



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – MAY 9, 2019

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, May 9, 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. Aaron V. Johnson, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Mark Wingate
Ms. Vernetta K. Nuriddin
Mr. David J. Burge

Staff Attending: Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Blake Evans, Elections Chief; Mr. Johnny Harris, Elections Officer; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Ms. Breana Jenkins, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Cheryl Ringer, Senior Attorney; Mr. David Lowman, Staff Attorney; Ms. Jessica Corbitt, PIO & Director of External Affairs; Ms. April Majors, Public Affairs Manager

Guests Attending: David Ross (Georgia Democratic Party), Penn Payne (Georgia Democratic Party), Corey Adams (City of South Fulton), Evelyn Scott (City of Atlanta), Dr. Kathleen Ruth, Vanessa Waldon (City of Atlanta), Trey Kelly (Fulton County Republican Party), Tori Ladipo (New Georgia Project), Joe Carn

#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 3-0*.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Patty Sharaf- inquired about Mr. Barron's **OSCE/ODIHR (the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights)** travels and associates he may have in other countries.

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Meeting – April 11, 2019**
- **Special Meeting- April 16, 2019; No Quorum, Discussion Minutes**
- **Special Meeting- April 22, 2019**

* Prior to the arrival of Ms. Nuriddin and Mr. Burge

** Prior to the arrival of Mr. Burge

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular and Special Meeting in the month of April on April 11th and April 22nd was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

#4– MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR April 2019

- Department is fully staffed, all permanent positions filled
- Supplemental staff last day was April 30th
- The following Special Runoff Election in April 2019 was conducted:
 - City of Atlanta; **City Council Member, District 3**
- Revisions to 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
- Upcoming election will have approximately 58 locations
- There will be an overlap during 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 14, 2019
 - The Special Election Runoff is October 15, 2019
- In the process of identifying the availability of libraries due to massive renovations throughout the County
- Total Applications received in 2019: 91,165
- 22,716 voter registration applications received in April
- As of April 1st, **792,562** (726,912 active and 65,650 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- Voter Registration Division changed format to add more details for clarity in statistical report.

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about qualifying dates running concurrently for **Atlanta Board Of Education, District 2** and **Fulton County Commission, District 6**

Mr. Barron informed the Board of Registration and Elections (**BRE**) that the dates are different. The qualifying dates for Fulton County Board of Commission District 6 are June 24th- 28th and City of Atlanta's qualifying dates are July 8th -10th.

Fulton County Commission, District 6

Fulton County Registration and Elections Department, 130 Peachtree Street, SW, Suite 2186

Qualifying Dates and Times:

- **June 24th- 27th; 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- **June 28th; 9:00 a.m. - 12noon**

City of Atlanta, Board of Education District 2

City of Atlanta, Office of Municipal Clerk, 55 Trinity Ave, S.W., Suite 2700

Qualifying Dates:

- **July 8th -10th**

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about the number of municipalities that intend to have Department of Registration and Elections (**DRE**) conduct their elections in November

Mr. Barron stated ten municipalities

* Prior to the arrival of Ms. Nuriddin and Mr. Burge

** Prior to the arrival of Mr. Burge

Ms. Nuriddin asked of the ten how many have responded to the inquiries from the **DRE**

Mr. Barron stated eight municipalities

Mr. Wingate asked if the **DRE** maintained the records listed as other on the updated format regarding Voter Registration statistics that are listed on page 5 of the April Monthly Operations Report

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that the information provided for the statistics available can be re-generated, if needed

Ms. Nuriddin requested one or two examples of some changes that are included in the Total Number of Changes to Fulton labeled as "Other Changes"

Mr. Jones stated the way voters are identifying their race, i.e. multi-race

Chairperson Cooney acknowledged **Mr. Burge's** attendance in the meeting

Mr. Barron acknowledged staff for their efforts on the ShoeBox Project

Ms. Nuriddin asked if the department registered any voters during this project

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** of the event being an in-house effort to prepare and pack the boxes, the County personnel then delivers these items to United Way

#5-LOCH LOMOND, PROPOSAL 1/19A- LEGAL COUNSEL

JEWEL JOHNSON et al. v. CITY OF ATLANTA

The Court of Appeal's decision was made October 24, 2018. This ruling did not become final until the Remittitur was sent back to the Lower Court and the Lower Court entered the order on the Remittitur

- Remittitur received in December 10, 2018
- A judgment on the Remittitur became final on April 5, 2019

Ms. Ringer advised the **DRE** to halt all actions with regards to Loch Lomond neighborhood being in the City of Atlanta. **Ms. Ringer** advised **DRE** to re-advertise proposal 1/19A and bring it forth in a future meeting with the changes mandated by the Court of Appeals decision.

Chairperson Cooney asked for the recommendation from Legal Counsel regarding this matter

Mr. Johnson inquired about the proposal 1/19A, which moves Loch Lomond residents out of the City of Atlanta into the City of South Fulton. **Mr. Johnson** requested clarity on any matters the **BRE** needs to resolve as it pertains to 1/19A

Ms. Ringer stated that this proposal does not become final until the **BOC** approves and the **BRE** can bring this matter up in their upcoming meetings. **Ms. Ringer** explained that the purpose of this agenda item was to provide the **BRE** with the updated information for taking action at a future BRE meeting.

#6- UPDATES ON HB 316 & HB 656- RALPH JONES

* Prior to the arrival of Ms. Nuriddin and Mr. Burge

** Prior to the arrival of Mr. Burge

Mr. Jones provided the **BRE** with an overview of **House Bill 316**. This updated legislation passed in April 2019. **House Bill 316** addressed the upcoming new voting system to Georgia and policies and procedures that govern the State of Georgia.

- **Section 5-** Voter can vote Absentee by mail or in person (Early Voting), as long as the voter turns 18 years of age on or before Election day
- **Section 7-** Authorization to Join ERIC (Election Registration Information Center) currently used by 25 States and Washington DC. Updating registration across state lines (social security and DDS)
- **Section 9-** Felon Process, will receive 30 days prior notice and new felon letter
- **Section 11-** New contact criteria is 5 years, no longer 3 years
- **Section 13-** New precinct changes must be provided 30 days prior notice and published in a legal organ
- **Section 27-** Voters being removed from the Voter's list, now 5 years instead of 3 years
- **Section 27-** Absentee ballot can be mailed to the jail, if requested by non-convicted persons
- **Section 28-** Early Voting expands allowable voting locations; no longer restricted to governmental locations
- **Section 27~32-** No Absentee ballot can be rejected; if signature is missing or the ballot has mismatched signature, ballot becomes a provisional ballot
- **Section 30-** UOCAVA EBD- (Electronic Ballot Delivery) expands elections eligible to State, County, and Municipal (if deemed feasible by SOS)
- **Section 31-** Absentee Ballot can be returned by the voter, family member, voter's caregiver
- **Section 34-** Election Day Voting Assistance- any persons of elector's choice with some exceptions
- **Section 41-** Margin for Recounts are .5%, no longer 1%
- **Section 42-** Audits (new code section OCGA 21-2-498)

HB 656

- Returning authority to select a Chairperson for the Board of Registration and Elections back to Fulton County Board of Commissioners (Appointing Authorities)

Mr. Johnson inquired about the timing for absentee ballot being sent to the jail due to the mailing systems of jails

Mr. Jones stated some of the mailing processes in the jail would need to change to adhere to this law

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about section 27-32 regarding **DRE's** processes and procedures for notifying voters regarding their absentee ballots and the strict timeline

Mr. Jones assured the **BRE** that every effort to contact the voter will be exhausted

Mr. Wingate inquired on Section-34 with regards to campaign staff of candidates providing assistance to voters

Ms. Ringer reviewed the legislation and it mentions all other possible persons except a candidate's staff

NEW BUSINESS

* Prior to the arrival of Ms. Nuriddin and Mr. Burge

** Prior to the arrival of Mr. Burge

#7- CALL FOR ELECTION – UNEXPIRED TERM, COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 6 – RICHARD BARRON

Notice is hereby given to voters residing within the boundaries of the Sixth Commission District in Fulton County, Georgia that a Special Election will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 to fill the unexpired term for the **Fulton County Board of Commissioners, District 6**.

The places for holding said special election shall be several voting precincts located within the Sixth Commission District boundaries in Fulton County, Georgia, and the polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the day fixed for said election.

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, then the two candidates receiving the most votes will advance to runoff election, which would be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the call for the election of Fulton County Commission, District 6. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#8- VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (VEO) PLAN – JESSICA CORBITT, APRIL MAJORS

Ms. Corbitt informed the **BRE** of the funeral services for the **Late Commissioner Emma I. Darnell**. **Ms. Corbitt** mentioned that Ms. Darnell was a strong advocate for voting and the election process. **Ms. Corbitt** outlined some of the efforts of **DRE** and the County to ensure that citizens are equipped with good information regarding the new voting system. The framework for voter education and outreach is in its early stages; however, **DRE** is planning for an aggressive outreach plan:

- Community Events
- Elected Officials, Student Summits, & Service organization
- Brochures General- Created **VEO** Team
- Newsletter Article- Writing phase for distribution Mid- July
- Public Outreach- Contingent on **VEO** Calendar
- Media Outreach- Press Release promoting **VEO** program to be issued early- August
- Paid Advertising- As in Neighbor News & Atlanta Voice September- October; Facebook ads late-September-early October

Mr. Wingate inquired about the **DRE** partnering with **SOS** on the **VEO** measures

Ms. Corbitt stated the outline is considered more of a framework; **DRE** is currently planning in the dark due to limited information from Secretary of State's office (**SOS**)

#9- UPDATE ON NEW VOTING SYSTEM – RICHARD BARRON

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that the deadline for the **RFP** (request for proposal) has passed. **Mr. Barron** mentioned that there may be only two vendors that met deadlines and requirements. **Mr. Barron** communicated that **SOS** appears to be on track to adhering to their set timeline

#10- MID-YEAR BUDGET REQUEST

* Prior to the arrival of Ms. Nuriddin and Mr. Burge

** Prior to the arrival of Mr. Burge

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Mr. Barron discussed the preliminary meetings with the County Manager's office and other Executives to formulate a request as it pertains to the new voting equipment. This request will outline the needs of the department for the remainder of the year and beyond. If approved, a short list of items to be requested below:

- VEO Coordinator/ Manager
- Long-term Supplemental staff
- Central Scanner
- Precinct Scanners
- Fork Lift
- IVR System
- Cyclone Fence for paper ballots
- Poll Books

Mr. Barron informed the BRE that he will have more information at the next meeting, June 13th

Ms. Nuriddin asked the estimated cost for the request

Mr. Barron responded to the cost inquiry by saying, he did not have all the figures needed, due to not knowing which vendor the State of Georgia will decide to use. **Mr. Barron** explained that until **DRE** knows the vendor and whether counties will have a reduced rate for purchasing items, it is difficult to provide an estimation at this time.

Ms. Nuriddin asked would the **BRE** need to approve the request before it goes before the **BOC**

Mr. Barron responded no, the **BRE** could request cooperation from **BOC** members, but the **BRE** does not need to approve the request on a mid-year budget; however, the BRE will be fully informed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene into Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairperson Cooney made a motion to adjourn.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:41 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary

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