



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 10, 2019

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, October 10, 2019, 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. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Blake Evans, Elections Chief; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Mr. Johnny Harris, Elections Officer; Ms. Breana Jenkins, Administrative Coordinator I; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Mr. Darryl Carver, Public Affairs Manager; Kelvin Jones, Voter Education and Outreach Coordinator; Jordan Pressley, Voter Education and Outreach Coordinator; Jodi Brittian, Registration Officer; Charrise Walker, Registration Officer

Guests Attending: Foris Webb, III (City of Atlanta), Leslie Wolte, Patty Nathan, Sally FitzGerald (League of Women Voters), Penn Payne (Democratic Party of Georgia), Reginald McClendon (City of Atlanta)

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the 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

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting – September 12, 2019

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

- Special Meeting – September 17, 2019

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Special Meeting on September 17, 2019. The motion was made by Dr. Ruth, seconded by Mr. Wingate and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

➤ **Special Meeting – September 23, 2019**

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Special Meeting on September 23, 2019. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

➤ **Executive Session Meeting – September 23, 2019**

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting minutes on September 23, 2019. 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 SEPTEMBER 2019:

- Early Voting (EV) began August 26, 2019
- Five EV Locations:
 - **C.T Martin Natatorium & Recreation Center**
 - **East Point Library**
 - **Fairburn Library**
 - **Government Center**
 - **South Fulton Service Center**
- Total EV Turnout: **3,144**
- September 17th Special Election voter turnout
 - **4.7%** Fulton Commission, District 6
 - **1.92%** Atlanta Board of Education, District 2
- Poll Worker Training is ongoing
- 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
- An overlap between the Special Runoff Election in October and the start of early voting for the November General and Special Election
 - Early Voting for the November General and Special election begins October 15, 2019
 - The Special Election Runoff is October 15, 2019
 - One Early Voting Location and Election Day Poll will be impacted, **Wolf Creek Library**
- Total voter registration applications received in 2019: **260,546**
- **45,476** voter registration applications received in September
- As of September 1st, **833,839** (742,229 active and 91,610 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- Successful National Voter Registration Day on September 24, 2019
- VEO Team actively attending events around the County

Mr. Barron discussed the overlap between Election Day for the Special Runoff Election and the start of early voting for the November Municipal Elections both to be held on October 15, 2019. Voters assigned to the Wolf Creek Library on Election Day for the Special Runoff Election on October 15, 2019 may also vote early at the same location for the General Special and Municipal Election to be held on November 5, 2019. The voter will be required to check in twice and vote on two different voting units.

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about whether the overlap on October 15th affects any Municipalities, other than City of South Fulton

Mr. Barron said South Fulton is the only affected city and Wolf Creek is the only affected Election Day precinct and Early Voting location

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about signage at Wolf Creek Library on Election Day and the first day of Early Voting

Mr. Barron mentioned that along with signage, **DRE** will have extra personnel to direct voters

NEW BUSINESS

#5- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VOTER REGISTRATION STAFF, GEORGIA REGISTRAR OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION (GROC).

Chairperson Cooney and the Board recognized **Jodi Brittian** and **Charrise Walker** for successfully completing the Georgia Registrar Official Certification (**GROC**).

#6- UPDATE ON OCTOBER 15th SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION

- **Board of Commissioners (BOC), District 6**
- **Atlanta Board of Education (ABOE), District 2**
- Five EV Locations:
 - **C.T Martin Natatorium & Recreation Center**
 - **East Point Library**
 - **Fairburn Library**
 - **Government Center**
 - **South Fulton Service Center**
- Received **190** Applications for Absentee Ballots
- **150** applications have been processed and **40** applications rejected
- L&A testing ongoing
- Total Polling Locations: **59** Total Precincts: **133**
- ExpressPoll Saturday will occur Saturday, October 12th
- Poll worker equipment pick-up will be Sunday, October 13, 2019
- Commission District 6 polls close at 7 p.m. and City of Atlanta, BOE District 2 polls close at 8 p.m.
- There will be an overlap between the Special Runoff Election in October and the start of early voting for the November General / Special Municipal Election
 - Early Voting for the November General /Special Municipal election begins October 15, 2019
 - The Special Runoff Election is October 15, 2019
 - One Early Voting Location and Election Day Poll will be impacted, **Wolf Creek Library**

Mr. Evans informed the Board of a recent discovery regarding the address of Archer Hall at Morehouse College (**04W**). This has been a polling location for a long time and voters are accustomed to voting at this precinct; however, the current address used with GPS would direct voters to the President's Office. **DRE** is currently seeking a permanent alternative to prevent confusion. **DRE** will provide this location with additional signs to ensure voters are informed.

#7- UPDATE ON NEW VOTING SYSTEM AND TRAINING

Mr. Barron mentioned that of the **159** counties, **41** of those counties have been trained on the new voting system.

Fulton County currently has 11% of the registered voters in Georgia

Allocation percentage:

- **10.2%** Ballot Marking Devices (**BMD**)
- **8.2%** Poll Book
- **8.6%** Paper Precinct Scanners

Mr. Barron mentioned sending a letter to the Secretary of State (**SOS**), **SOS** Liaison, and the (**SOS**) Elections Director regarding the allotment and proposed that **SOS** increase the assigned allotment to **DRE**.

Mr. Barron also will be requesting additional funds from the County to purchase more equipment

Mr. Evans presented an overview:

Items displayed:

- Ballot Marking Device
- HP Printer
- Precinct Paper Scanner
- **Poll Pad was not available for the presentation** (training will be provided at a later date)

On Election Day:

- No Voter Certificate
- Poll Pad (**Replacing the Express Polls**)
- Voter verifies their information and sign using a stylus
- Voter ballot card is created
- Voter selects their options, review their options, and then print the summary of selections with QR Code

THE VOTER WILL REMOVE THEIR PRINTED BALLOT FROM THE PRINTER

THE VOTER WILL PROCEED TO THE PRECINCT SCANNER

**INSERT BALLOT IN THE SCANNER AND THE BALLOT WILL DROP INTO A SECURE BALLOT BOX/
BIN**

Mr. Kelvin Jones assisted with the presentation by going through the sample demonstration on the **BMD** as **Mr. Evans** presented and responded to inquiries

Ms. Nuriddin referenced a challenge with the old system with magnifying the screen and voters not seeing all their candidates on one page

Mr. Webb inquired about calibration issues with the new voting system

Mr. Evans stated the system will not have calibration issues

Ms. Nuriddin asked how the voter can verify that what they scan in the system matches their selection, and mentioned the QR code and a voter's ability to read

Mr. Evans informed the **BRE** that **SOS** will be providing all counties with secure paper and the QR code can only be read by the precinct scanners. Also, a voter could not take their ballot summary to another precinct and attempt to defraud the election process

Chairperson Cooney reiterated that once the voter scans their ballot summary, the ballot summary will drop into a locked compartment and the voter will be unable to retrieve the ballot summary

Mr. Wingate asked are the votes captured in the scanner

Mr. Evans stated yes and stated that votes are captured in two places and then audited after an election

Chairperson Cooney inquired about the amount of precinct scanners per polling location

Mr. Evans stated that it will vary by size. Smaller locations will have one, and larger locations will have multiple

Chairperson Cooney inquired about the reliability of the printers

Mr. Evans explained that the DRE intends to have more technicians in the field to assist with issues and the **BMD** has a reprint option, in the case of a paper jam or printer issues.

Mr. Webb asked how the voter will be assured that their options from the reprint are accurate

Mr. Barron responded that the **BMD** has no stored memory and only the current voter information will be displayed

Ms. Nuriddin suggested that the **DRE** test the scanners before the Presidential Preference Primary (**PPP**) for durability

Mr. Johnson asked had this system been used in any other county similar in size to Fulton

Mr. Evans mentioned that **DRE** has communicated with Cook County, Illinois (Chicago) that uses this system

Mr. Evans mentioned the **BMD** and the **Precinct Scanners** have uninterruptable batteries that extends operation time in case of power outages by 2-4 hours

Dr. Ruth inquired about obtaining feedback from the six pilot counties who will be using the new machines

Mr. Barron stated that **SOS** will provide that information at the December Conference, Georgia Voter Registration and Elections Officials (**GAVREO**)

#8- BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Barron provided the Board with an overview of the 2020 Budget presentation. The overall request to fund the department was 12 Million. **DRE** requested the County to fund six elections for 2020 and the Federal Runoff in 2021:

- Presidential Preference Primary and Special Election
- **March 24, 2020**
- Special Election Runoff
April 21, 2020
- General Primary Election, Nonpartisan General Election, and Special Election
May 19, 2020
- General Primary Election, Nonpartisan General Election, and Special Runoff Elections
July 21, 2020
 - Federal, State, & Local Offices
- General Election and Special Election
November 3, 2020
- General Election and Special Election Runoffs for State & Local
December 1, 2020
- General Election Runoffs for Federal Offices
January 5, 2021

Mr. Barron mentioned other items in the proposed budget request:

- Staffing Needs (Permanent, Supplemental, & Poll Workers)
- Funds for more new voting equipment
- Cost increase to conduct elections

Chairperson Cooney asked if the **BRE** can assist with the requested budget by communicating with the Board of Commissioners (**BOC**)

Mr. Barron said yes and informed the Board of the next **BOC** meeting on October 16, 2019 at 10AM

Chairperson Cooney encouraged **BRE** to use their contacts to speak on behalf of the department

#9- REVIEW OF BYLAWS

Chairperson Cooney requested a review of the By Laws. According to new or amended legislature, **BRE** may be required to amend their By Laws to ensure **BRE** is adhering to all applicable laws. **Chairperson Cooney** requested Mr. Barron expound on the changes that have and will occur

Mr. Barron explained that according to **HB 316** an absentee/ provisional voter has until 5pm on the Friday after an election to cure their ballot. This will restrict certification of the election the Monday after the Election. Also, with the new voting system, all elections will require auditing and certification will occur by the second Friday after the Election.

Chairperson Cooney expressed that this item will be reviewed again in 2020; however, the goal is to review and amend the items that are currently required. **Chairperson Cooney** requested that all members review and propose any changes, so the Board can amend and affirm the amended By Laws by January 2020

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 11:05 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary