



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 9, 2020

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, January 9, 2020 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; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Ms. Breauna Jenkins, Administrative Coordinator I; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Jessica Corbitt, External Affairs Director & PIO

Guests Attending: George Balbona, David Ross (Democratic Party of Georgia) Sally FitzGerald (League of Women Voters), Patty Nathan, Shawn Brown (City of Atlanta), Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs)

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

George Balbona quoted Verifiedvoting.org regarding the use of Ballot Marking Devices (**BMDs**), Georgia's new voting system, **HB 656**, Board of Commissioners (**BOC**) and the Board of Registration and Elections (**BRE**). Mr. Balbona provided the **BRE** with reading material regarding his talking points.

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Special Meeting- December 3, 2019**
- **Special Meeting- December 6, 2019**
- **Special Meeting- December 23, 2019**

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Special Meetings on December 3, 6, and 23, 2019. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

➤ **Regular Meeting- December 12, 2019**

Chairperson Cooney noted that an observer had read the minutes and presented her with suggested corrections, as follows:

Page 3: Proposal **38/19, Northside Church of Christ** to become a permanent polling location

Page 4: Mr. Evans explained that the department makes an effort to assign precincts to polling locations within or near their boundaries.

Page 4: Mr. Evans defined split polls as multiple precincts consolidated at one physical location

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended from the Regular Meeting on December 12, 2019. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wingate and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#4- MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2019:

- 2019 General Municipal Runoff Election
 - 3 Municipalities: College Park, Johns Creek, Roswell
 - **Polling Locations** - 32
 - **Precincts** - 60
 - **Total Assigned Voters**- 125,249
 - **Votes Cast** - 13,066
 - 5 EV locations
 - **EV Turnout** - **0.031%**
 - **Election Day Turnout** - **10.43%**
- A legal hold remains on the DRE voting units from the April 18, 2017 and June 20, 2017 6th Congressional Special Election and Runoff Special Election
- **BRE & DRE** attended the **GAVREO** (Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials) Conference December 8th-11th
- Total voter registration applications received in 2019: **342,935**
- **16,334** voter registration applications received in November
- As of December 1st, **797,427** (748,486 active and 48,941 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- Total New Applications in 2019 - **93,880**
- Total Applications processed in 2019 - **320,443**
- **Secretary of State's (SOS)** vendor began retrieving old voting equipment
- Dominion Voting Training - December 12th -13th
- **SOS** mailed confirmation notices for Inactive to Delete: **45,288**, voters were deleted as of December 16, 2019
- Administration finalizing expenditures for General Municipal Runoff Election
- **13** new hires start date: December 11, 2019

Mr. Wingate asked was the deletion being monitored by **DRE** or **SOS**

Mr. Barron responded no, **DRE** is unaware if **SOS** has that capability

Dr. Ruth inquired about checking the electrical capacity at older precincts

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that **SOS** has contracted a vendor to ensure all polling locations in Georgia meet electrical standards.

Mr. Wingate inquired about poll worker training information

Mr. Barron advised that Train the Trainer will begin February 1, 2020; however, **SOS** has not yet provided counties with a training manual.

Mr. Johnson expressed concerns regarding the timeline for the new voting system

Mr. Barron mentioned that part of the delay is removing the old equipment from the warehouse (694 machines)

Mr. Johnson requested timelines for the Presidential Preference Primary (**PPP**)

Mr. Barron advised that a timeline is pending due to the **DRE** having no definite date of receiving equipment, incomplete poll worker manuals and the need for staff to be trained

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** on the decision to provide the county with a Mock Election at 10–15 locations throughout the county on February 18, 2020.

Mr. Johnson asked for information regarding the budget and the **BOC** approval

Mr. Barron explained that the budget was discussed at the January 8th meeting, and will be on the **BOC** Recess Meeting on January 22, 2020

Mr. Johnson implored **DRE** to be mindful of the information disseminated with timelines, due to dates previously provided being inaccurate or delayed

Mr. Wingate asked if the **SOS** has a contingency plan in place regarding the **PPP**

Mr. Barron explained that if there are time constraints, the Department will have a compressed schedule, add additional staff and offer overtime

Dr. Ruth requested an updated timeline

Mr. Barron explained his hesitation in doing so because **DRE** relies on **SOS** to provide all required information for a timeline.

