



## APPROVED MINUTES

### **BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 12, 2019**

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., in Assembly Hall of the The Government Center Building, 141 Pryor Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

**Presiding:** Ms. Mary Carole Cooney, Chairperson

**Other Board Members Present:**

Mr. Mark Wingate, Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin

Dr. Kathleen Ruth

Mr. Aaron V. Johnson

**Staff Attending:** Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Blake Evans, Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Breana Jenkins, Administrative Coordinator I; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Jessica Corbitt, External Affairs Director & PIO

**Guests Attending:** Aileen Nakumura, Isabel Hidalgo, Shea Roberts, Rhonda Martin, Penn Payne (Democratic Party of Georgia) Sally FitzGerald (League of Women Voters), Patty Nathan, John Spavtsn, Leslie Wolte, Foris Webb, III (City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk)

#### **#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

#### **#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE**

**Aileen Nakumura** implored the **BRE** not to take risks on the Dominion Voting System. Ms. Nakumura proposed one of the four State Election Board (**SEB**) rules and requested the **BRE** to discuss **them** at the next **SEB** Board Meeting

**SEB Proposal #1:** Ballot Secrecy Issue

**Isabel Hidalgo** implored the **BRE** to expand Absentee by Mail process

**SEB Proposal #2:** Voters being able to submit Absentee ballots at polling locations during Early Voting and Election Day

**SEB Proposal #3:** Provide updated printed back-up paper poll books, concerns regarding Know Ink Poll Pad

**Shea Roberts questioned** the projected cost to Fulton County in 2020 **of** the Dominion Voting System

**SEB Proposal #4:** Incremental Voting System conversion- Not a complete conversion- using components not a complete voting system

**Rhonda Martin** urged the **BRE** to support the four proposed **SEB** Rules and use hand marked paper ballots until all issues have been addressed

## OLD BUSINESS

### #3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Meeting – November 5, 2019**
- **Special Meeting – November 12, 2019**
- **Regular Meeting – November 14, 2019**
- **Executive Session Meeting – November 14, 2019**

**Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular, Special and Executive Meetings of November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

### #4– MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2019:

- 2019 General Municipal and Special Election
  - 10 Municipalities: Alpharetta, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Roswell, Union City, & City of South Fulton
  - **Total Assigned Voters: 326,647**
  - **Polling Locations: 77                      Precincts: 161**
  - **10 EV locations**
  - **EV Turnout: 3.39%**
  - **Election Turnout: 12%**
- Runoff Scheduled for Three Municipalities: College Park, Johns Creek, and Roswell
- 5 **EV** locations identified for 2019 December General Municipal Runoff Election
- L&A Testing began on November 18, 2019
- A legal hold remains on the DRE voting units from the April 18, 2017 and June 20, 2017 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional Special Election and Runoff Special Election
- Total voter registration applications received in 2019: **326,601**
- **18,958** voter registration applications received in November
- As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, **838,597** (747,960 active and 90,637 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- Total New Applications in 2019: **93,800**
- Total Applications processed in 2019: **308,150**
- Dominion Voting Training: November 13-14<sup>th</sup>
- Management attended Regional Meeting Hosted by Gwinnett County on November 20<sup>th</sup>
- Administrative Division finalizing expenditures for General Municipal Election
- **BOC** Approval of 13 Fulltime Permanent and 3 Long term Supplemental Positions
  - All Interviews and Candidate selections completed
  - All Positions to begin on December 11<sup>th</sup>

**Dr. Ruth** inquired about the 90,637 inactive voters

**Mr. Jones** informed the **BRE** that if a voter changes or updates their information and fails to respond to a confirmation card, the voter becomes inactive. Also, due to amendments to **HB 316**, “no contact” is no longer defined as three years; it’s five years

## NEW BUSINESS

### **#5- APPROVAL OF PRECINCT PROPOSALS: 32/19, 33/19, 34/19, 35/19, 36/19, 37/19, 38/19, 40/19**

**Ms. Benjamin** explained the proposed changes of the listed proposals. All polling locations are American with Disabilities Act (**ADA**) compliant and all impacted voters will be notified no later than 30 days prior to the next scheduled election.

**32/19- 03D & 04A**; Temporarily moved to **Booker T. Washington High School** due to renovations, renovations are complete. **Washington Park Branch Library** will resume as the permanent polling location

**33/19- 04B**; Temporarily moved to **Booker T. Washington High School**. In an effort to better serve the voters, **Flipper Temple AME Church** will become the permanent polling location.

**34/19- 02A & 02L**; Existing facility, **All Saints Episcopal Church**, is no longer available for polling operations. **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer** to become a permanent polling location

**35/19- 02L2**; Existing facility, **All Saints Episcopal Church**, is no longer available for polling operations **Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church** to become a permanent polling location

**36/19- 03M**; Name of polling location was changed from **Northwest Baptist Church Fellowship Hall** and renamed **M28 Church**

**37/19- 04W**; Name and polling address for **Morehouse College**, 833 Fair Street, does not properly direct voters to polling location. **Morehouse College- Archer Hall**, 876 Atlanta Student Movement Blvd. is a more efficient name and address

**38/19 RW01**; **Roswell Community Activity Center** has been identified as a location with scheduling conflicts. **Northside Church of Christ** to become a permanent polling location

**40/19 SS06**; Temporarily moved to **Sandy Springs United Methodist Church** due to renovations, renovations are completed. **Sandy Springs Library** will resume as the permanent polling location

**Mr. Johnson** suggested creating more signs and visibility on Election Day with regards to proposal **37/19**

**Mr. Evans** mentioned contacting City of Atlanta and Fulton County GIS regarding the address

**Mr. Wingate** inquired about sufficient parking for proposal **37/19**

**Mr. Evans** expressed no concerns at this time

**Ms. Nuriddin** inquired about the split precinct on proposal **35/19; 02L2**

**Mr. Evans** explained that the department makes an effort to assign precincts to polling locations within or near their boundaries.

**Ms. Nuriddin** asked **Mr. Evans** to define split polls

**Mr. Evans** defined split polls as multiple precincts consolidated at one physical location

**Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the listed proposals as written. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

## **#6-CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING FOR PRECINCT CHANGES**

**Mr. Evans** explained **DRE** is requesting a special called meeting on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am. This meeting is required to remain in compliance with polling place changes; advertisements and a **SEB** Report completed

### **O.C.G.A. § 21-2-265(e)**

On and after January 1, 2018, the superintendent may establish the polling place for a precinct outside the boundaries of the precinct if there is no suitable facility within the precinct which could be used as a polling place and if, by so doing, such polling place would better serve the needs of the voters; provided, however, that no polling place shall be established outside of the boundaries of the precinct within 90 days of a primary or election, and the superintendent shall submit a report to the State Election Board to demonstrate that there is no suitable facility within the precinct prior to establishing the polling place outside the boundaries of the precinct.

## **#7- APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2020 CALENDAR YEAR**

**Chairperson Cooney** mentioned pending Bylaw changes.

**Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the proposed 2020 Calendar for Board Meetings. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board did not convene into executive session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wingate moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 10:56 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary