



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections

FROM: Richard L. Barron, Director, Registration and Elections
Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief
Ralph Jones, Registration Chief
Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager

RE: Monthly Operations Report – February 2019

DATE: March 7, 2019

ELECTIONS DIVISION

This operations report provides information concerning the major activities and tasks performed during the month of January by the Elections Division. The central focus of the Elections Division efforts for this reporting period has been the planning preparation for the upcoming March 19, 2019 Municipal Special Elections.

Personnel Staffing:

The vacant position has been filled and we have all permanent staff for the Elections Division. All supplemental staff required to support the March Special Election have been working diligently for the preparation of the election.

Staffing Development and Training:

Sharon Benjamin remains enrolled in Fulton County's Certified Public Manager's (CPM) class. Management staff and employees will be participating in a mandatory SAP- SuccessFactor course for performance measures, - new program that the county implemented for completing work performance evaluations.

Election Day Poll and Election Night Worker Support:

Staffing levels have been determined for poll workers and election night workers designated to support the March 19, 2019 special election. Notice of this election and approved staffing levels have been provided to Election Day poll managers and election night check-in supervisors. The vendor (SCYTL) for online training was notified of this election and the need to have the online training application functional by January 18.

Poll Worker/Staff Training:

The hands-on component of poll official training for the March 19, 2019 Special Election commenced on February 25, 2019 and the online training began on January 18, 2019. Training class dates have been determined, training venues reserved and the training schedule has been developed.

Early Voting:

Fulton County is operating one (1) early voting location for eligible citizen voters to cast an in-person absentee ballot in the March Special Election at the Government Center. Early voting poll operations commenced on February 25, 2019 and will conclude on March 15, 2019. The first day went smoothly.

Election Preparation:

Equipment quantities required to support the March 19, 2019 Special Election have been determined and published. Staff has vetted equipment and staffing quantities and provided to the EPC, Regional Coordinators and poll managers.

Sample Ballots:

The composite sample ballot was developed and posted to the SOS FTP site for retrieval on Monday, February 25, 2019. The precinct specific samples were posted to the SOS MVP during the second week of April.

Election Equipment:

A legal hold remains on 694 DRE voting units from the April 18, 2017 and June 20, 2017 6th Congressional Special Election and Runoff Special Election. No resolution is on the horizon.

Polling Facilities/ Polling Place Proposals

We will continue to submit proposals for the next several months for the BRE approval effective for the November 5, 2019 elections, if approved the projected polling locations will increase from 183 to 206 polling locations.

We are also concurrently reaching out to all polling library facilities to identify early on any facilities that will not be available in November 2019 and the calendar year 2020 due to closures, major construction, change of ownership, etc.

IT Coordination Meeting:

Our formal weekly IT coordination meetings continues for discussions and coordination of related support required for the preparation for the upcoming March 19, 2019 Special Election.

Tasks to Be Performed for Future Reporting Periods:

- Coordinate/Prepare for resources to support the 2019 Special and Municipal General Election events
- Coordinate and prepare for new election system
- Provide information and testing of the application in Elections Night Results, poll worker Online Training and the SCYTL ENR applications.
- Continued Review /Update procedures for Election Checklists and Check-in Instructions
- Continue to refine audit procedures for election documents originating from the polls
- Continue to promote and schedule professional development training classes
- Set-up SCYTL ENR Reporting Application
- Set-up, establish election related tasks for 2019 November Municipal General and Special Election in TBD project management document.
- Coordinate/obtain training for staff on creating Excel Pivot Tables and Charts.
- Update Elections Division Historical Data Files

REGISTRATION DIVISION

This Monthly Report provides a summary of the critical registration activities, workload levels and voter statistics for the Registration Division of the Fulton County Registration & Elections Department for February 2019. The primary activities upon which we worked in December were processing voter registration applications, confirmation notices, researching street issues, municipal voter/street audits as well as voter registration applicant processing problems, preparing notices to voter registration applicants, scanning, indexing registration cards, and training.

VOTER REGISTRATION

The total number of voter registration applications we have received in 2019 is **44,483**. We received **21,427** voter applications in February. We are processing those applications. We are on pace to break 2018's record setting year, already.

As of February 1st, 767,968 (700,288 active and 67,680 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County.

The Historic Overview of Registration Applications for the Months of January/February are as follows:

Year	January Voter Registration Applications	February Voter Registration Applications
2011	8,179	7,064
2012	9,263	10,326
2013	6,972	6,082
2014	6,109	6,120
2015	8,850	5,215
2016	6,252	17,327
2017	19,847	18,215
2018	20,796	19,573
2019	23,056	21,427
Total Applications for 2019		44,483

WORKLOAD STATISTICS FOR JANUARY:

Applications needed to be processed:	73,166
DDS Application s	64,577
Online Applications	6,289
Paper Applications	2,300
Total New Registration to Fulton	5,745
New registration	2,460
Transferred into Fulton	3,285
Total Removals of Fulton	4,280
Felons	344
Moved out of State	1
Duplication	27
Error	0
Hearing	0
Not Verified Deletion	0
Requested	10
Transfers out of county:	3,020
Vital Records	878
Mental Incompetent	0
Inactive to Deletion	0

REGISTRATION REPORTS:

FELON LIST

State law requires counties to review felon reports and to conduct hearings for those voters with matching data that raises questions regarding their eligibility to vote in accordance with O.G.C.A 21-2-228. All reports must be processed in accordance with O.C.G.A. 21-2-231.

Number scheduled for January Hearing 41.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR ACTIVITIES

The Registration Division completed the following Voter Education Activities for the Month of February:

Deputy Registrars Trained	Deputy Registrar Classes	Deputy Registrar Drives
0	0	0

We issued 113 TVICs. We sold 1 voter list CD's.

PERSONNEL/STAFFING:

We have eight permanent staff not including management. We have hired four supplemental employees from Happy Faces. We had one Registration Officer resign for a promotional position in Clayton County, and the BOC approved two permanent positions for this year. We have interviews for the Registration

Officer positions scheduled on Friday, March 8, 2019.

TVIC UPGRADE

The Temporary Voter ID Card (TVIC) was upgraded at the Government Center. The North and South Annexes are in line to receive the upgrade.

PROVISIONAL OUTER ENVELOPE CHANGE

We are changing the Provisional Outer Envelope for our department. The change will take place on the back of the envelope only, which is usually blank. In order to assist us with a faster process when performing provisional research, the voter will complete the back of the envelope. We will use the existing envelope that we are issued by the Secretary of State and add the new information on the back of that one.

STATE FILE AUTOMATION

A request has been made to the IT Department to develop automation of the daily file that we pull from the Secretary of State's Office each day.

TASKS TO BE PERFORMED FOR FUTURE REPORTING PERIODS:

- Notifications of Hearing for Felons
- Coordinating Deputy Voter Registration Drives as Requested
- Continue List Maintenance Activities
- Continue Review / Update Voter Registration procedures
- Continue Indexing, Scanning Voter Registration Applications
- Continue to Perform / Conduct performance counseling sessions
- Respond to State Election Investigations
- Continue Precinct Card Mailings and other Correspondences
- Staff Training

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

This report provides specific administration and election tasks performed during the month of February 2019. Standard operations and activities from the Administrative Division include: personnel, payroll, procurement, finance, travel and training coordination and support to the Board of R&E and Registration and Elections Divisions.

Personnel – Vacancy Recruitments

Voter Registration Officer Positions (3), 2 new & 1 vacant due to resignation
Interviews are scheduled the first week in March.

Legislation Update

Attached for your review is the legislation update for week seven, submitted from the Department of External Affairs. Two hot bills are HB 6 and HB 316.

2019 Election Update

The Election Information Sheet for the March Special Elections (Atlanta & Hapeville) is attached to include the sample ballots.

In the following chart is an updated list of scheduled 2019 Municipal General Elections:

November 5, 2019 General Election - **Runoff, December 3, 2019**

Municipalities	Offices	Runoff
Alpharetta	Mayor & City Council Districts 4, 5 & 6	N/A
College Park	Mayor & Council Wards 1 & 3	Runoff
East Point	City Council Wards A, B, C & D	Runoff
Fairburn	City Council At-Large	N/A
Hapeville	Mayor & Alderman at Large	N/A
Johns Creek	City Council Posts 2, 4, & 6	Runoff
Milton	City Council Districts 1, 2, & 3 Post 2	Runoff
Roswell	Court Judge, City Council Posts 1, 2 & 3	Runoff
South Fulton	City Council Districts 1, 3, 5 & 7	Runoff
Union city	Council Member (vote for 2)	N/A

Filing of Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report – December 31, 2018 Period

For this non-election year, all elected officials, as well as, unsuccessful candidates that have a balance on their campaign account, were required to file the December 31, 2018 report with the grace period of January 7, 2019.

The following is a list of public officials that were late filers and were submitted to State Ethics:

Public Official	Office	Grace Deadline	Date Filed
Robb Pitts	BOC – Chair	January 7, 2019	February 12, 2019
Emma I. Darnell	BOC – District 6	January 7, 2019	February 14, 2019

Keith Gammage	Solicitor General	January 7, 2019	February 8, 2019
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RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

BRE policy is to receive comments from the public without engaging in dialogue or offering answers before sufficient review and research can be conducted. The following are the Director's responses to comments offered on February 14 following review and research:

Isabel Hidalgo spoke to the BRE about the undervote in the race for Lieutenant Governor, the disenfranchisement of African American voters and advocated for paper ballots. She also said that the BRE ranks last in Georgia in elections and that Georgia is the most corrupt state in terms of elections.

Response: The staff provided no documentation for her claims that the DRE ranks last in Georgia in elections and the DRE found no evidence to support the claim in any study or newspaper. She provided no evidence on her corruption claims. Judge Adele Grubbs in Cobb County Superior Court dismissed the case regarding whether the State's election system failed to record votes accurately after the plaintiff's rested their case.

Several things contributed to long lines, including high turnout, an unnecessary litigation hold ordered by Judge Amy Totenberg in 2017 on 694 DREs, which prevented the DRE from distributing more for Election Day, a long ballot with referenda and amendments and in some precincts voters were voting out of precinct, which resulted in provisional ballots and longer lines.

The State of Georgia will decide upon which election system to purchase and deploy. Fulton County has no say in the matter.

Tamara Stevens stated that she knew little about how to run an election, but stated Fulton County and the State of Georgia are doing poorly. She also stated that Fulton is doing the worst job. She advocated for Mr. Barron's resignation or termination.

Response: Ms. Stevens provided no evidence to support her claims.

Jobie Crawford spoke about the process to vote at Booker T. Washington High School. She stated that the poll worker told her that he was running low on ballots and that it was unfair for him to give her a provisional ballot. She advocated for the Mr. Barron's resignation or termination.

Response: Poll workers are trained to monitor their supplies and ballots. Poll workers running low on supplies or provisional ballots should contact the DRE on Election Day in order for us to resupply the polling location. No poll worker should ever tell a voter that it is unfair to other voters to provide a provisional ballot to someone who is voting out of precinct. We do train our poll workers to encourage voters to go to their assigned precinct on Election Day before 5 PM because it is required by law for voters to vote in their assigned precinct, and also because only a portion of one's ballot will be counted if a voter votes out of precinct. If a voter votes out of county none of a voter's ballot will be counted. Advocacy groups bused students to Archer Hall and Booker T. Washington regardless of their registration status at these polling locations, confusing students and leading to lines at these locations. We have spoken with legislators regarding the need for early voting locations to be expanded beyond taxpayer funded buildings. This would allow us to place an early voting location on the Morehouse/Spelman/Clark Atlanta campus area.

Katrina Griessman complained about Mr. Barron's vacation leave, his attendance at elections conferences, voter registration backlogs, late reporting of election results, his contacts with vendors and people from other countries when he serves as a US representative to the OSCE as an OSCE short-term elections observer.

Response: Mr. Barron uses his accrued vacation leave. County employees are allowed to use accrued vacation. Time unused rolls over from year to year until maxed and you begin to forfeit accrued time. He attends election conferences at the state and national level. Vendors attend conferences at the state and national level. He worked for vendors earlier in his elections career. He knows people who work for vendors.

After a voter registration deadline passes we are unable to process applications that we receive for approximately 2 1/2 months. We may receive upwards of 50,000-55,000 applications during such a time period. The key to remember is that we always process our applications that are timely to an election before the SOS deadline for uploading the voter file.

Fulton County is the largest county in Georgia. It is the only county that has to employ check-in centers to process the numerous precincts that stretch 75 miles from the north end of the county to the southern end. Many factors influence at what time we process the final vote on election night. We have made adjustments over the years to improve our reporting times.

Mr. Barron has been honored with the opportunity to serve as an international short-term elections observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights several times since 2011. As the recruiter for the the US Department of State wrote recently in response to Ms. Griessman's continued allegations, "any proposal that somehow you are cooperating with Russians by participating as an STO on a US Department of State supported US Delegation to OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions, is not only misinformed, but incorrect." The US is a member of the 57 member nation organization that was created to ensure peace in Europe. We live in an international world rather than a bubble.

Jennifer Schmidt said she knew little about how to run an election, but advocated for paper ballots, indicated that the US District Court case heard in September by Judge Amy Totenberg clearly showed election tampering and advocated for Mr. Barron's termination or resignation.

Response: No proof of election tampering was offered in the federal district court case, only opinions by computer science professors who offered hypothetical scenarios. The State of Georgia will decide which new election system to purchase and deploy. Fulton County has no say in the matter.

Rosalind Zee advocated for perfection in elections and an audit of the department.

Response: The **DRE** strives to avoid mistakes, serve voters with distinction and improve performance each election. By Election Day the **DRE** grows from four locations and 19 permanent staff to more than 210 locations, employing between 2,500 and 3,000 poll workers, supplemental staff, permanent staff and other one day workers. It employs approximately 200-225 early voting workers at up to 37 locations over three weeks. With so many moving parts and more than 5,000 pieces of equipment in play in addition to the number of people serving over 700,000 registered voters, it is an impossible task to achieve perfection. The dedicated and hardworking **DRE** staff manages issues as they arise in the most efficient way possible.

The **SEB** governs the boards of counties. They recently audited our ballot by mail program after the Atlanta mayoral election in fall 2017 as part of an investigation into claims by a candidate.

Aileen Nakamura reiterated her comments from December's meeting regarding incompetent poll workers, lack of poll worker training and her daughter's issues with absentee ballots during the runoff election. Ms. Nakamura advocated for the Mr. Barron's resignation or termination. She is frustrated with the runoff election, the lack of transparency and gross incompetence of poll workers and training. She was upset that her daughter didn't get to vote in the runoff election via absentee by mail.

Response: Ms. Nakamura offered no specific examples of poll worker incompetence or training deficiencies. Mr. Barron challenged all of the audience members to step up and volunteer to be poll workers if they complain about deficiencies in poll worker performance in their precinct. As the DRE stated once before in response to Ms. Nakamura, the recount after the November election, the four day Thanksgiving holiday and National Day of Mourning for President George HW Bush majorly affected the amount of time we had to mail ballots between the November General Election and the December Runoff Election. The mail schedule was compressed as never before. Ballots were mailed on November 21, 2018 and November 26, 2018 for the December 4, 2018 runoff election. The National Day of Mourning closed the postal service for one day during the week of November 26-30. Little time was available for the ballot by mail to travel from Atlanta to California and back.

Elba Gale was frustrated with the Absentee Ballot processes and procedures. Ms. Gale advocated for the Mr. Barron's resignation. She complained that her son, Michael, a Yale graduate who works in The Netherlands should have no problem completing an absentee ballot application. She said he had issues voting in the General election and the Runoff election.

Response: The **DRE** researched Ms. Gale's claims to find that no application from her son was ever received for either election.

Annette Gorelick informed the **BRE** of her frustrations regarding the November 2018 General Special Elections, highlighting mistakes made and of irregularities in this 2018 voting cycle. She spoke of a shortage of DRE units at 1st Presbyterian Church, a shortage of machines at Pittman Park and issues with voting at Archer Hall and Booker T Washington high School. She complained that we should have used all of our machines, as none were sequestered.

Response: We have no complaints about a shortage of machines at First Presbyterian Church. We found no evidence of her claim.

We stated on Election Day, and multiple times since then that an error in calculating the voter registration numbers at Pittman Park led to the error. We responded quickly to the error and delivered more DRE units by 11 am on Election Day.

The DRE has stated in this document and on other occasions that busing of students by advocacy groups on the Morehouse/Spelman/Clark Atlanta campuses led to an overwhelming number of students voting out of precinct, which caused lines and more confusion. In the future we hope to have a legislative solution to early voting locations on private school campuses, as well as a more focused voter education campaign on those campuses.

A litigation hold on 694 voting units was ordered by Judge Amy Totenberg in 2017. We had no access to those machines, more than 1/5 of our inventory.

Shea Roberts advocated for paper ballots and Mr. Barron's resignation or termination. She also said that equipment was left unsecured during early voting at Northside Library. She also claimed we failed to count absentee ballots.

Response: The equipment was never insecure. It is easy to determine if a seal has been broken, as is verified before early voting begins and each morning before the machines are opened during early voting. The public count is verified to be at zero at the beginning of early voting and is matched to the end of the day from the previous day before early voting begins. Seal numbers are checked before early voting and on each day the machines are resealed and verified in the morning before the the poll is reopened. The chain that secures the machines is checked before early voting, as well.

The **DRE** counted every eligible absentee ballot by mail.

The State of Georgia will determine which voting system to purchase and deploy.

Kristopher Young was appalled at Georgia's election security and requested more transparency and advocated for paper ballots. He disagrees with the SAFE Commission recommendations. He said that he is part of a group of individuals that travel the county to take pictures of poll tape. He said that 11 of the 17 precincts had them posted correctly. He claimed that three locations had no tapes posted. Two locations had locked gates, which made it difficult to check on the tapes. One location had tapes that were less than fully visible.

Response: We have no way to verify his claims. Poll workers are trained to post tapes at the end of Election Day. Once the poll workers leave the polling places the building owners or janitors will close up gates and shut down businesses. We are going to have poll workers take pictures of poll tapes after they post them from heretofore. We will upload those to the web site.

Sally Tribble was frustrated with the Exact Match process. She believes it disenfranchised Hispanic and African American voters. Ms. Tribble advocated for the Mr. Barron's resignation or termination. She claimed that Mr. Barron left his previous job under a cloud. She complained about the undervote in the lieutenant governor's race.

Response: The Exact Match process is an SOS matter rather than a Fulton County matter. The expansive early voting offering in Fulton County is one way Fulton stands out amongst Georgia counties as a county that enfranchises as many voters as possible.

Mr. Barron left Williamson County for this opportunity. Mr. Barron received support by the Texas Elections Commission and was operating under no cloud when he left.

As stated before, Superior Court Judge Adele Grubbs dismissed the case claiming the Lt. Governor's election should be redone because of the undervote after hearing the plaintiff's case.

George Balbona advocated for the Mr. Barron's resignation or termination. He claimed ballot faces cannot be printed after an election, and also that the MVP wasn't updating in real time. He said that the DRE made 40,000 registrations disappear in August 2018. He claimed that Mr. Barron's raise and the increase of the BRE stipend were related. He said that the DRE web site is awful.

Response: Ballot faces can be printed post election from GEMS. The MVP was in a static mode from the end of early voting until after Election Day. It updated after Election Day. It stored any information updated by the **DRE** and updated it after the election. The **SOS** is in charge of the operation of MVP. No registrations were purged by Fulton County before the election except for felons. Mr. Balboa offered no evidence of his claim. Mr. Barron has no power to increase the BRE stipend.