



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 21, 2020

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Special Session on Tuesday, August 21, 2020 10 a.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

FGTV YouTube Channel

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

Presiding: Ms. Mary Carole Cooney, Chairperson

Other Board Members Present:

Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Aaron V. Johnson

Dr. Kathleen Ruth

Mr. Mark Wingate

Staff Attending: Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Dwight Brower, Interim Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Ms. Nadine Williams, Elections Equipment Manager; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Mrs. Cheryl Ringer, County Attorney; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Mr. James Reese, Production Manager; Mr. Rico Dollar, Senior Graphics Designer, Jessica Corbitt, PIO & Director of External Affairs

Legal Counsel: Amanda Clark-Palmer, Don Samuels

Guests Attending: Jake Panfel, Lee Guthrie, Maura Siriana, Rhonda Martin, Aileen Nakamura

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 June 29, 2020, 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 Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Aileen Nakamura, Member of Coalition of Good Governance, implored the **BRE** and the **DRE** to mail every registered voter an Absentee request form. **Ms. Nakamura** expressed frustration with her voting experience in the last two election cycles with regards to the Absentee by Mail process. **Ms. Nakamura** suggested creating a position in polling locations to allow staff to collect cast Absentee ballots.

Rhonda J. Martin, Board member for Coalition of Good Governance, implored the BRE and DRE to provide an efficient portal system and providing voters with more convenient drop boxes throughout the county.

NEW BUSINESS

#3– OVERVIEW OF AUGUST 11, 2020, GENERAL PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

Mr. Barron informed the Board:

- 102,006 Ballots cast
- 33,077 Votes cast during Early Voting
- 36,236 Absentee by Mail (ABM) counted
- 38,278 Votes cast on Election Day, according to Non-partisan race
- 781 Provisional Ballots cast
- 1,004 Total Rejected Ballots
 - 474 No Signature Ballots
 - 530 Untimely Receipt

Mr. Barron mentioned that no other information has changed from the last two meetings held but he can take questions on the information presented.

4- CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS: AUGUST 11, 2020, GENERAL PRIMARY, NONPARTISAN ELECTION AND SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Chairperson Cooney asked Mr. Barron was it his certification and testimony that the election results presented are a true and accurate count of all the votes cast in the General Primary Runoff Election held on August 11, 2020.

- Democratic Primary Runoff Election, August 11, 2020
- Nonpartisan Primary Runoff Election, August 11, 2020

Mr. Barron answered yes

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to certify the election results. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a vote of 4-0-1, Ms. Nuriddin abstained.

#5- APPROVAL OF EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 29TH, SPECIAL ELECTION

Chairperson Cooney announced this Special Election is called to fill the unexpired term of the 5th Congressional District.

Mr. Barron discussed the locations to approve:

- Buckhead Library
- C.T. Martin Natatorium and Recreation Center
- College Park Library
- Metropolitan Library
- Northwest Branch @ Scotts Crossing Library
- Ponce De Leon Library

Mr. Johnson inquired about adequate coverage throughout 5th Congressional

Mr. Barron asked Ms. Benjamin about locations in 5th Congressional

Chairperson Cooney inquired about voter turnout

Mr. Barron asked **Mr. Jones** how many ballots he **has** mailed, to provide the **BRE** with an estimate turnout

Dr. Ruth asked about the reason for not utilizing Chastain Recreation Park

Mr. Barron answered that the Fulton County **IT** Department does not recommend using this location due to security concerns

Mr. Johnson inquired about other locations to utilize for this Special Election, most notably the Evelyn Lowery at Cascade Library

Mr. Barron directed **Ms. Benjamin** to review the availability of the Cascade Library

Ms. Nuriddin asked **Mr. Barron** about his rationale for the six **EV** locations for **this** Special Election

Mr. Barron stated voter turnout and limited funds were determining factors for the EV location

Chairperson Cooney inquired about using the colleges as outreach

Mr. Barron stated that changes can be made

Mr. Wingate inquired about the number of registered voters assigned to the 5th Congressional District

Mr. Jones informed the board **that** the number of registered voters in 5th Congressional District is 386,733

Mr. Wingate inquired about the political party affiliation of the candidates

DRE informed the Board, the seven candidates' party affiliation for the upcoming race of the 5th Congressional District:

- 5 Democratic
- 1 Independent
- 1 Libertarian

Ms. Nuriddin asked about the turnout between CT Martin and State Farm

Ms. Benjamin mentioned CT Martin exceeded State Farm

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the six Early Voting locations for the September 29th Election. The motion was made by Ms. Nuriddin, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#6- APPROVAL OF POLLING PLACE CHANGES: 51/2020 THROUGH 65/2020

Ms. Williams explained the precinct proposals. All polling locations are American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and all impacted voters will be notified 30 days prior to the next scheduled election.

Proposal #	Precinct(s)	Facility Name	Reason	Proposed Change	# Voters Assigned to New Location	Mile(s) to New Location
51/20	02L1	Piedmont Park Magnolia Hall 1320 Monroe Drive	COVID-19 displacement return	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer 731 Peachtree Street	6403	1.6
52/20	12S	Louise Watley Library at Southeast Atlanta 1463 Pryor Road	Decrease number of voters assigned to facility	Arthur Langford Jr. Recreation Center 1614 Arthur Langford Jr. Place	1916	0.2
53/20	04F	Antioch Baptist Church Family Center 540 Cameron M. Alexander Blvd	COVID-19 displacement return	Center for Civil & Human Rights 100 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd	3923	1.7
54/20	09M	Northwest Library at Scotts Crossing 2489 Perry Boulevard NW	Decrease number of voters merged to precinct location due to COVID-19 displacement - Fire Station #28	Springfield Missionary Baptist 1730 Hollywood Road NW	2386	0.2
55/20	09A	Northwest Library at Scotts Crossing 2489 Perry Boulevard NW	Decrease number of voters merged to precinct location due to COVID-19 displacement - Marietta Road High Rise	Bolton Academy Elementary 2286 Adams Drive NW	3593	1.9
56/20	11R	Therrell D.M. High School 3099 Panther Trail	COVID-19 displacement return	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church 2755 Campbellton Road	2202	1
57/20	EP03B	St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church 2670 Hogan Road	Decrease number of voters assigned to original precinct	Asa Hillard Elementary 3353 Mt. Olive Road	1499	1.3
58/20	FC01 SC01A/B/C	Wolf Creek Library 3100 Enon Road	Decrease number of voters assigned to location	West Lake High School 2400 Union Road	4401	2
59/20	12 E 1	Cleveland Avenue Elementary 2672 Old Hapeville Road	Renovations completed	Cleveland Avenue Library 47 Cleveland Avenue	1744	0.3
60/20	12L	Adams Park Library 2231 Campbellton Road	COVID-19 displacement return	The Love Center 1690 Campbellton Road	719	1

61/20	07C	St. James United Methodist Church 4400 Peachtree Dunwoody Road	Decrease number of voters assigned to precinct location	Sarah Smith Intermediate School 4141 Wieuca Road	4202	1.6
62/20	08P 09G 09H	The Fairmont 1429 Fairmont Avenue	Decrease number of voters assigned to precinct location	Fowling Warehouse 1356 English Street	2898	0.3
63/20	04V	Paul L. Dunbar School 500 Whitehall Terrace	COVID-19 displacement return	Dunbar Neighborhood Center 477 Windsor Street	3411	0.4
64/20	EP01B	East Point First Mallalieu UM Church 2651 Church Street	Decrease number of voters assigned to location	Bowden Senior Center 2885 Church Street	2820	0.5
65/20	SC18 A/B/C	Welcome All Park Recreation Center 4255 Will Lee Road	Decrease number of voters assigned to precinct location	Friendship Community Church 4141 Old Fairburn Road	3282	1.9
66/20	12J	Cleveland Avenue Elementary 2672 Old Hapeville Road	Decrease number of voters assigned to precinct location	Rosel Fann Recreation Center 365 Cleveland Avenue	2862	1.0
67/20	12F	Dobbs Elementary School 2025 Jonesboro Road	COVID-19 displacement return	John Birdine Neighborhood Facility 215 Lakewood Way	1156	2
68/20	08L	Cathedral of Saint Phillip 2744 Peachtree Road	Decrease number of voters assigned to precinct location	E. Rivers Elementary 8 Peachtree Battle Ave	4258	0.9
69/20	08G	Cathedral of Saint Phillip 2744 Peachtree Road	Decrease number of voters assigned to precinct location	Atlanta History Center 130 West Paces Ferry Road	2927	1
September 29th Emergency Move						

62/20	08P 09G 09H	The Fairmont 1429 Fairmont Avenue	event company is closing ; facility to be church operated - polling site approval status by church is pending approval	Fowling Warehouse 1356 English Street	2898	0.3
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Dr. Ruth asked how soon will voters be notified of these polling location changes

Mr. Barron responded **that** at the conclusion of the meeting **voters in 62/2020** will be mailed a Head of Household **letter (HOH)** immediately due to the emergency move; all others will be mailed a **HOH** on September 29th Election

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the Polling Place changes for the upcoming General Election and one emergency Change for September 29th Special Election. The motion was made Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Ms. Benjamin updated the Board that Evelyn Lowery at Cascade Library is located in Congressional District 5 and is available to be an Early Voting Location for the Special Election for the 5th Congressional District on September 29th

A motion was made to approve an additional Early Voting locations for the September 29th Election, Evelyn Lowery Library at Cascade added. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to close the regular session and convene into executive session to discuss pending litigation. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wingate 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. Wingate, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

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 11:37 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary