



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 13, 2020

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., in the Public Safety Building of the The Government Center, 130 Peachtree 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; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager;; Mrs. Cheryl Ringer, County Attorney; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Ms. Jessica Corbitt, External Affairs Director & PIO, Mr. Kelvin Jones, VEO Coordinator, Lead;

Guests Attending: David Ross (Democratic Party of Georgia), Brat Day, George Balbona, Betsy Schwalbach, Bethann Fallmann, Katrina Griessman, Milia Akkouris, Shea Roberts, Ronnie Martin, Aileen Nakamura, Marisa Pyle (Fair Fight Action), Rhonda Martin, Nina Braziel, Yevgeny Shrago (Fair Fight Action)

#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 5-0.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

George Balbona expressed his disapproval of the company that made the carriers and of the overall cost and delivery, of the secure carriers purchased by the department.

Milia Akkouris expressed concerns regarding the QR Code; this could affect voter's confidence which equals voter turnouts, potential auditing method, tabulation, and the new system not being user friendly.

Katrina Griessman requested for public comments to be three minutes not two, initially. **Mrs. Griessman** noted that **SOS** should have covered the cost of the carriers; and although she disagrees with the purchase, inquired if there was a cost analysis completed, as requested by Commissioner Hausmann

Shea Roberts advocating for secure voting and protecting voter secrecy. **Ms. Roberts** implored the **BRE** to use hand marked paper ballots due to the noted inconsistency of the new voting system

Ronnie Martin advocating for voting secrecy and reducing voter intimidation at the polls

Aileen Nakamura referenced an email that was sent to all Board members. **Ms. Nakamura** advocated for the implementation of hand marked paper ballots for the PPP on March 24, 2020

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting- January 9, 2020

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 9, 2020. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

- Executive Session Meeting- January 9, 2020

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Executive Session Meeting on January 9, 2020. 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 JANUARY 2020:

- Elections Division: **24** Supplemental Staff (**18**- EPC & **6**- Government Center)
- Renovations at the EPC are on track for completion
- New Voting equipment delivery began on January 21, 2020
- 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**)
- EV Schedule finalized
- Total voter registration applications received in 2020: **22,167**
- **22,167** voter registration applications received in January
- As of February 1st, **806,224** (756,256 active and 49,968 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- Total New Applications in 2020 – **16,203**
- Total Applications processed in 2020 – **38,047**
- Felons Letters Mailed- **409**
- Voter Education and Outreach Demonstrations- ongoing
- Poll Worker training- ongoing

Dr. Ruth inquired about the amount of poll workers that completed training

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that **30%** of the poll workers and **20%** of poll mangers have been trained thus far

#5-APPROVAL OF EV LOCATIONS, MARCH 2-20, 2020

- 21 permanent locations instead of 22
 - Johns Creek City Hall had scheduling conflicts
 - March 2-6th, 8:30am -6pm
 - March 9th-14th, 8:30am -6pm
 - March 15th, 12-5pm
 - March 16th-20th, 8:30am -6pm
- 11 Outreach locations

Mr. Wingate inquired about voting on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Mr. Barron explained that the misinformation was an oversight and expressed that the draft will be updated after the meeting

Ms. Nuriddin expressed concerns regarding EV locations being in close proximity for voters in the Chattahoochee Hills and Palmetto areas

Mr. Barron responded by indicating that **DRE** will review the area closer to locate potential outreach location(s)

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the Early Voting (EV) Locations for the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) Election. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wingate and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Secretary of State's Office (SOS) offers a program that provides an overview of Elections and Registration policy and procedures for personnel and elected officials. All persons are required to score 80% or better to successfully complete the course.

Recipients:

**Rosalind Davis
Keisha Dixon
Amvar Frasier
Tyrell Golden
Shamen Little
Rhonda Parker**

Mr. Jones referenced the Voter Registration personnel who completed certifications and commended the newest team members for doing a great job and providing valuable service

The Board congratulated the Voter Registration Staff

#7- APPROVAL OF CITY OF ATLANTA'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA)

Mr. Barron provided an overview of the contract listed for approval to conduct the City of Atlanta Special Election on March 24, 2020

Mr. Wingate asked does this contract cover all 2020 elections

Mr. Barron answered no, only the **PPP** Election, there will be a contract for every election conducted

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Atlanta. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#8- UPDATE ON ELECTION PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY (PPP)

Mr. Barron updated the **BRE** about the Mock Election on February 18, 2020 at several locations around the county to introduce the public to the new voting equipment. The mock election will be from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Locations:

Adams Park Library
Alpharetta Branch Library
Chastain Park Gym
College Park Library
CT Martin Natatorium and Rec. Ctr.
East Point Library
East Roswell Branch Library

Government Center
North Fulton Service Center
Roswell Library
Sandy Springs Library
South Fulton Service Center
Wolf Creek Library

Mr. Barron provided the **BRE** with a recap of the preparation for the **PPP** Election:

- L&A Testing scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2020 has been postponed until Monday, February 17, 2020
- Receiving equipment/supplies are ongoing from **SOS**
- Poll Worker Training & EV Training Ongoing
- Additional supplies being ordered to adequately outfit **DRE's** inventory

Dr. Ruth expressed concerns regarding the percentage of Poll workers that have been trained thus far

Mr. Barron mentioned scheduling is on track to provide adequate training and additional training for staff, if needed

Dr. Ruth inquired about the advertising of the Mock Election

Mr. Barron explained that External Affairs disseminated information regarding the Mock Election on all available outlets

Ms. Corbitt reiterated the media outlets that have published the Mock Election information, and that information was also posted on all Fulton County's Social Media websites. **Ms. Corbitt** will share the information that External Affairs has distributed throughout the county to the **BRE** following this meeting

Dr. Ruth inquired about an assessments of the mock election

Mr. Barron responded no; this is to familiarize the voters with the new system and to allow **DRE** to practice procedural measures

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about the L&A Testing notice and postponement

Mr. Evans provided clarity with regards to notice and postponements. Notice of postponement was provided in the legal organ six days prior, posted on the website and visible at the Government Center and the EPC.

Mr. Wingate inquired about the **EV** training staff and the number assigned to early voting

Mr. Barron informed the Board that training is currently ongoing

Mr. Wingate inquired on the amount of **EV** staff allotted for the upcoming election

Mr. Evans informed the **BRE** that approximately 170 for the permanent locations with an additional 50 persons for the Outreach locations

Mr. Johnson expressed concerns with poll worker training and inconsistencies at the polls during previous elections. **Mr. Johnson** implored the **DRE** to do their due diligence in every aspect to ensure a positive outcome during upcoming election, citing training as the key component to our success

Mr. Barron encouraged the **BRE** to attend the Poll worker training

Mr. Barron mentioned the delay in receiving materials from **SOS**

Mr. Barron discussed the amount of support that **DRE** intends to provide to all locations during EV and on Election Day. Also, **Mr. Barron** mentioned that no assessment has been completed by the **SOS** hired contractors to check polling place electrical capabilities

Mr. Johnson asked does **DRE** have a plan for assessing their polling locations

Mr. Barron mentioned a recent meeting with the County Manager and the Executive Team, there are County facilities that have been identified as critical and action is being taken. Also, the electrical power draw for this upcoming election will be minimal due to the size of the ballot and having the Uninterruptible Power Source (**UPS**) will provide the necessary balance to prevent outages

Mr. Barron petitioned the public to become poll workers, seeking Tech Savvy individuals

Ms. Nuriddin revisited L&A Testing notice and postponement, due to the public requesting to be present

Mr. Evans explained that the **DRE** was informed of a substantial amount of equipment being delivered at the initial start of L&A testing. **DRE** decided to postpone L&A testing to concentrate on receiving all other equipment in order to conduct all L&A Testing simultaneously

Postponement Notice was posted on location and the website Sunday, February 9, 2020 and listed in the legal organ on February 11, 2020

Mr. Wingate asked how many Tech teams will be available on Election Day

Mr. Barron mentioned at least 50 teams will be assigned to approximately 4 polling locations

Mr. Wingate inquired about the old equipment

Mr. Barron informed the Board that all old equipment has been removed by the **SOS** contractors and the equipment on litigation hold is being stored in an offsite Fulton County facility

#9- REVIEW AND SIGN AMENDMENTS TO BRE BYLAWS

Chairperson Cooney referenced that the amendments to the bylaws were made and approved on January 9, 2020.

Bylaws will be posted on the website.

#10- VOTER EDUCATION UPDATE

Ms. Corbitt mentioned their efforts to provide support to the department with regards to utilizing several outlets to disseminate the information regarding Registration and Elections. **External Affairs** has been providing assistance with printed material, digital media and community partnerships. The information compiled serves as a tool to keep all officials informed.

Mr. Kelvin Jones, the new Voter Education and Outreach, Lead, was introduced to the **BRE**. **Mr. K. Jones** provided the **BRE** with an update on the number of demonstration requests the **DRE** continues to receive on a daily basis. **Mr. K. Jones** expressed the **Voter Education and Outreach (VEO) Team** has completed over 100 demonstrations throughout Fulton and continues to work diligently to serve all communities

Mr. Johnson noted the excellent work that the **VEO** Team is doing by going into communities to present the new voting equipment. **Mr. Johnson** mentioned all voters may not agree on the system, but he appreciates the department for making a conscious effort to educate voters as much as possible. **Mr. Johnson** also commended External Affairs and Jessica Corbitt on a job well done with regards to the advertising component

Mr. Barron petitioned the public who may live in North Fulton County to allow the **VEO** Team to provide their constituents with voting unit demonstrations.

#11- DEPARTMENTAL AWARD RECOGNITION

Mr. Barron displayed an award and informed the Board that the Department of Registration and Elections received an award for "The Best Place to Work in Fulton County"

Chairperson Cooney was joined by all Board members and the public in congratulating the Department

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to close the regular session and convene into executive session to discuss pending litigation/ annual evaluation. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

After executive session, **Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to resume into regular session. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ruth seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:28 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary