



BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – September 28, 2022

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Presiding: Cathy Woolard, Chairwoman

Other Board Members Present:

Mrs. Teresa Crawford, Vice Chairperson

Dr. Kathleen Ruth

Mr. Aaron Johnson

Mr. Mark Wingate (virtual)

Staff Attending: Ms. Nadine E. Williams, Interim Director; Mr. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director; Mr. Dominic Olomo, Information Systems Manager; Ms. Shamira Marshall, Registration Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Election Chief; Ms. Mariska Bodison, Absentee Manager; Ms. Janice Dickenson, Administrative Manager; Ms. Janell Barganier, Financial Systems Manager; Mrs. Jodi Brittian, Absentee Supervisor; Mr. Thomas Johnson, Registration Supervisor; Ms. LaShandra Little, VEO Manager; Mr. James Reese, Production Manager; Regina Waller, Communications Division Manager; Mrs. Patrise Perkins Hooker, Legal Counsel

Guests Attending: Lauren Waites (Democrat Party of Georgia), David Ross (Democrat Party of Georgia), Earl Ferguson

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mrs. Crawford seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Lauren Waites:

Good morning. I'm Lauren Waites. I'm with the Fulton Democratic Party. Just wanted to report to you on our bipartisan process of getting all our volunteers ready for ballot duplication and vote review panels. It's continued to be a pleasure to work with my counterpart, Mike Heekin, on the getting ready to assist Ms. Bodison with the processing of ballots. Just want to let you know that the support from the Absentee Manager has been terrific and we're very grateful. Thank you.

Earl Ferguson:

Hi, I'm Earl Ferguson. I'm a registered voter in Fulton County and I'm here to ask you to provide the option of a hand counted paper ballot during the November election and runoff. I've suggested as you place this on your agenda for public discussion two minutes is not enough time to cover the issue, but I will try. Dominion voting machines have generated distrust of the fairness of our elections. As more information is going to come to light on how they can be manipulated to cause false results, this distrust is growing rapidly. Yes, we're concerned that the machines might be hackable but that is not all. The voter cannot read the QR code as required by Georgia law. Both machines can be pre-programmed to switch under and add votes. The time has come for change. Georgia law requires emergency ballots to be provided at polling locations in case the use of voting machines is impossible or impracticable as OCGA 21-2-334. I submit that this condition has been met. It is impossible and impractical to conduct a fair election with the present Dominion machines. The 2020 lawsuit provided convincing evidence of machine vulnerability and gave two years to fix. Dominion and our Secretary of State have wasted those two years with no results or even an effort to correct things. The QR code still prevents the voter from verifying that correct votes are recorded, and further, by the way, that Section 300, Paragraph Small A, Paragraph two. Further, there appears to be a concern about the machine certification. The output from the BMDS can be checked and verified by the voter to provide an acceptable paper ballot which eliminates an added paper and virtually eliminates the manual ballot marking devices. I would request a paper ballot and hand count. Thank you very much goodbye.

OLD BUSINESS

#3- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

➤ **Regular Meeting – August 11, 2022**

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes from August 11, 2022. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Crawford, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#4- MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2022

Mrs. Williams greeted the board and called on Division Leadership for their report to the Board.

Mrs. Dickenson reported:

- **Positions Vacant:**
 - Director, Registration Manager, Voter Education Outreach Specialist, and Registration Officer
- Procuring all the goods and services for the November and December elections
- Executed IGAs for the November Special Elections for the listed Municipalities
 - Milton, Roswell, Atlanta, East Point and Fairburn
- Prepared and submitted to Finance the proposed 2023 budget to include:
 - Elections Projections, Enhancements and Capital Projects

Ms. Bodison reported:

- Absentee attended a series of summer session trainings administered by the Secretary of State's Office.
- Processing Absentee Ballot Request: **August 22 – October 28, 2022**
- As of 9/27/2022, **Absentee Statistics:**

GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION ABSENTEE BY MAIL STATISTICS:

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED	16,052
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	839(276+563)
DUPLICATED APPLICATIONS	1152
REQUEST TOTALS	18,043

- Timeframe to **CURE** your Absentee, Provisional or UOCAVA has changed:
 - The deadline in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(C) for voters to cure rejected absentee ballots if they failed to sign the oath or their verification information did not match will fall on Monday, **November 14, 2022**.
 - The deadline in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-419(c) for voters to validate cast provisional ballots will fall on Monday, **November 14, 2022**.
 - The deadline in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(G) for counties to receive UOCAVA ballots that were postmarked by Election Day and are otherwise proper will fall on Monday, **November 14, 2022**.
 - The deadline in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-493(k) to certify your election results will fall on Tuesday, **November 15, 2022**, at 5:00 pm.

Vice Chair Crawford noted that ballots can be mailed out on October 10th. Will all the ballot applications processed be mailed out on the 10th

Ms. Bodison responded yes

Vice Chair Crawford asked about an expected timeframe should the voter anticipate receipt of their ballot

Ms. Bodison stated within 5 to 7 days. During the May and June Election, receipt of ballot was within 3 or 4 days

Vice Chair Crawford inquired about the process of contacting the voters with incomplete applications or errors on the application that cause the department to reject the application?

Ms. Bodison noted that counties are mandated to send them a notice within 2 days, but we have consistently contacted the voter by calling and/ or emailing

Vice Chair Crawford asked has that cured those ballots or most applications

Ms. Bodison stated yes, in most cases

Mr. Johnson inquired about the date mentioned for Certification of the election on the 15th

Ms. Bodison responded yes, November 15th

Mr. Johnson noted we need to set a time for November 15th to certify or we could do it like the 14th at 6 o'clock.

Ms. Woolard directed staff to give us some indication of what you prefer and let's very quickly get it on people's schedules. We don't need to do that today, but if staff would think about when you think you'll be ready for us to Certify let's get it on the schedule.

Dr. Ruth inquired about the where absentee Processing of ballots will be completed

Ms. Bodison responded at the **EPC** (Election Preparation Center)

Ms. Williams reported the Elections Division:

- Conducted meetings with all temporary agencies to ensure that we are meeting staffing goals with recruitment and for all positions
- The sample ballot is posted on the website with a link to MVP (My Voter Page)
- Composite ballot posted on Fulton County website for review
- To view your precinct specific ballot: <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>

▪ **Supplies and Logistics**

- Preparing supplies for advanced voting and election day
- Completed all supply orders from SOS and vendors

▪ **Recruitment and Training**

- Poll worker recruitment is 95% complete

ELECTION DAY Recruitment Totals as of 8/29/2022			
	Manager	Assistant Managers	Clerks
	250	500	1527
01A - 03T	33	66	125
04B - EP02B	30	55	135
08A - 09M	20	40	69
10A - 12S	33	65	123
AP01A - JC14&JC15	32	45	91
FA01A - UC02C/D	34	68	80
JC16 - RW22A/C	21	38	56
CH01 - SS29A	27	36	73
Total Recruited	230	413	752
Total to Be Recruited	20	87	659

- Conducting training
- Preparing a list of reserves for Election Day

Vice Chair Crawford noted that the Department of Registration and Elections (**DRE**) and Board of Registration and Elections (**BRE**) have handled a great number of voter challenges this year. What is the process for handling challenges to voters' rights to vote during early voting or on Election Day

Ms. Williams responded the voter should be in pending status and the Staff at that location will need to contact the office to rectify or the voter will cast a provisional ballot if they are flagged in the system.

Vice Chair Crawford asked if that was the “quote unquote” conducting a hearing according to the law

Ms. Williams responded we cannot remove voters from the voter rolls because of the National Voter Registration Act (**NVRA**), the voter's record will be placed in pending status.

Vice Chair Crawford mentioned in the past the ElectionNet (**ENet**) has crashed several times and I know we're using it now until the new system launch. What are we doing to ensure that we can still process voters if ENet is down

Ms. Williams responded advanced voting will have a master list of voters at every site. If the electronic version from ENet is unavailable to process, they'll have a backup.

Vice Chair Crawford asked if the lines get unexpectedly long during early voting or on Election Day, do we have any strategies to address wait times

Ms. Williams responded that the **DRE** have maximized the amount of equipment that we can place at all advanced voting locations and for election day. We have attempted to put enough equipment and staff persons in place. We increased advanced voting locations to 36 to spread out voters to reduce the possibility of lines. We're hoping all our proactive efforts are sufficient

Chair Woolard asked if a voter comes in to vote and they're in pending status is there a direct line to get that handled quickly so we don't back up the lines

Ms. Williams answered yes, we have a call center that is going to be well trained by the Registration Division to make sure they're able to handle those calls.

Mrs. Benjamin reported on Advance Voting:

- Early Voting (**EV**) training started on August 22nd concludes October 15, 2022
- As of September 28 – 90% of Recruitment is completed
- Comprehensive revamping up advanced voting training
 - The curriculum is structured to be delivered in three-day module
 - Separate classes for new and returning staff to maximize efficiency and effectiveness
 - Hands-on experience extensive enhancements
 - Restructured as role-play scenarios
 - Enhanced opportunities for trainer staff interactions
 - Hand-outs for each attendees and continuous daily reassessment
- 100% response rate to that evaluation survey and it's our intention to maintain that 100% rate
 - Revised training curriculum has been well received from new and returning attendees
- Kudos to **EV** training staff that have poured out their hearts in this training

Ms. Marshall reported for Voter Registration Division:

- Registered Voters
- **845,489** – total
 - 730,898 – active
 - 114,591 – inactive
- Voter Registration Applications
 - 120,085** applications 2022
 - 29,004** applications –August
- Increased volume of paper application
- Address changes: **29,599**
- Name and Address Changes: **259**
- Merged Records: **6,000**
- Records were updated to ensure the correct precinct and combo numbers
- Attended a series of Training conducted by the Secretary of State's office
- Unable to retrieve certain statistics due to the system outage (asterisk marking)

Mr. Wingate asked how many records the **DRE** have that are flagged pending

Ms. Marshall responded from the last challenges received, they are all in pending status, but I can give you the exact number. **Ms. Marshall** asked for a moment to get the requested data

Dr. Ruth inquired about the amount new registered voters we have for 2022

Ms. Marshall requested a moment to have those statistics pulled

Dr. Ruth inquired about combo numbers and how is the process going? Do you think you have everyone is in their respective precinct

Ms. Marshall stated”

“I feel 100 about the correct combo number for each precinct. We QC everything, double and triple checked, went through with the fine-tooth comb. We are also working with our internal GIS Department, in addition to Blue Raster, and the latest changes that came back was about 7,000. We resolved over 5,000 this weekend so there's about 2000 that we're currently working through, but I feel very confident that everyone will be in the correct precinct with the correct combo number for this election. “

Chair Woolard recommended giving **Ms. Marshall** the opportunity to resolve two outstanding requests. **Madam Chair** suggested going to the next report and we'll just come back to you

Mr. Olomo reported on Information Systems Division:

- **EasyVote Update:** Testing the updated version and will proceed with installing the updated version on laptops.
- **Outlook Update:** The team have been working with the Advance Voting staff to ensure all compliance officer, Poll Managers, Assistant Poll manager and Poll Clerks have an active Fulton County account and Outlook Web Access.
- **Project Manager Update:** The November 08, 2022, General election project was completed.
- **Poll Worker Platform:** The department is working with a vendor to build a Poll Worker Module and application that will provide a single platform that supports
We plan on implementing a pilot program in January 2023.

Warehouse

Philip Lee Warehouse: The team worked with the D.R.E.A.M and I.T departments to install power drops, surveillance, and Access Points.

Election Central: The team attended weekly meetings with D.R.E.A.M Department on general construction progress and worked with the I.T department to provide audio-visual requirements for the board room, training room, collaboration rooms and break room.

Voting Equipment

System specialists completed the post-election procedure on the voting equipment, and equipment with issues was shipped to the vendor for repairs. System Specialists are getting ready to be re-trained in WDS inventory System and the Logic and Accuracy Procedures.

Vice Chair Crawford asked did we have any issues with the batteries on the BMDS while you were doing the L&A (logic and accuracy testing)

Mr. Olomo responded no

Chair Woolard commended **Mr. Olomo** and team:

“I want to thank you for that too and you sort of made that sound easy and I appreciate that because you always step up and get the job done. I just want to thank you and the team because we've kind of talked about this a little bit. But what people don't know is that in the summer, we had to move warehouses and stand-up kind of additional power sources and other things in the new warehouse to be ready for this election. It was something that was incredibly challenging to do. It was incredibly challenging to find an appropriate space. It was incredibly challenging to get ready and make that move so that we could get to this point and y'all got it done. We just so appreciate it because that was extra.”

Mr. Olomo replied you're welcome

Chair Woolard mentioned:

"You had a lot to do this summer anyway and that wasn't on the list so thank you for that. Then when we refer to election central, for those who don't follow us week to week, we're building a purpose-built election center where all our equipment and staff and training and volunteers can be housed in one location with (a) a lot more pleasant access and (b) better access. We just want people to know that as soon as we get through this election season, we will be moving into what will be a fairly complicated move, but that I think will help us all be able to communicate better and up our game and make people feel better about the work we're doing together. I just want folks to know this stuff operates in the background and so there's things that sort of get into the headlines that momentarily cause us to have to deflect our attention but it's the day-to-day stuff that y'all have to do that is really the complicated stuff and when we don't hear about it, it means you did your job well. So, thank you"

Ms. Little reported on Voter Education and Outreach Division:

- **29** new deputy registrars trained, 363 deputy registrars' totals
- **101** voters registered, 1,015 for the year
- **255** poll worker recruitments, 752 for the year
- Voter identification cards: 4 mobile education unit
- **52** voter outreach events, 296 for the year
- **60** absentee applications, 142 for the year as numbers were not tracked prior to April.
- **200** connections with organizations, residents, and community throughout the county, 2,336 connections for the year
- **2,000** voter machine demonstrations, 9,350 for the year
- **11** media inquiries, 21 for the year
- Senior citizens interaction increase
- Election outreach toolkit developed with the public affairs office

The Voter Education and Outreach Team also spent the month of August planning and coordinating events for the following Civic Holidays:

- **Disability Voter Rights Week 2022**- September 12-16, 2022
- **National Voter Registration Day** – September 20, 2022
- **National Voter Education Week** – October 3-7, 2022
- **National Vote Early Day** – October 28, 2022

VEO is working with External Affairs, there will be media releases sent out for each holiday and the activities planned for the public

Vice Chair Crawford commended **Ms. Little** on a VEO event she attended.

"It was very good. It was run very well. They had a great response also. So, thank you."

Ms. Little replied Thank you for assisting in that activity

Mrs. Williams updated the **BRE** on a data breach:

"On September 21st, Fulton County learned that poll worker information was inadvertently sent to an email address out of outside of Fulton County. Fulton County took steps to quickly confirm what information was inadvertently disclosed to the unintended recipient. We have promptly initiated response protocols and launched an investigation. The persons impacted have been notified by email and will be receiving a notice letter in the postal mail that contains detailed information of the event, what we are doing, and an offer for credit monitoring at no cost of those impacted. Just be advised that this information was personal staff information. It will not impact the election or election results. This was payroll processing information honestly, but those persons have been notified and we'll get an additional letter in the mail as well."

Vice Chair Crawford asked when you expect to get those letters to the individuals impacted?

Nadine Williams responded if they were on this list, they were emailed yesterday but the one that will be in the postal mail I have to double check with Cyber Council with regards to that date and we will get that date to you

Dr. Ruth asked when the investigation will conclude?

Mrs. Williams stated that this was an isolated incident. It was that particular spreadsheet, so I don't know if any further investigation needs to be done at this point, but Cyber Council advise

Dr. Ruth asked will there be conversations with, or protocols developed for the staffing agencies around protecting people's PII (personal identifying information)

Nadine Williams mentioned it's internal that was not with the staffing agencies, it's within our department to put protections on PII. We're working with IT with regards to that

Chair Woolard asked **Ms. Marshall** do you have those numbers now

Ms. Marshall replied no ma'am.

NEW BUSINESS

#5- Voter Residency Challenge

➤ **David Hubert**

Ms. Marshall updated the Board:

"Mr. David Hubert submitted a challenge on July 29th. The recommendation this morning will be for the board to push off action or push off the hearing until after the November election mainly because we have passed that the deadline for submission of the challenges which was August 10th. We cannot take any action on it now; I would recommend that the board pushed the hearing off until after the November election."

Chair Woolard asked when the next meeting would be where we would do that

Ms. Marshall stated January 2023

Mrs. Perkins Hooker advised:

"Actually, what you need to do is you're postponing the hearing until after the election which is the January date. We acknowledge the receipt of the challenge. We notify the Challenger of the fact that the National Voter Registration Act precludes us making any changes to the voter registration rules to remove anybody in this window of time. They have been notified in advance, told that it was on the day, but it would be postponed"

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to acknowledge the challenges and delay the hearing until after the election due to the National Voting Rights Act (NVRA). The motion was made by Mrs. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Chair Woolard directed **Ms. Marshall** to email all of us the responses to those questions. I would ask staff to provide the most updated numbers moving forward

Mr. Wingate commented:

“Just a comment not for discussion. As it relates to challenges that we did have to forego this month. To me I don't know that it is an absolute issue of determined removal, but I didn't understand that that could still not be worked, and in those cases could be put in the so-called pending category”

Patrise Perkins Hooker

“From a legal standing or legal point, we could have done that. However, given the workload on the staff with the current things that they're processing and the fact that the board could not take any real action that would transfer someone that is in a challenge kind of state. This is where they are because they are challenged. We decided to leave them there since no action could be taken by y'all that would impact their ability to vote. That does not mean that the staff is not looking at the challenges and will have a recommendation in January. It just means that we did collectively have a conversation about how best to proceed with the parameters we had in place and the workload they had in place. That's the recommendation we made to the board collectively.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairwoman entertained a motion to move to executive session for personnel matters. The motion was made by Vice Chair Woolard, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

The Board was unable to access the room; therefore, unable to discuss Personnel matters.

Chairwoman entertained a motion to move to regular session. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Vice Chair Crawford, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ruth seconded the motion. Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:05 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Krystal Haynes, Administrative Coordinator
Mariska Bodison, Absentee Manager