Mr. Barron mentioned that the Regional Metro County meetings are ongoing and designed to offer support during this transitional period

Staff Introductions:

Carla Beasley, Administrative Specialist
Rhonda Parker, Registration Officer
Rosalind Davis, Registration Officer
Tyrell Golden, Registration Officer
Shamen Little, Registration Officer
Amvar Frasier, Registration Officer
Timothy Cummings, Elections Systems Assistant Supervisor

Keisha Dixon, Registration Officer
John Ross, Elections Systems Specialist
Dianah Rector, Records & Documents Coordinator
Tennille Grace, Elections Systems Specialist
Simone Price, VEO Coordinator, Lead

Promotion:

Caryn Ficklin, Registration Officer Supervisor

NEW BUSINESS

#5- AMENDMENTS TO BRE BYLAWS

I. Amendment:

Article III, Section 1

Strike language stating that we will meet “at 10am on the Saturday following any such election to certify the results, and to substitute the following language, that the Board will meet “at 10am on the Monday following any such election

Ms. Nuriddin disagreed with the amendment to set a specific day and time to certify the elections

Mr. Johnson clarified the proposed amendment pursuant to **O.C.G.A 21-2-493(k)**

Ms. Nuriddin requested the language in the Bylaws should be amended to be inclusive, so that they do not have to be amended by each Board.

Ms. Nuriddin advocated for no changes until **SOS** has **finalized their processes and procedures**

Mr. Johnson mentioned a day and time was required by law

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adopt the amendment as written. The motion failed.

II. Amendment:

Article III, Section 4

Insert phrase “must refrain from abusive, profane, or derogatory language” after the phrase “each speaker must fill out a speaker card, prior to the commencement of the meeting” and before the phrase “and shall not be allowed to speak for more than two minutes (or such longer period as the Board may approve)

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adopt the amendment as written. The motion was made by Ms. Nuriddin, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

III. Amendment:

Article III, Section 4

Strike language stating “The Board will respond to any question or request by citizens made during public comment section of a meeting either during that meeting or no later than the following regularly scheduled meeting” in its entirety.

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adopt the amendment as written. The motion was made by Ms. Nuriddin, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#6- PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF EARLY VOTING (EV) LOCATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY (PPP), MARCH 24, 2020

Mr. Barron discussed the **EV** locations for the **PPP**. **Mr. Barron** mentioned that several locations are still closed due to renovations which have caused an issue in **Commission District 3**. The Department is currently looking for alternative locations in this area and is seeking the assistance of the **Board** and the **BOC** for final resolution.

Chairperson Cooney inquired about the concerns in **Commission D3**

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that due to **HB 316**, the County can use an election day polling location; however, the length of time is usually a deterrent for most Election Day polling locations and to utilize those facilities will cost the County. **Mr. Barron** advised that the concern is temporary as several locations in **Commission D3** will reopen this year

Mr. Barron advised that the list is considered preliminary due to the **DRE** potentially adding rather than removing locations.

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the preliminary Early Voting (EV) locations. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0

#7- TRACK MY MAIL UPDATE

Mrs. Coman retrieved a report of the Track My Mail feature and presented the **BRE** with an overview of what occurred during the 2019 General Municipal Election. The report displayed the voter's personal information, first day scan, projected delivery date, and the one code (IMB mailing code). The U.S.P.S guarantees more than 90% delivery with this feature. This tool enabled the County to provide more certainty with regards to responding to voters waiting on the arrival of their ballots.

Mr. Barron mentioned that **Fulton County** is the only County in the state utilizing this feature to benefit voters

Mr. Nuriddin questioned the 10% of uncertainty

Ms. Coman mentioned mailings sticking together and issues with the barcode (IMB code) could contribute to the 10% of uncertainty

#8- APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

- Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve A Memorandum of Agreement. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to close the regular session and convene into executive session to discuss pending litigation and the Director's Annual Evaluation. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wingate and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

After executive session, **Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to resume into regular session. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Nuriddin seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary