



## APPROVED MINUTES

### BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING – JANUARY 5, 2021

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Special Session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 6:30pm.

## **VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

**FGTV YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FultonCountyInfo>

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

**Other Board Members Present:**

Mr. Mark Wingate

Mr. Aaron V. Johnson

Dr. Kathleen Ruth

**Absent Board Member:**

Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin, Vice Chairperson

**Staff Attending:** Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Ms. Nadine Williams, Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Ms. Breauana Jenkins, Administrative Coordinator I; Mrs. Cheryl Ringer, County Attorney; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Mr. James Reese, Production Manager; Mr. Rico Dollar, Senior Graphics Designer, Regina Waller, Senior Public Affairs Officer; Jessica Corbitt, PIO & Director of External Affairs

**Commissioner(s):** Commissioner Hausmann (D1)

**County Personnel:** Michael O'Connor (Hausmann)

**Guests Attending:** David Ross (Democratic Party of GA), Steven Franklin, Kate Brumback (Associate Press), Matt Finn (Fox News), Steven Franklin, Rhiannon Youngbauer, Claire Simms (Fox TV), Eli Spencer Heyman, Sheila Hamilton

**Chairperson Cooney announced that this teleconferenced meeting is authorized pursuant to §50-14-1(g) of the Official Code of Georgia because of the Public Health State of Emergency declared by Governor Kemp on March 14, 2020, and renewed most recently on November 30, 2020 thru January 8, 2021, pursuant to which public meeting spaces in state and local Government have been closed 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 approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

## #2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

No public

### NEW BUSINESS

## #3– DISCUSSION OF THE RUNOFF ELECTION: STATE & FEDERAL GENERAL RUNOFF

- US Senate (PERDUE)
- US Senate (LOEFFLER)
- Public Service Commission (PSC)

Mr. Barron updated the BRE:

- Very Successful of Election
- Unofficial EV Results: **270,739**
- **70,970** Approximately Ballots cast
- **108,159** Absentee By Mail (ABM)
- **105,558 ABM** Scanned for Credit
- **209** Rejected Ballots that were cured
- **51-** EV precinct scanners to complete, quick release of Election Results after 7pm
  - Election Day- Bulk of the results by Midnight
- Vote Review Panel convene at 11pm, at the Election Preparation Center (EPC)

Mr. Wingate inquired about the votes cast, being approximately 70,000

Mr. Barron responded that based on the reporting of the WebEOC software platform and the amount of technicians reporting, that total is a rough estimate. Mr. Barron mentioned several technicians were NO Shows for duty; uncertain of the locations and the amount. The current estimated totals does not capture all votes cast, the DRE has no way of retrieving that information pre-closure of polls.

Mr. Wingate inquired about the inventory of ballots that need to be scanned

Mr. Barron clarified the statistics remaining to give credit was approximately 7,500

Mr. Wingate inquired about receiving late ballots after 7pm.

Mr. Barron informed the Board the drop boxes are locked at 7pm and mail from the U.S.P.S delivered after 7pm will be rejected. The only ballots that are acceptable after 7pm on Election Night are Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) (Military) voters who have until Friday after the election to cast their ballot.

Dr. Ruth inquired about the schedule for the Vote Review Panel (VRP)

Mr. Barron explained the upcoming schedule for VRP:

**Location:**

EPC 1365 English Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318

**Dates & Times:**

January 5, 2021 @ 11pm

January 6, 2021 @ 9am

Dr. Ruth inquired about the timeframe for full reporting

**Mr. Barron** informed the **BRE** that all results must be fed into the Election Management System (**EMS**) after Adjudication

**Mr. Johnson** inquired about overall turnout in Fulton County

**Mr. Barron** began computing the statistics verbally and mentioned overall 450,000 plus registered voters cast a ballot and noted that it was not as good as November but for a Runoff Election; it's an impressive turnout

**Chairperson Cooney** inquired about late poll closures and equipment malfunctioning

**Mr. Barron** explained that nothing of consequence was reported and any concerns were resolved with the onsite technician

**Mr. Wingate** inquired about **EV** provisional numbers

**Mr. Barron** informed the **BRE** that **EV** provisional numbers are significantly low to non-existent but that the statistics weren't available. **Mr. Barron** called on **Ms. Benjamin** to provide the requested data.

**Mr. Wingate** mentioned receiving reports of high provisional voting at North Annex and he was unclear of the reasoning

**Mr. Barron** explained that North Annex and CT Martin on every Election Day, has an excessive number of provisional ballots. In this case, the listed locations are **EV** locations for three weeks and an Election Day polling location and often time's voters that are not assigned to those precincts continue to insist on voting there.

**Dr. Ruth** inquired about equipment pick-up and returning to the **EPC**.

**Ms. Williams** responded that equipment retrieval will begin tomorrow and conclude on the January 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **#4- APPROVAL OF 2021 TENTATIVE BRE MEETING SCHEDULE**

#### **#5- CONFIRMATION OF THE CERTIFICATION DATE**

**Chairperson Cooney** addressed items (4) and (5) simultaneously. **Chairperson Cooney** asked the Board to review the calendar for any questions or objections of the schedule and Certifying Results on January 15<sup>th</sup> during our Regular Meeting, as presented. **Madam Chair** asked does she have the concurrence of the Board regarding the tentative 2021 Calendar

**Mr. Wingate** inquired about all the elections listed on the tentative schedule

**Mr. Barron** clarified that the **DRE** does have any elections scheduled; however, if any Municipality or School Board called an Election those are the dates available per state mandate.

**Madam Chair** asked does she have the concurrence of the Board regarding the tentative 2021 Calendar. **Madam Chair** informed the **BRE** that this schedule will be posted on the website.

**Chairperson Cooney** directed the Board to review Bylaws and to draft responses to voters that sent correspondences.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene into executive session.

Before Adjourning, **Mr. Barron** informed the **Board** that he would provide the drop box statistics later tonight.

## 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 6:55 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary