is perfect. Administering elections – especially in large, diverse jurisdictions like Fulton County – is a complex process, so this report includes recommendations to further improve compliance with the letter and spirit of the law in future elections. Good election administration includes processes that allow issues or errors to be spotted early and action taken to contain and correct them in a transparent manner.

Conclusion:

The leadership and staff of the FCDRE, as well as the members of the Fulton County Board of Registrations and Elections, were cooperative in providing the access, information, and answers needed to conduct a thorough, credible observation effort. The 2024 processes and procedures were organized, orderly, and consistent, showing considerable improvement from the 2020 and the 2022 election cycles.

While no election is perfect and there were areas for potential improvement (as noted above), the overall conclusion is that the 2024 election in Fulton County was administered in a manner that was consistent with state laws, regulations, and procedures. Following those laws and regulations was the focus of FCDRE staff, as was providing a smooth, secure voting experience for Fulton County voters. The fact that FCDRE staff accomplished these goals in a tense political environment – while also dealing with multiple bomb threats to polling places on Election Day – shows both the resilience of their processes and the dedication and commitment of their workers.

The Monitoring Team and The Carter Center express their appreciation to the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections, the leadership and staff of the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections, and to the Fulton County poll workers for their cooperation with the observation mission.

The full report can be found at the link below.

Seven Hills Strategies, "State Election Board Report – Post-Election Executive Summary," Jan. 12, 2021, www.7HillsStrategies.com

"Performance Review Board Report on Fulton County Elections," Jan. 13, 2023.

https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Performance%20Review%20Board%20Report%20on%20Fulton%20County%20Elections%20281-13-23%29_0%20%28OLD%29.pdf

The Carter Center, 2022 General Election Observation: Fulton County, Georgia, December 2022.

https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/peace/democracy/u_s_elections/fulton-county-electionobservation-report.pdf

Ms. Adams asked a series of questions regarding the Certification process.

Vice Chair Johnson commended the presenters and the DRE on all efforts to ensure the 2024 Election cycle was a success. Vice Chair said the DRE has done an exceptional job.

Mrs. Crawford echoed Vice Chair Johnson comments and thanked the Monitoring group for their service. Mrs. Crawford mentioned that she needs time to review the report before asking questions.

Mr. Heekin echoed Mrs. Crawford comment on needing time to review.

Mrs. Allen inquired about suggestions to Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Testing.

Mr. Germany outlined how he would structure L&A while maintaining security and public access to the process.

Ms. Adams inquired about Tabulation process that the Monitoring team observed and if the DRE was conducting that process correctly.

Mr. Germany explained the new legislation that requires AV Tabulation to be completed by 8pm deadline on election and personnel required to be sequestered

Chair Allen suggested the BRE review the report and possibly request an alternate time to discuss further, if needed.

Mr. Germany agreed and commended the BRE and Director Williams on their efforts to work collaboratively in a bi-partisan manner.

#4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Adams requested amendments to the minutes of October 10th, November 8th, and November 12th be changed to reflect verbiage that she would like captured in the minutes.

Chair Allen mentioned that she contacted Ms. Adams regarding her amendments, and she did not receive a response.

Mr. Heekin requested verbiage on page 9 and 10 be strike from the minutes.

Chair Allen entertained a motion to approve the minutes of October 10th and 30th, and November 8th and 12th and the minutes of February 13th as amended. The motion was made by **Vice Chair Johnson**, seconded by **Mrs. Crawford**, and carried by a vote of 4-1; Nay **Adams**.

Chair Allen asked legal can the BRE approve the minutes and then make changes to the minutes at a later date.

Attorney Lowman responded the amended minutes must be approved.

#5 MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT: MARCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xbc0rhDTnc>
Timestamp: 1:20-

Director Williams greeted the BRE and explained that if they have questions regarding the monthly operations report.

Mr. Heekin asked about the SOPs.

Director Williams explained that the BRE was emailed a shared file that contains all the SOPs. Madam Director informed the BRE that the email will be re-sent after this meeting.

Robust Legislative Update:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xbc0rhDTnc>
Timestamp: 1:24- 1:36

Presented by Ms. Little (VEO Manager/ Legislative Liaison)

Week Eight ended with Crossover Day on Thursday, March 6. As the deadline for a bill to pass out of its chamber of origin, Crossover Day marked an important milestone in the 2025 Legislative Session. However, we will continue to monitor bills that did not pass (pages 16-24) for potential amendments that could be added to other bills before Sine Die on Friday, April 4.

HB 0397 | Elections; allow municipalities to opt in to providing advance voting on Saturdays **for municipal elections** | **Tim Fleming**
Last Action: Mar 06, 2025 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute | **Committee:**

SB 0199 | State Ethics Commission; shall not accept or reject complaints made against candidates 60 days prior to an election; provide | **Sam Watson**
Effective Date: January 1, 2026.

HB 0414 | Elections; "person" to include certain nonresidents; revise definition | **Todd Jones**
Last Action: Feb 27, 2025 - Senate Read and Referred | **Committee:** Ethics (S)

SB 0175 | Elections and Primaries; use of ranked-choice voting; prohibit | **Randy Robertson**
Last Action: Mar 06, 2025 - House Second Readers | **Committee:** Governmental Affairs (H)

SB 0014 | Elections; the nonpartisan election of district attorneys and solicitors-general of state courts; authorize the General Assembly | **Ed Setzler**
Last Action: Jan 16, 2025 - Senate Read and Referred | **Committee:** Ethics (S)

SB 0015 | Elections; provide by local legislation for nonpartisan elections for county **governing authorities; authorize the General Assembly** | **Ed Setzler**

Last Action: Jan 16, 2025 - Senate Read and Referred | **Committee:** Ethics (S)

SB 0270 | Elections and Primaries; rules or regulations adopted by the State Election Board **prior to a general primary, general election, or runoff thereof; limit the effective date** | **Sam Watson**

Last Action: Feb 27, 2025 - Senate Read and Referred | **Committee:** Ethics (S)

HB 0215 | Voter List Integrity Act; enact | **Martin Momtahan**

Last Action: Feb 27, 2025 - House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute | **Committee:**

HB 0324 | Elections; preferential treatment during advance voting and during certain hours **on election day to certain voters; provisions** | **Reynaldo Martinez**

Last Action: Feb 27, 2025 - House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute | **Committee:**

#6-CHALLENGE HEARING:

- Earl Ferguson
- Voter Registration Registrar

Robust Discussion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xbc0rhDTnc>

Timestamp: 1:37- 2:30

Recording inaudible

Mr. Ferguson provided a summation of the challenges submitted on December 31, 2024. Mr. Ferguson provided a handout to the board members at the previous meeting on February 13th.

Ms. Adams requested to review the document the Legal team submitted to the BRE.

Chair Allen entertained a motion to recess to review the attorney's legal summary. The motion was made by **Ms. Adams** seconded by **Mr. Heekin** and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

The Board recessed for 12 minutes to review the legal opinion.

Chair Allen entertained a motion to reconvene into the meeting from their recess to review legal opinion. The motion was made by **Mr. Heekin** seconded by **Ms. Adams** and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Chief Glenn explained the challenges brought forth by the Department for being registered at a commercial address.

Mrs. Crawford asked what's the process was for voters that are registered at a business address.

Chief Glenn requested guidance from the BRE on how to process with voters that are registered at a non-residential address. Madam Chief informed the board of the current process:

- Notice to the voter is mailed
 - Requesting a residential address instead of commercial
- 30 days to make changes
- No response
 - Voter placed in challenge status
- Response
 - Voter record will be updated to reflect the change

Vice Chair Johnson reviewed the information provided and provided discrepancies with the challenge information received.

Chief Glenn confirmed that the voter did not request to be removed from the voter roll.

Mrs. Crawford asked Chief Glenn on the Registrar's recommendation.

Mr. Heekin asked Mr. Ferguson how he confirms the voter's identity.

Mr. Ferguson explained his process: 2:24-2:27 *Recording inaudible*

Ms. Adams summarized Mr. Ferguson Challenges.

Vice Chair Johnson reiterated the discrepancy with the challenges and the method of how challenges are submitted.

Chief Glenn explained the process for National Change of Address (NCOAs) and confirmation notices.

Attorney Lowman opined on the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) as it pertains to removing voters from the roll.

Director Williams provided clarity on challenge status, but the voter cannot be erased or removed.

Kathy Jennings

Chair Allen entertained a motion to uphold the challenge of Kathy Jennings. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** seconded by **Mr. Heekin** and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Kyle Burnell

Chair Allen entertained a motion to uphold the challenge of Kyle Burnell. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** seconded by **Mr. Heekin** and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

The electors were placed in challenge status.

Ashlee Sterling

Chair Allen entertained a motion to uphold the challenge by the DRE. The motion was made by **Vice Chair Johnson** seconded by **Mrs. Crawford** and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Scott Harris

Chair Allen entertained a motion to uphold the challenge by the DRE. The motion was made by **Vice Chair Johnson** seconded by **Mrs. Crawford** and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Elba Carrato

Chair Allen entertained a motion to uphold the challenge by the DRE. The motion was made by **Vice Chair Johnson** seconded by **Mrs. Crawford** and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

#7-REVIEW OF ADVANCE VOTING (AV) LOCATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL PRIMARY:

Special Primary Public Service Commissioner (PSC) /Special Election on **June 17, 2025**

- **Dates:** **May 27- June 13, 2025**
- **Hours:** Monday- Saturday 9am-5pm, and Sunday no voting

Robert Fulton Ocee Library will replace Northeast Spruill Oaks Library

Mrs. Crawford provided a brief summary on the request to change the AV location to Ocee Library instead of Northeast Spruill for more convenience to the electors

Ms. Adams mentioned that she received several complaints regarding the changing the AV locations after approving the locations last month

Director Williams explained any city that requested DRE to conduct their election, if the Cities request additional locations that expense will be on the city.

Chair Allen entertained a motion to amend the approval of the Advance Voting Locations removing Northeast Spruill Oaks Library and to add Ocee Library in Johns Creek. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford**, seconded by **Vice Chair Johnson**, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#8-APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA)

Director Williams provided a brief update regarding the intergovernmental Agreement. The City of Palmetto was the only city that intends to have a Contest/ Question on the ballot for the June 17, 2025, Special Primary Election.

Chair Allen entertained a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the City of Palmetto. The motion was made by **Vice Chair Johnson**, seconded by **Mrs. Crawford**, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene into an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Chair Allen** entertained a motion to adjourn. **Vice Chair Johnson**, moved to adjourn the meeting. **Ms. Adams** seconded the motion. There being no further business on the agenda, the Board adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary