



BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – October 14, 2021

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, October 14, 2021 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:

Ms. Dr. Kathleen Ruth, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Aaron V. Johnson
Mrs. Teresa Crawford
Mr. Mark Wingate

Staff Attending: Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director; Ms. Nadine E. Williams, Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Ms. Shamira Marshall, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; I; Mr. Johnny Harris, Elections Officer; Mr. Axiver Harris, Elections Officer; Mrs. Cheryl Ringer, County Attorney; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Mr. James Reese, Production Manager; Jessica Corbitt, PIO; Regina Waller, Senior Public Affairs Officer

Guest Attending: John Eaves (Former BOC Chairman), Beryle Tylar, Micah Wedemeyer (FC Poll Worker), Diane Chauffe, Angie Thomas, Laura Mantrone, Lynda Kozarski, Milia Akkouris, Susan Voyles (Project Opal), Coleen Boyle, Amie Uphues, Kim Goldsmith, Bridget Thorne, Ben Brasch (AJC), Meshe Gittlelson

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to adopt 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

Diane Chauffe:

It's critical that the Fulton County boy the nation's remains in control of our local elections. We should not and cannot have the state legislature takeover when they don't like the election outcome. I commend the board for work that has been done and providing us with early voting options. However, the blatant voter suppression laws of SB 202 is unconscionable. It limits the ability of the board to provide voter access. That is, the Fulton County can only have eight ballot drop boxes, we had 38. And the drop boxes are only

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available indoors at early voting locations, and only available from 9am to 6pm. And only October 12- October 29. That Drop boxes we're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week with continual video surveillance. And they were available until 7pm. Election Day.

Angie Thomas

My main purpose today is to ask you to continue to have control of the elections from the full county standpoint versus the state. So that's really the bottom line. And I'm asking you to continue to do that, from a local standpoint. Don't let it go to the state, the state leaders and state legislators have made some bad decisions in my opinion. So I'm asking you to continue to be our leaders, our personal group to help us go forward. So just bottom line, yes, keep it local. Help us with Fulton County and help us know how we can help you

Laura Mantrone

We're regressing as a state this is equivalent to losing a football game and then going home And changing the rules that you have a better chance of winning the next time. I retired in June 2019, after 37 years as a special educator for DeKalb County Schools. And as a teacher, how can I honestly, excuse me recite the pledge of allegiance and say, liberty and justice for all. We're going back, we're the only people who will be able to vote for free white men who can own land. I know I'm being dramatic, but I really am disgusted at what's happening here in the state of Georgia. I really am appalled. And we're just regressing and it's going to be democracy is that state and what's happening with how you're changing the rules? Shame on you all.

Lynda Kozarski

I'm here reiterating some of the issues but I my firm pieces. I'd like to see the Senate Bill repealed. I think the legislator's acted, selfishly. I feel like my rights have been taken away. My vote is sacred, I voted 57 years, never felt this way. Never. The last election was run beautifully complements the election board. But what happened afterward? Just suddenly, it's almost like it's a fascist move. That may sound you know, but my family comes from Germany and Hungary. And they suffered under some of these things. This is just like, it feels like it's a slope that was sliding down. And I guess I guess it's your responsibility, but it's a tough duty to rectify this and somehow anyway, we can help with firefight. We'd be happy to I just don't know what kind of a world Mike my six year old grandson is going to inherit.

Bridgette Thorne

Poll worker for (9) years, fraud at the EPC, Democrat Party, whistleblowers are punished, and more.

Aimee Uphues

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the installation of Cathy Woolard as the head of the Board of Registrations and Elections and demand a full forensic audit and investigation and accountability into the irregularities and fraud into the 2020 elections. We the People of Fulton County, I'm tired of being ignored. I want to remind you of your mission statement, which is to ensure that registration and elections process is efficient and effectively provided to all citizens of Fulton County. Well, you failed your mission. Richard Barron continues working as Elections Director, even though he's not fit or qualified to hold that position. Why just last week, two election workers were fired for shredding voter registrations. The citizens you work for have lost faith in you and the integrity of the elections you run here in Fulton County

Coleen Boyle

I have a history in the county of 36 years as a voter voting the same precinct. Also, because of my concerns about election related issues, I served as a poll worker and the 2020 election at a different precinct and then the one I voted as the voter I felt the county provided consistent and transparent services comparable to those of my work colleagues and surrounding counties of Cobb, Gwinnett, and Fayette counties. As a poll worker and the November 2020 election, I was impressed by the rigor of the election process and the oversight provided by the county and the quality and the integrity of those at my specific precinct in terms of facilitating the process. At the poll site, I also to better understand the process of volunteer to run the paper that paper ballots at the end of the day and experienced a similar organized and transparent process. So in summary, both my experience as a voter as well as my experience as a poll worker, were positive.

Kim Goldsmith

I have been a Fulton County voter for nearly 50 years. And I want to commend the Fulton County Board of Elections for its history and current support of early voting and voting rights. This is a scary time around voter suppression. A lot of people didn't like the results of the elections. They talked about the drop boxes, but the hours have changed, voting by mail is more difficult, obviously, tactics to suppress each person's vote, and nothing about gerrymandering. So I commend what Fulton County does to try and protect each person's right.

Susan Voyles

I'm a resident of Sandy Springs in Fulton County. And I am aware that you have been emailed a packet by a group of people that asked me to speak today, and this presentation reflects a considerable amount of work by a group of small private citizens. These are the facts and data that Fulton County Elections provided with appropriate chain of custody. And you all are responsible for the safety and security of elections here in Fulton County. Therefore, at a very minimum, we know there is enough evidence presented in the packet that you have to warrant further investigation by you.

Micah Wedemeyer

You may recognize this mask. This is my official Fulton County Poll Worker mask that I was given when I sign up. I became a poll worker after the difficulties of the June primary. I'm very proud of the work that we did as poll workers in 2020 and 2021 provided safe efficient elections for Georgia voters. And I even volunteered to be a manager and I'll be managing my precinct in November. And all that is to say why I'm incredibly saddened and frustrated by Senate Bill 202. And everything that comes with that and the continuing hostility towards Fulton voters. We poll workers we did a good job under difficult conditions. And all that we've been rewarded with is from the state legislature suspicion and furthering of the big lie that we participated in a massive conspiracy to defraud Georgia voters. With a cynical partisan maneuvering. The state legislature has shown it is unfit to manage the responsibility of Fulton elections, which

is why the Fulton County Board of Elections last remaining control a state takeover put election controls in the hands of those who have shown zero interest in supporting our hard work of running fair efficient elections. And instead of simply use it as an opportunity to further disenfranchised voters. Please continue to support us, the frontline, frontline poll workers so that we can continue to support Fulton voters.

Milia Akkouris

I echo the sentiments of the previous gentleman as a poll manager. My election integrity journey began here in 2018. Some of you may remember that's when I made my first public comment ever. I've since worked several elections, and that serve as poll manager proudly. First, let me start with some positives. I'm very excited and optimistic about some of the process improvements I heard about yesterday during poll manager's training. I'd like to give a shout out and a accommodation to Alexandria Royale, my Regional Coordinator, she's been phenomenal to work with specifically about some process improvements, I'd like to call out the binder that was created, Johnny Harris and his team made a binder of all the documents and I think that'll really help in the back of the house. And also the idea of putting multiple drop off locations. For poor managers, I think that'll really help with the process. As long as those in charge of these pulling drop off locations, precinct drop offs, are well knowledgeable about the process in place. However, I'm disheartened about SB 202 specifically over the fact that we can't provide provision (water) for those who may be experiencing medical related distress as a first responder flight attendant. I have issue with that. Also, with the eight drop off locations, others have mentioned that I'd like to go a step further. I vote early all the time, because of my co-worker responsibilities. Last year I walked and this year I actually mapped all of the locations, if I had to take public transportations would take me at least 40 minutes to get to a drop off location. And then if I do shift work, I might need to decide between being fired and voting. Also, based on my experience, often precinct information is not correct. I don't know who's at fault there if it's Fulton County, with the state, but denying voters who vote out of precinct before 5pm Or not counting their vote regardless of circumstances, but to suppress it burden on the voter, for any error made by either Fulton County or the Secretary of State.

OLD BUSINESS

#3- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Meeting- September 9, 2021**
- **Special Meeting- September 17, 2021**

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the Regular and Special Meeting minutes from September 9 & 17, 2021, making corrections on page #4 and the attendance of the meetings. 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 AUGUST 2021

Mr. Barron reported:

- **CES built ballots**
 - Municipalities proofed and returned their Ballots
- **Polling Locations 257**
- **Drafting signs to place at Polling locations by October 22nd**
- **SB 202** reduce the amount of drop boxes countywide
- **SB 202** made Mobile voting currently obsolete, **VEO** will utilize for Education and Outreach
- **Rewrap of Mobile buses completed for Voter Education and Outreach (VEO)**
- **Revisions to training due to SB 202**
 - Poll worker Manuals
 - Early Voting / Absentee Drop Boxes
 - Absentee Ballot Process
- **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 (Relocated to offsite facility)**
- **Total voter registration applications received in 2021: 55,883**
- **8,174** voter registration applications received in July
- **EV training Concluded and EV began on Tuesday**
 - 5,834 voted thus far

- Drop Boxes are open 9am-6pm ; October 12-29th
- Or utilized Counter service at Government Center, South and North Fulton Service Center
- As of August 1st, **851,723** (794,703 active and 57,171 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- Total New Applications: **8,224**
- Administration maintaining expenditures from County Budgets
 - 2021 Processing Invoices
- Weekly meetings with various Departments
- Election Communication Plan
- New / Promoted Personnel:
 - **Holly Smith** (Registration Chief) [new](#)
 - **Mariska Bodison** (Absentee Manager) [promoted](#)
 - **Lashandra Little** (VEO Manager) [new](#)
 - **Dominic Olomo** (Information Technology Systems Manager) [promoted](#)
- Personnel Vacancy: (5)
- Budget hearing
 - Includes same operational budget from
 - Enhancements Requested: Box Trucks, additional vehicles, increases in travel and training budgets, hospitality, Warranties licenses and fees
 - VEO preparing for partnership with the Carter Center Initiative
- New provision in SB 202:

Under that law, any provisional ballot cast by a voter in the wrong precinct will only count if it is cast after 5pm. This resulted in SB 202 changed O.C.G.A 21-2-418. Voters who go to the wrong precinct before 5pm will be directed to their correct precinct. In the past, if somebody voted out of precinct we would remake the ballot and count what was in common between where they voted and where they are registered. And now, before five though, those if somebody insists on voting, a provisional ballot out of precinct, and those ballots will not count.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the E-SPLOST AND T-SPOLOST in the City of Palmetto and Mountain Park

Mr. Barron explained that there are signs up but voters in Palmetto have to go to two different locations to vote. They want to vote on the county, E-SPLOST AND T-SPLOST, they go to the library and to vote for city race voters are directed to City Hall

Mr. Johnson inquired about the United States Post Offices having a structured slow down on the mail. Now for mine, it's primarily male that's going from state to state or going long distances in told that it shouldn't be a problem for local municipalities

Mr. Barron directed **Ms. Bodison** to contact the DRE's liaison from the U.S.P.S

Mr. Johnson inquired about concerns city of Fairburn had

Mr. Barron explained that the DRE spoke with Mayor Hurst and everything was resolved.

Mr. Wingate inquired about to mock elections in the month of September

Mr. Barron explained that EV personnel met to go through the process and the EPC's personnel tested the WDS System (inventory system) utilizing the scanners

Mr. Wingate inquired about borrowing equipment from Gwinnet County

Mr. Eskridge responded that it was to ensure the elections had adequate equipment. Gwinnett's Board voted no on this matter.

Mr. Wingate asked about the drop boxes and do they require security cameras 24/7 under SB 202.

Mr. Barron responded that the DRE have a person that is monitoring the drop, because they've been moved inside the polling places

Ms. Williams added that the libraries that the County currently utilize for Advance Voting, we actually have cameras in those rooms, as part of the building itself. But no cameras were installed for the purposes of surveilling the drop boxes.

Mr. Wingate asked do DRE have any concerns that there could be a security breach, even though supposedly they're securely in a position where they shouldn't be tampered with, or somebody can stick whatever in them, if they're unattended on a 24/7 basis.

Mr. Barron mentioned that the drop boxes are emptied at the end of the day, and then they're inaccessible until the next morning.

Mr. Wingate inquired about the Chain of Custody

Mr. Barron answered documentation is completed daily.

Mr. Wingate inquired about the amount of ballots that have been mailed.

Ms. Bodison responded 4,508

Mr. Wingate inquired about the roll over list

Mr. Barron responded that before the DRE would mail out applications to any voter 65 and older or disabled, we are not allowed to mail those out anymore. SB 202 prohibited this action.

Mr. Wingate asked about the Sandy Springs' ballot error

Mr. Barron explained that the error was only on the composite ballot completed internally not on the ballot voters are casting. **Mr. Barron** noted the old Election Management System would create a composite ballot, so that every city would be on one ballot but the new system does not.

Madam Chair inquired about the August and September voter registration applications and why the numbers were down

Mr. Barron responded, this change was noticed in March. It's dropped significantly this entire year. So I think it used to be the DDS was an opt-in, you had to actually physically put on there that you wanted to register to vote. Then when the Governor was the Secretary of State, I think he and DDS worked something out so that it was an opt-out. So all voters that went to DDS generated an application. Now, something has changed significantly so that we are getting an application for every single person that goes into DDS, but we've never been informed.

Dr. Ruth inquired about Alpharetta Library and Newtown opening late

Mr. Barron responded that the power outage concerns were prior to the EV locations were scheduled to open.

Ms. Benjamin responded that no location opened late because each location had a system Specialist on duty. And when Alpharetta lost power the manager confirmed, we had four units at 90% in battery, and we had two units 100%.

Dr. Ruth mentioned concerns she heard from Poll workers experiencing a few challenges with Happy Faces (HF) in the onboarding process, it's not a streamlined process. And so I just wanted to see if you're hearing that issues around that Sharon

Ms. Benjamin responded that staff had some issues with onboarding and understanding the process. So those individuals were directed to Happy Faces to go through their procedures.

Ms. Crawford asked when did the Absentee Division received their supplies from the SOS.

Ms. Bodison answered on October 8th; although, they were promised weeks prior

Mr. Barron added that the DRE received them so late that we weren't able to work with the vendor to get a barcode onto them. And so we are stuffing them by hand, rather than using our Bluecrest machine that does everything for you.

Mr. Wingate asked during the cycle, how many Dominion employees our oon board? How many Happy Faces' personnel? How may KnowInk personnel?

Mr. Barron's response:

- No Dominion technicians until Election Day for support
- HF will follow-up with Ms. McCloud to provide
- KnowInk will bring on (5) to assist with Poll Pads prior to Election Day

NEW BUSINESS

#5-INTRODUCTION OF MADAM CHAIR CATHY WOOLARD

Hi, everyone. I'm **Cathy Woolard**. I'm the new chair. This is my first meeting because I got to break the eyes with a special called meeting and I'm delighted to be here. Thank you. And I've met with everybody. Well, I'll be meeting with Miss Crawford after this meeting. And thank you for making me feel welcome. And sure, do appreciate your guidance as I learn all the things you already know and look forward to being a part of this team.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to close the regular session and convene into executive session to discuss Personnel Matter. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to include Pending Litigation while in executive session. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wingate and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

After executive session, **Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to resume into regular session. The motion was made by Mrs. Crawford, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Crawford seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:56 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary