



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 18, 2020

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Special Session on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 10:00AM.

VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://www.gotomeet.me/FultonCountyElections/03182020specialmeeting>

Presiding: Ms. Mary Carole Cooney, Chairperson

Other Board Members Present:

Mr. Mark Wingate, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin
Dr. Kathleen Ruth
Mr. Aaron Johnson

Staff Attending: Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Blake Evans, Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Nadine E. Williams, Elections Equipment Manager; Ms. Cheryl Ringer, Senior Attorney; Department of External Affairs

Guests Attending: Foris Webb, III (City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk), Linda Pritchett, Garland Favorito, David Ross (Democratic Party of GA), Regina Waller, Sherry Davis

Chairperson Cooney announced that this teleconferenced meeting is authorized pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-14-1(g) because of the State of Emergency declared by Governor Kemp which resulted in state and local Government closures due to COVID-19, and because means have been afforded for the public to have simultaneous access to this teleconference.

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to amend the agenda to add Update on Postponed Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) and Special Election for City of Atlanta as item # 4.

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended. 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

Garland Favorito urged the **BRE** to encourage voters to utilize the Absentee by Mail voting method. **Mr. Favorito** expressed this method allows for verifiable, secure, and ballot secrecy voting.

Foris Webb, III expressed gratitude to the **BRE** and **Mr. Blake Evans** for proper notification on the postponement of the March 24, 2020 Election. **Mr. Webb** was able to address the concerns of City of Atlanta Mayor, Council Members, and the legal department due to timely notice.

Linda Pritchett urged voters to utilize Absentee by mail. **Ms. Pritchett** requested information be disseminated to the public via the website to reduce the confusion surrounding the postponement of the **PPP** Election.

#3- APPROVAL OF PRECINCT PROPOSALS: 02/20, 3/20, 4/20

Mr. Evans explained the precinct proposals. All polling locations are American with Disabilities Act (**ADA**) compliant and all impacted voters will be notified 30 days prior to the next scheduled election.

02/20 01G proposed move to **FanPlex** due to renovations at the **Barack and Michelle Obama Academy**.

03/20 SS16 proposed move to **Heards Ferry Elementary School** due to renovations at the Riverwood High School

04/20 EP01A/B name of polling location was changed from **First United Methodist Church** and renamed **East Point First Mallalieu United Methodist Church**

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

#4- UPDATE ON THE POSTPONED PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY (PPP) AND SPECIAL ELECTION FOR CITY OF ATLANTA

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** and the public on the plan for the postponed **PPP** Election. This election will take place simultaneously with the **General Primary** on May 19, 2020. For voters who have already cast votes, those votes are stored securely at the **EPC** and will be tabulated on May 19, 2020. Voters who wish to vote for the **PPP** and the **General Primary** will have an opportunity to do so on May 19, 2020. The voter registration deadline is April 20, 2020 and Early Voting begins April 27, 2020. **Mr. Barron** mentioned the **DRE** will be actively pushing Absentee by Mail for this election due to the Pandemic and closures all over the state.

Mr. Johnson asked about the voting process and the registration deadline date change for the postponed **PPP** and the May Election

Mr. Barron mentioned that full details have not been disclosed at this time. However, soon as more information is available, the Board will be informed. The voter registration deadline is April 20, 2020 for the General Primary Election.

Ms. Nuriddin interjected regarding the Secretary of State's plan for the May Election. **Ms. Nuriddin** referenced the Official Bulletin on **SOS's** website that provides extensive details. **Mr. Nuriddin** read the information regarding the registration deadline for the **PPP** and **General Primary** in May. **Ms. Nuriddin** implored the **DRE** to ensure that the department is accurately updated on upcoming processes, and expressed gratitude to the City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk, **Foris Webb, III**, for notification of decisions that impact the **BRE**. **Ms. Nuriddin** urged the **DRE** to provide information to the Board while discussions are ongoing not once a decision is made and implored the **DRE** to get an Emergency Preparedness Plan implemented

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that immediately after receiving information regarding the postponement, that information was disseminated to the Board of Registration and Elections, as well as the Board of Commissioners

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 10:27 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary