



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 13, 2019

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, June 13, 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; Ms. Nadine E. Williams, Elections Equipment Manager; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Ms. Breana Jenkins, Administrative Specialist; Mr. David Lowman, Staff Attorney; Ms. Jessica Corbitt, PIO & Director of External Affairs; Ms. April Majors, Public Affairs Manager; Jasmine Campbell, External Affairs

Guests Attending: Rashidah Tutashinda (New Georgia Project), Penn Payne (Georgia Democratic Party), Judi BuTin (ACLU), Foris Webb, III (City of Atlanta), Dr. Kathleen Ruth (New BRE Member), Mary Robichaux (Georgia House of Representatives), Vanessa Waldon (City of Atlanta), Trey Kelly (Fulton County Republican Party), Tori Ladipo (New Georgia Project), Liza Conrad (Fair Fight), Denise Fraser (BOC)

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Rashidah Tutashinda opposes agenda item # 6, precinct changes.

Tori Ladipo opposes agenda item # 6, precinct changes.

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

➤ Regular Meeting – May 9, 2019

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 9, 2019 was made by Ms. Nuriddin, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#4– MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR MAY 2019

- Supplemental staff scheduled to return on July 24th
- 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
- Secured two sites, Fairburn and Roswell City Hall, to meet all Municipal Clerks regarding the General Election in November
- 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 15, 2019
 - The Special Election Runoff is October 15, 2019
- Total Applications received in 2019: 115,919
- 24,754 voter registration applications received in May
- As of June 1st, **789,539** (724,591 active and 64,948 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- Hosted Fulton County Citizens University on May 9, 2019
- Mr. Brad Raffensperger, Secretary of State, visited the office on May 28, 2019

Mr. Wingate inquired about the voter registration statistics

Mr. Barron provided clarity with regards to the decreased statistics

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about the increased staff in the Voter Registration (VR) Division and their impact on completing DDS applications

Mr. Barron informed the Board of Registration and Elections (**BRE**) that the added staff has helped; however, he intends to request more staff for that Division. **Mr. Barron** mentioned that the volume of applications received thus far has exceeded what the division can handle unless all staff is doing data entry only on a daily basis

Mr. Wingate asked if the data entry has to be completed within the department

Mr. Barron stated yes

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about that additional staff and the impact that it will have on the Voter Registration Division

Ms. Nuriddin asked about the Voter registration (VR) deadline for September and inquired if data entry will be current by the deadline

Mr. Barron stated August 19, 2019 and yes, data entry will be current due to supplemental staff returning on July 24, 2019

Mr. Johnson inquired about Department of Registration and Elections (**DRE**) conducting a survey of other counties regarding staffing needs

Mr. Barron stated **DRE** is currently surveying counties similar in size around the country and neighboring counties. Based on surveying, the department is understaffed.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the Qualifying of Candidates

Mr. Barron stated that the municipal clerk is responsible for their city's qualifying

Mr. Johnson inquired about the concerns with a particular polling precinct in Fairburn and South Fulton Service Center

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about duties that have been prioritized over completing VR applications

Mr. Jones listed several duties:

- Redistricting and auditing voter file
- Preparing for elections
- Removing voters from the roll
- Mailing confirmation letters
- Processing confirmation letters
- Scanning and indexing
- Processing Mail

Ms. Nuriddin suggested that when adding additional staff, the items listed should be taken into account

#5- APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL 1/19A, LOCH LOMOND

1/19A The Court of Appeals of Georgia reversed the trial court's decision permitting the annexation of the subdivision into the City of Atlanta and approved the annexation of Loch Lomond subdivision into the City of South Fulton.

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve proposal 1/19A, Loch Lomond. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#6- APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS: 14/19, 15/19, 17/19, 18/19, 19/19, 20/19, & 21/19

14/19 Anticipated increase in voter registration and potential voter turn-out; recommended relocating ML06B from **Alpharetta Library** to **Cambridge High**.

15/19 Currently polling location **Roswell United Methodist Church** has scheduling conflict. RW10 joined RW11A **First Baptist Church of Roswell**

17/19 a temporary change due to **Ocee Library** being renovated; therefore, temporarily moved to **Clear Springs Baptist Church** which will become a permanent change.

18/19 Anticipated increase in voter registration and potential voter turn-out; recommended relocating SC05B from **Cliftondale Community House** to **Cliftondale Church**.

19/19 Recurring issues with cell phone communications and delay in service; recommended relocating from **Christian City Sparks Auditorium** to **Christian City Welcome Center**.

20/19 Anticipated increase in voter registration and potential voter turn-out; recommended relocating from **North Annex** to **Woodland Elementary**.

21/19 Anticipated increase in voter registration and potential voter turn-out; recommended relocating from **North Annex** to **North Springs High School**.

Mr. Burge informed the **DRE** of an error on the proposals (the proposals were corrected and the **BRE** received copies before the end of the meeting)

Mr. Johnson requested clarity on proposal **18/19** with the precinct removed from the Clifftondale Community House

Ms. Williams informed the **BRE** that removing SC05B does not disrupt voting in the upcoming Special Election. The relocation of this precinct is in Commission District 5; all remaining precincts are in Commission District 6.

Mr. Johnson inquired about proposal **20/19** and parents advocating for the removal of polling locations in schools due to safety concerns

Ms. Williams informed the **BRE** of the communication between the school officials and **DRE**. The new request is to provide security. **DRE** is currently working with school officials to make Election Day a Teacher Work Day.

Mr. Barron asked **Ms. Williams** how many polling locations will **DRE** have after all proposals are completed and approved

Ms. Williams stated 206 polling locations, twenty-three more locations than last year

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that this effort to increase polling locations is to combat overcrowding, lines, and small polling precincts

Mr. Wingate inquired whether the **DRE** has enough inventory for the increased polling locations due to 694 sequestered voting units

Mr. Barron stated yes

Mr. Wingate inquired about the staffing of the increased locations

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that there is an abundance of applicants in the database for hiring more staff for Election Day

Mr. Burge expressed concerns on some of the polling locations and inquired about the consolidation of polls in previous years

Mr. Barron mentioned that the **DRE** may have consolidated too many locations, which is the reason for some of the polling place changes

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about the advertisement of the polling place changes

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that due to **HB 316** the **DRE** is required to advertise 30 days in advance

Ms. Nuriddin requested to be notified in advance of the **BRE** meetings

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve proposals 14/19, 15/19, 17/19, 18/19, 19/19, 20/19, & 21/19. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wingate and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

#7- Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to Conduct Special Election on September 17, 2019 and Special Runoff Election on October 15, 2019

- Atlanta Public Schools, BOE District 2 (City Council Districts 3 & 4)

Chairperson Cooney asked **Mr. Barron** if the contract was formatted the same as the standard agreement between the County and municipalities

Mr. Barron stated yes, this contract is outlined the same as all other contracts

Mr. Burge requested the shared cost of the Special Election that APS has incurred

Mr. Barron stated the cost for the Election and the anticipated Runoff will be \$404,378.00

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#8- APPROVAL OF EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION AND SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION

- Fairburn Library, Government Center, & South Annex

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** of the proposed locations and dates provided.

- **August 26th- September 6th; 8:30am-5:00pm**
- **Saturday, September 7th; 8:30am-5:00pm**
- **September 9th-September 13th; 8:30am-6:00pm**

Mr. Johnson inquired about the locations chosen for Early Voting

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that the **DRE** anticipates low voter turn-out and did not want to add too many Early Voting locations, and added that Atlanta Public Schools (**APS**)/ **City of Atlanta** requested only one location

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about the locations and **HB 316**

Mr. Barron mentioned the voter turn-out and consulting with the city to find alternative locations for Early Voting locations

Mr. Wingate inquired about the amount of days for Early Voting

Mr. Barron stated **DRE** is required by law to conduct Early Voting for the designated length of time

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the Early Voting Locations for the Special Elections and the Special Runoff Elections. The motion was made by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#9- UPDATE ON NEW VOTING SYSTEM – RICHARD BARRON

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that he has no new information regarding the new voting system, and the deadline is July 1st to select a vendor. **DRE** does not know who the vendor will be. **Mr. Barron** informed the **BRE** that Fulton County will not be in the pilot program for the new voting systems for various reasons. This decision was made after several conversations with the Secretary of State's (**SOS**) office. **DRE** will be one of the first counties to receive the new voting equipment. **Mr. Barron** expressed disappointment with regards to the decision. However, this is to ensure a smooth voting process. **SOS** has not announced the Presidential Primary Preference (**PPP**) date yet and the **DRE** is unsure if the Election will occur in March or May

Mr. Burge asked about the vendors that submitted timely RFPs

Mr. Barron stated he did not know for certain; however, he believes it is Clear Ballot, Dominion, and ES&S

Mr. Burge asked if **SOS** makes the decision on the vendor that will receive the contract

Mr. Barron stated **SOS** has formed a committee that will determine the vendor that is chosen

#10- UPDATE ON MID-YEAR BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Barron discussed the meeting 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
- Training Room/ Call Center

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that he is requesting additional staff for the warehouse (EPC), due to the demands that will be placed on **DRE** with the new voting equipment.

Mr. Burge inquired about prior discussion regarding the County abandoning the Elections Preparation Center (EPC)

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that a new lease was signed

Chairperson Cooney inquired about any assistance the **BRE** may offer to assist **DRE** with their needs

Mr. Barron mentioned that he will inform the **BRE** of all upcoming meetings

Ms. Nuriddin stated that the **DRE** must show how the needs will impact and yield results

Mr. Barron will provide metrics to assist with the request presented.

#11- FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE- BRENDA MCCLOUD

Ms. McCloud informed the **BRE** of the report that the Appointing Authority receives for each department. This report will provide the departments with the expenditures from year to year, to include Operating and Personnel expenditures. 2018 was a major election year; therefore, the expenditures are much higher from that portion of the report. Personnel expenditures are below due to the **DRE** previously having four vacancies in the department.

Mr. Barron mentioned the Executive Meeting **Ms. McCloud** attended and during that meeting it was mentioned that we may be able to view expenditures in real time

Mr. Wingate asked would this be available to the BRE in line item format

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** once more information becomes available, it will be provided to the board

#12- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MR. DAVID J. BURGE FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Appointed to the Board of Registration and Elections October 2013 and served until June 30, 2019.

Chairperson Cooney presented **Mr. Burge** with a plaque on behalf of the **DRE** and **BRE**, and acknowledged his service to the **BRE**.

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 Mr. Johnson 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. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wingate seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary