



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Special Session on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6:30PM in the Elections Preparation Center, 1365 English Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

Presiding: Ms. Mary Carole Cooney, Chairperson

Other Board Members Present: Mr. Aaron Johnson
Dr. Kathleen Ruth
Ms. Vernetta K. Nuriddin

Board Member(s) Absent: Mr. Mark Wingate, Vice Chairperson

Staff Attending: Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Blake Evans, Elections Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Mr. Darryl Carver, Public Affairs Manager

Guests Attending: David Ross (Democratic Party of Georgia), Foris Webb III (City of Atlanta), Reginald McClendon (City of Atlanta)

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

NONE

#3- DISCUSSION OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019, SPECIAL ELECTION

- Fulton County Board of Commissioners, **District 6**
- Atlanta Board of Education, **District 2**

Mr. Barron recapped the Special Election cycle for the listed election.

Barron mentioned;

- A snake disrupted opening the doorway of a poll located at Southwest Arts Center, poll did open on time
- Two Express Polls (**EP**) stolen from the Grove Park Recreation Center
 - Alarm rang after midnight, police responded
 - No concerns found

- Poll manager detected the theft and police were notified, investigation pending
- SOS, Atlanta Police Department and Fulton County Police were notified; reports filed

Chairperson Cooney inquired about the **DRE** having enough equipment for Election Day

Mr. Barron stated yes.

Mr. Barron listed the information the Express Polls (**EP**) contains for the State of Georgia, not just Fulton County

- Name
- Address
- Date Of Birth
- Driver Licenses embedded in file
- **EP** are password protected and passwords are change every election

Mr. Barron expressed that the County has never had a break-in to occur at polling facilities

Mr. Barron informed **BRE** that

- 2,396 voters voted early and
- 95 Absentee By Mail, with 3 rejections.
 - 35 Absentee By Mail for Commission **District 6**
 - 60 Absentee By Mail for ABOE **District 2**
- Today by 5PM, 2342 cast ballots, 2.6% Turnout at this time
- FC Commission, District 6 polls close at 7pm and ABOE, District 2 polls close at 8pm

Mr. Johnson mentioned a call that he received from a voter regarding a head of household letter that contained incorrect information. The letter was sent out by the Voter Registration Division (**VRD**) to notify voters of a recent polling location change that was approved at the **BRE's** June 13th meeting to remove voters from Commission District 5 out Cliftondale Community House to Cliftondale Church

Ms. Nuriddin mentioned a recurring issue with letters that contain incorrect information from the Voter Registration Division, and requested a resolution regarding the issue

Dr. Ruth requested information on how the letters are generated

Mr. Jones explained the intention behind the letters being generated and took responsibility for the error.

Mr. Barron stated that he will convene with management in the **VRD** to create better procedures for proofing letters or approving the file

Ms. Nuriddin implored the **DRE** to ensure they are doing their due diligence, because errors have an effect on the department and Board

#4- CONSIDERATION OF FORMAT CHANGE TO BRE AGENDA

Chairperson Cooney advised the Board to review agenda drafts in their packets. All present members reviewed the drafts and the Board decided on Draft 1. No motion needed and the agenda format will be revised at the upcoming Special Meeting on September 23, 2019.

#5- CONFIRM DATE TO CERTIFY ELECTION RESULTS

Chairperson Cooney inquired about provisional ballots with the PI code. PI code gives the voter until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election to submit an acceptable form of government issued identification.

Chairperson Cooney discussed the available dates and times for the certification meeting to be held. With the exception of Chairperson Cooney, who will be absent, the Board agreed for the meeting to be held Monday, September 23, 2019 at 1:00PM to certify the Special Election of September 17th.

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. Ms. Nuriddin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary