

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

10 October 2024 at 5:00 PM

Board members present: Myesha Good, Maurice Hurry, Michele Crochetiere, Kevin Evans and Chad Word

Staff present: Milton Kidd , Tesha Green, Philbert Smith, and Malcolm Unvala

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Hurry made the motion and Mr. Word seconded. The agenda was approved unopposed.

Approval of Minutes from 12 September 2024 Monthly Board Meeting

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Mr. Word made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded and the minutes were approved unopposed.

Citizen Comment

There were no citizen comments.

Felon Hearings

Mr. Unvala explained that there were no felon hearings for this meeting.

Office Operations Report

Mr. Unvala announced that all seven early voting locations and 25 election day polling places have been fully staffed with an additional roster of standby poll workers. Saturday, October 5th was the last day of early voting training and training for Election Day poll workers will begin on October 21st.

Mr. Kidd added that equipment allocation for each location was determined based on previous experiences. Because Douglas County offers seven early voting, he expects manageable lines and wait times.

Mr. Unvala explained that the WebEOC emergency management system and wait time reporting tool is live and ready to be displayed to the public, noting that this was a topic at previous meetings and will allow the elections office to coordinate emergency responses should the need arise.

Mr. Unvala announced that October 7th was the first day for general, non-UOCAVA ballots to be mailed out to voters, noting that over 2,800 ballots have been issued and 21 UOCAVA ballots have been received by the office.

Mr. Kidd noted that the office received valid and timely voter registration applications from the Secretary of State's office on October 9th, explaining that these applications were mailed to the Secretary of State and not the election office. These applications are currently being worked on but added that some of the applications are dated as far back as August 30th.

Mr. Smith announced that Douglas County has completed Logic and Accuracy Testing earlier in the week, adding that the warehouse and distribution team is currently packing equipment and preparing transport for early voting and staging the election day equipment.

Mr. Unvala announced that early processing of absentee by mail ballots will begin on October 21st at 11:00AM, explaining that ballots will be removed from their envelopes and scanned into the central tabulator. Douglas County performs this process on specific days during the early voting period and that once all prepared ballots for that day are processed, it will not continue until the next session. He announced that the scheduled days for this election are October 21, October 26, October 31 and November 5.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Mr. Kidd informed the Board that on October 1st, a meeting was held with Douglasville Police, the Douglas County Sheriff's Department and Douglas County School Resource Officers to coordinate security during the voting period. During the meeting, the Sheriff's Department pledged to have a deputy at each early voting location during the voting hours in addition to all 25 election day polling places.

Mr. Kidd extended his gratitude to the Douglasville Police Department. On September 24th, Corporal Snyder and the Douglasville Police Department hosted a de-escalation training for poll workers, managers and staff.

Director's Concerns

Mr. Kidd advised the Board of actions taken by other counties as well as the Georgia Attorney General regarding the State Election Board and its rule changes, urging the

board to submit a resolution advising the State Election Board on how its rule changes affect local offices and the need for timeliness of any rule changes.

Mrs. Good asked for clarification regarding the proposed hand count rule after the close of polls.

Attorney Wiggins explained that the Georgia Attorney General has only advised that the State Election Board may be overstepping its legal authority to implement such a rule and that other counties are requesting for quiet periods and a declaratory judgement against this rule. She added that this board would be within its own authority to submit a resolution to the State Election Board regarding its own opinion regarding these quiet periods.

Mrs. Crochetiere asked for clarification and whether the hand count was for the number of ballots or to tabulate results.

Mr. Kidd confirmed that the hand count rule required poll workers to verify the number of physical ballots matches the number according to the tabulator, adding that this process already happens as part of the reconciliation process after the election, not at the polling place itself.

Mrs. Good requested a motion to submit an amicus brief to the State Election Board supporting other counties' efforts to request a 90 day quiet period before an election in addition to a declaratory statement opposing the new hand count rule to be drafted by legal counsel and signed on behalf of the board by Mrs. Good. Mr. Hurry made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded. Mrs. Good, Mr. Hurry, Mrs. Crochetiere and Mr. Evans voted in favor of the motion and Mr. Word voted against the motion. The motion passed.

Mrs. Wiggins explained to the board that she has had discussions with other counties' legal counsel and received proposals regarding hiring additional, dedicated election experts for this election cycle.

Mrs. Good asked if there was any budget allotment for this.

Mr. Kidd explained that this is an initial step and would require input and clearance from county administration and added that this was brought to the board by Attorney Wiggins.

Mrs. Wiggins noted that she did not wish to bring outside counsel that has not met with the Board of Elections yet and to be involved in the process. She reiterated that this would be for a very finite period and any such individual would report to her.

Board Member Concerns

There were no board member concerns.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03PM.