



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING – June 9, 2020

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Special Session on Wednesday, June 9, 2020 at 6:30PM.

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:

Mr. Mark Wingate, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Aaron V. Johnson

Dr. Kathleen Ruth

Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin

Staff Attending: Ms. Cheryl Ringer, County Attorney; David Lowman, County Attorney; Mr. Rico Dollar, Senior Graphics Designer & Moderator; Mr. James Reese, Production Manager; Regina Waller, Senior Public Affairs Officer

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

Chairperson Cooney announced that this teleconferenced meeting is authorized pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-14-1(g) because of the State of Emergency declared by Governor Kemp which resulted in state and local Government closures due to COVID-19, and because means have been afforded for the public to have simultaneous access to this teleconference.

Chairperson Cooney announced that Fulton County Attorneys will brief the BRE on a hearing that was held in Fulton County Superior Court today and that the DRE's management cannot attend the meeting today.

Attorney David Lowman informed the BRE that legal counsel petitioned the court to extend all polling locations and hours of operations due to delayed opening of some polls, equipment malfunctioning, and all other concerns voiced countywide. The Honorable Eric Dunaway, Presiding Judge, heard the case and rendered a decision to extend voting countywide in Fulton County. All polling precinct will remain open until 9pm. All voters voting after 7pm will vote provisionally due to the federal candidates on the ballot.

Due to a provision of Georgia Law, **O.C.G.A. §21-2-418(d):**

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, in primaries and elections in which there is a federal candidate on the ballot, in the event that the time for closing the polls at a polling place or places is extended by court order, all electors who vote during such extended time period shall vote by provisional ballot only. Such ballots shall be separated and held apart from other provisional ballots cast by electors during normal poll hours. Primaries and elections in which there are no federal candidates on the ballot shall not be subject to the provisions of this subsection.

Chairperson Cooney informed the **BRE** that the **DRE's** management is contacting all poll managers and assistant managers to explain the process pursuant to Georgia law.

Mr. Wingate inquired about the **DRE's** preparedness and supplies.

Ms. Ringer informed the **BRE** that **Mr. Barron** did contact the **SOS** regarding supplies

Mr. Johnson requested clarity on the subsection (d) of the statute with regards to the manner in which voters vote

Ms. Ringer reiterated the subsection and suggested the **BRE** get clarity from **SOS** or **DRE**. **Ms. Ringer** also mentioned that all voters after 7pm will vote on the BMDs and then place their ballots in a provisional envelope to be counted separately.

#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 4-0*.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Lauren Reef expressed frustration with voting experience, Absentee by Mail process and voting in person.

Martha Revelo expressed frustration with voting experience, Absentee by Mail process and equipment malfunctioning

Rhonda Martin expressed frustration with voting experience, Absentee by Mail process. **Ms. Martin** reminded the **BRE** that the Coalition for Good Governance has been warning the **BRE** of the issues concerning the new Voting System by Dominion Voting for months.

Representative Roger Bruce, South Fulton District 61, expressed concerns of long lines and delayed opening to polling locations. **Representative Bruce** encouraged the **BRE** to support legislation that would allow countywide vote centers instead of assigned precincts.

Thomas Barnes informed the **BRE** of his successful voting experience; however, he shared the frustration of several family and friends who experienced long lines and polls opening late. **Mr. Barnes** expressed wanting to be a part of the solution.

David Benedict expressed frustration with voting experience, Absentee by Mail process, long lines and equipment malfunctioning

Hemanth Digumarthi expressed frustration with voting experience, Absentee by Mail process. **Mr. Digumarthi** mentioned that he applied to be a poll worker but was not contacted.

Brandon Sheu expressed frustration with voting experience, Absentee by Mail process.

*Following Ms. Nuriddin departure

Aileen Nakamura expressed frustration with voting experience, Absentee by Mail process. **Ms. Nakamura** shares **Ms. Martin** sentiment regarding the Coalition for Good Governance and their outcries to the **BRE** and **DRE**.

Ms. Ringer informed the **BRE** of that the interpretation of statute was the same as the **DRE** and **SOS's** personnel described.

Mr. Johnson posed several questions regarding the provisional process.

Mr. Wingate provided an interpretation of Georgia Election Code.

Mr. Johnson listed a number of precincts that he was getting reports on closing the polls.

Secretary Bodison contacted the Election Chief and the listed polls were contacted immediately.

Dr. Ruth suggested that any further discussions of Election process and procedures should be directed and discussed with staff.

#3- DISCUSSION OF JUNE 9, 2020, PPP AND GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Chairperson Cooney requested Board members to defer item #3; Collectively, the Board agreed to defer until the Regular Meeting on June 11, 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 7:08 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary