



## BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 14, 2023

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

**The meeting was recorded and is available for your review on  
FGTV YouTube Channel**

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

**Board Members Present** Mrs. Patrise Perkins-Hooker, Chairperson  
Mr. Aaron Johnson  
Mrs. Teresa Crawford

**Absent Board Members**  
Mr. William Michael Heekin, Vice Chair  
*Vacant Seat 8.2023*

**Staff Attending:** Mrs. Nadine E. Williams, Director; Mr. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director; Mr. John Ross, Election Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Election Chief; Mrs. Kathryn Glenn, Registration Manager; Mrs. Jodi Brittan, Absentee Manager; Ms. Janice Dickenson, Administrative Manager; Mrs. Janell Barganier, Financial Systems Manager; Ms. LaShandra Little, VEO Manager; Mr. Thomas Johnson, Registration Supervisor; Mr. Corey Henson, Elections Equipment Manager; Mr. David Lowman, Supervising County Counsel; Mr. Chad Alexis, Senior County Counsel; Mr. James Reese, Production/ Film Manager; Mr. Mark Baucom, Public Affairs, Senior; Mr. Darryl Peek, Mr. Tyree Spencer, Mr. James Artis

**Guests:** Councilwoman Linda Pritchett (COSF, D7) Andre Washington (Krevolin & Horst), Keosha B. Bell (Councilwoman-Elect of COSF), Helen McLaughlin (ACLU), Adams Sparks (Krevolin & Horst), Earl Ferguson, Corey A. Reeves, Glenda Collins

#### **ACRONYMS:**

**BRE-** Board of Registration and Elections  
**DRE-** Department of Registration and Elections  
**EHOC-** Elections Hub and Operations Center  
**BOC-** Board of Commissioners  
**ABM-** Absentee by Mail  
**L&A-** Logic and Accuracy Testing  
**VEO-** Voter Education and Outreach  
**REIF-** Reporting Elections Systems Issue Form

**BMDs-** Ballot Marking Devices  
**SOS-** Secretary of State's  
**SEB-** State Election Board  
**DDS-** Department of Driver Services  
**CERA-** Certified Elections Registration Administrator  
**GARViS-** Georgia Registered Voter Information System

## #1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** announced that agenda items # 4 and 5 will be removed due to lack of a quorum after 12:00pm today.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford**, seconded by **Mr. Johnson**, and carried by a vote of 3-0.

## #2-COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

**Councilwoman Linda Pritchett** (City of South Fulton, D7) complimented Ms. LaShandra Little (VEO Manager) for her assistance with redistricting concerns during the last election cycle. Councilwoman Pritchett implored the DRE to ensure the voter's database is accurate. She mentioned the need to provide adequate security due to threats and possible intimidation.

## OLD BUSINESS

## #3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting – November 7, 2023
- Special Meeting- November 14, 2023

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to approve the proposed minutes of November 7 and 14, 2023. The motion was made by **Mr. Johnson** and was seconded by **Mrs. Crawford** and carried by a unanimous vote of 3-0.

## #4– MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023

**Director Williams** greeted the Board members and provided a brief overview of current operations:

- No additional information to report since the Certification meeting of December 8<sup>th</sup>
- Runoff was conducted successfully
- Leadership Team attended the GAVREO Conference
  - Training on various topics and best practices
- Preparation for the (Presidential Preference Primary) PPP election has been on-going

**Chair Perkins- Hooker** mentioned attending the GAVREO training with 12 members from the DRE. **Madam Chair** mentioned that there was an enormous amount of time on the GAVREO agenda spent on safety and security matters. **Madam Chair** expressed that she hopes we get back to normality soon.

**Director Williams** announced that there were Poll Worker upcoming recruitment fairs at the Election Hub and Operations Center and the Johns Creek Environmental Center.

## NEW BUSINESS

### #5–CHALLENGE HEARING

- Challenger: [Earl Ferguson](#)
- **1,802** Electors are alleged to have moved to North Carolina

**Mrs. Glenn** provided background on the challenges presented by Mr. Ferguson and the status of those electors identified by the challenger. Mr. Ferguson included the current address and voter registration information for each elector from the state of North Carolina. Mr. Ferguson also submitted a face sheet from North Carolina showing the voter record. The following were her findings:

- **1,407** Inactive electors (list maintenance status)
- **180** Duplicate electors
- **211** Active electors
  - **7** active electors responded (2 provided current proof as Georgia residents and 5 requested removal from our voter rolls)
- **4** cancelled electors

Mr. Ferguson provided background for his challenge:

He submitted a total of 1,802 OCGA 21-2-229 Challenges of Active and Inactive Fulton Electors who have moved to North Carolina and registered to vote there. To develop this list, he indicated that he used the Post Office's National Change of Address list to identify Fulton Electors who have moved to NC and to provide the necessary consistency in identifying these individuals. He then checked the NC voter rolls to find those who have registered there.

Georgia Law requires registrants to be residents of the jurisdiction where they are registered. Section 21-2-217, clearly, in sections (2) indicates that moving to another State and registering to vote there clearly establishes residence at that location.

Section 21-2-228

Examination of Electors' Qualifications, contains the requirement for an elector to be a resident of the jurisdiction where registered, both in the text but also in attached opinions of the Attorney General. Based on these data and references he submitted that the individuals he has challenged are ineligible to be Georgia voters and should be removed from the voter rolls.

**Madam Chair** informed Mr. Ferguson that it was difficult for the BRE and DRE to clearly hear his testimony.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** recapped the information provided by **Mrs. Glenn** and Mr. Ferguson. **Madam Chair** asked the BRE member who had been there for several years, historically how have these challenges been handled?

**Mrs. Crawford** responded that as it relates to the list maintenance, it's the state's database and there is already a mechanism in place to remove inactive voters. She also stated that they have not removed voters from the roll due to assumptions that they have relocated and changed their primary residence until we receive a request from a voter to remove themselves. She stated that if the voter fails to vote in Georgia in enough election cycles they will be removed from the voter roll.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to call the question. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Mr. Johnson** and carried by a unanimous vote of 3-0.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to deny the challenge presented by Mr. Ferguson of the listed electors due to a lack of indications from the electors that they actually changed their primary residence and not just their address. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Mr. Johnson** and carried by a unanimous vote of 3-0.

## CHALLENGE HEARING

- Challenger: [Corey A Reeves](#)
- Challenging Keosha B. Bell

**Mrs. Glenn** provided background on the challenge provided by Mr. Reeves based upon an eviction notice in September 2023. The following are her findings from reviewing the submitted information:

- Ms. Bell was registered at her current address in 8/11/2022
- DDS was updated on 9/6/2022

Mr. Reeves cited §21-2-217 and written information:

["Rules for Determining Residence

- a. In determining the residence of a Person desiring to register to vote or to qualify to run for elective office, the following rules shall be followed so far as they are applicable:

1. The residence of any person shall be held to be in that place in which such person's habitation is fixed, without any present intention of removing therefrom;

According to Mr. Reeves, Keosha Bell did not live in a fixed habitation in the City of South Fulton during the qualifying period for her candidacy.

Evictions History:

Keosha Bell has a history of evictions, indicating a lack of stability in fixed habitation."]

*Packet presented to the BRE.*

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** after reviewing the package of documents explained that there was a problem with the challenge as presented. The BRE is uncertain of what type of challenge you are presenting to the BRE regarding Ms. Bell. She wanted to know if he was challenging her

residency for qualifying as a candidate or her residency to vote? Chair Perkins-Hooker went on to explain the following:

- Municipalities are the Election Superintendent/Qualifying Officer for candidates for municipal offices which means any challenge should be sent to that Municipality. She stated that in this case, it appears as if the challenge was submitted to the City of South Fulton and that Mr. Corey Adams responded by declaring you missed the deadline for filing this objection.
- The alternate challenge states Ms. Bell should be removed from the voter's roll due to her residency

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** explained that the BRE could not remove Ms. Bell from office, we do not have any jurisdiction over that.

**Madam Chair** and the Board continued to discuss the information presented with regards to Ms. Bell's residency.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** swore Ms. Bell in to testify:

Do you swear that all the information that you provide to this board today will be true and correct to the best of your ability?

Ms. Bell responded yes.

Ms. Bell's attorney Andre Washington (Krevolin & Horst) made a statement on his client's behalf.

For full statement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-Joir5WvnM>

Andre Washington from Krevolin & Horst honored to be here, and we will be very brief.

Couple of things: One we want to say thank you for your service, but beyond that, when it comes to timing, this hearing is about what happens here forward. And so, at all times relevant, my client has been a resident at the 2711 High Tide address. She continues to reside there, that is her domicile, as you know from §21-2-217. The intent of residency is where you are intending to stay, your domicile where you lay your head, where you brush your teeth, at all times relevant from the time of registration. The time of voting she has resided there. She pays bills there.....

And so, the evidence that you (Mr. Corey Reeves) presented only confirms what we know and what we're here for is that she resides at that address. He presented evidence that substantiates that. I think it is plainly stated there. Finally, and most notably, we thank the previous incumbent councilmember for his service to the citizens of the City of South Fulton. Unfortunately, this is part of a pattern of sour grapes. There's litigation and you know; this isn't Fulton County's first time dealing with folks who cannot accept the results of an election. And so unfortunately, we find ourselves here, where her personal residency is being challenged as a voter and she is a newly elected Representative for the City of South Fulton. We're looking forward to getting on the other side of this. So that she can endeavor to serve the Citizens of South Fulton and look forward to closing this chapter. We certainly thank the Council Member for his work and his service to the citizens. But the most powerful words in our democracy are "the People have spoken". We're happy to have her fill in any factual gaps that you might need. From the perspective of the law, I think it is clearly an open and closed case.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** asked Ms. Bell to provide her residential address.

**Ms. Bell** responded 2711 High Tide Drive is her residential address.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** asked Ms. Bell do you have a hard copy of your driver's license?

**Ms. Bell** said no and explained that she lost her driver license.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to the deny the challenge presented by Mr. Corey Reeves of Keosha Bell. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Mr. Johnson** and carried by a unanimous vote of 3-0.

## CHALLENGE HEARING

➤ Challenger: [Glenda Collins](#)

Challenge was to the behavior and conduct of Ms. Bell and her fitness to be an elected official

**Mrs. Glenn** provided background on the challenge and recommended that the challenge from Ms. Collins be denied.

**Ms. Collins** explained why she submitted the challenge. Ms. Collins mentioned sending her complaint back to the Municipal Clerk's office.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to the deny the challenge presented by Mrs. Collins of Keosha Bell as outside of the scope of the BRE. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Mr. Johnson** and carried by a unanimous vote of 3-0.

## #6- POLLING PLACE CHANGES:

➤ **City of:** Atlanta, Sandy Springs, South Fulton, Unincorporated Fulton

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to approve the listed changes to polling places in the above cities as listed on the spreadsheet prepared by the staff. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Mr. Johnson** and carried by a unanimous vote of 3-0.

## #7- APPROVAL OF ADVANCE VOTING LOCATIONS FOR THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

➤ 37 Locations and 5 Outreach Locations

There was a small discussion between the Executive Director and the BRE regarding possible changes to the list provided and a drop box change from 8 to 7 due to the number of active voters being less than 800,000 voters.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** expressed her appreciation of the efforts by the DRE to get the type of equity needed to run this election throughout the county but there are facilities that do not wish to host elections.

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to approve the Advance Voting Locations as listed and discussed. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Mr. Johnson** and carried by a unanimous vote of 3-0.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene into Executive Session.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Chair Perkins-Hooker** there being no further business, Chair Perkins-Hooker entertained a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Johnson** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Mrs. Crawford** seconded the motion. There being no further business on the agenda, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:

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**Mariska Bodison**, Board Secretary