

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

*Staff present:* Milton Kidd, Tesha Green, Ann Bolen, Crystal Danley-Bridges, Cameron Fairley, Philbert Smith, and Malcolm Unvala

*Legal counsel present:* Leslie Suson

### Call to Order

Mrs. Good called the meeting to order at 5:01PM.

### Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. Mr. Hurry made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded. The agenda was approved unopposed.

### Citizen Comment

There were no citizen comments.

### Approval of Minutes for 9 February 2023 Monthly Board Meeting

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the minutes for the 9 February monthly board meeting. Mr. Evans made the motion and Mr. Word seconded. The minutes were approved unopposed.

### Felon Hearings

Mrs. Green informed the board that no felon letters were received in time for the meeting and that she will follow up in the next meeting if they are produced by the Secretary of State's office.

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### Office Operations report

Mr. Unvala announced that the office attended the annual GAVREO conference from February 13<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup> in Jekyll Island. This was an opportunity for staff to receive training to improve procedures and operations in conducting elections and voter registration.

Mrs. Danley-Bridges explained that the Board of Elections and Registration will be hosting an event titled “This is your Democracy” at the Woodie Fite Senior Center on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. She explained that this is one of the department’s civic engagement programs, and that the office will be demonstrating voting equipment as well as covering legislative updates that affect the processes of elections and registration. This is also an opportunity to discuss with the community any questions they have, such as how combo numbers are assigned, how congressional districts are broken up, etc. She noted that this will be an opportunity to educate the public before an active election in order to be better prepared in the future.

Mrs. Green explained that the new Voter Registration System (GARViS) is now operational and that counties across the state, including Douglas County are providing feedback to the Secretary of State’s office. She noted that there is a period of evaluation and improvement whenever a new system is implemented.

Mr. Smith announced that he has begun a voting equipment maintenance regimen. He explained that the devices require periodic maintenance and that Douglas County has over 1,000 pieces of equipment to document and address any technical issues.

Mr. Kidd noted that he has given notification to both political parties in Douglas County and that he will attend one of their monthly meetings and give updates on the issues the office is working on as well as any policy and legislative changes. He noted that the Douglas Democrats have already extended an invitation. Mr. Kidd explained that the county website features a form that civic engagement groups or any member of the public can fill out to invite the office to present information and answer questions..

Mr. Unvala announced that the Board of Commissioners has invited the office to participate in their Citizen’s Academy Program. He explained that the Citizen’s Academy is an initiative to help inform the community of the different functions of various departments in Douglas County, and the office will participate on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Mr. Fairley announced that the office would present at Mt. Carmel Elementary School’s career day on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to explain the nature of election officials’ work and the processes that are involved. He explained that the office welcomes these opportunities to engage with the community, even those that cannot yet cast a ballot.

Mrs. Bolen announced that, in preparation for the upcoming election season, the office will be meeting with the Area Managers for Douglas County to discuss the administration of the municipal elections in 2023. This meeting will take place on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Crochtiere asked for clarification regarding the date and time of the “This is your Democracy” event.

Mrs. Danley-Bridges restated that it would be held at the Woodie Fite Senior Center on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.

Mr. Hurry asked for clarification about the Board of Commissioners' Citizen Academy program.

Mr. Unvala explained that it's run by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and requires registration with the Board of the Commissioners. He explained that it offers various county departments the opportunity to explain the nature of their job to the general public.

Mr. Kidd added that various dates are offered for various departments and is an initiative to reach out to the public.

Mrs. Good asked for specifics regarding the maintenance regimen, particularly whether or not it would be handled by office staff or if the department would contract with the company.

Mr. Smith informed the Board that it will be handled in-house.

#### Old Business

Mr. Unvala announced that he, along with Mr. Kidd and Mrs. Green, met with several Douglas County administrative staff, including the Assistant County Administrator to discuss the idea of a buildout of an existing building or purchase of a new building for the Board of Election's relocation. He informed the Board that the county will identify the solution that fits both parties.

#### New Business

Mr. Smith announced that Douglas County has been coordinating with KnowInk to conduct a training open to all 159 Georgia counties. The primary purpose of this training is to discuss the implementation and use of ePulse. He explained that ePulse is the administrative system all counties use for their electronic poll books. Over 15% of Georgia counties will be in attendance.

Mrs. Bolen announced that there will be a training for EasyVote in Paulding County on March 29<sup>th</sup> and some of the staff will be present. She explained that counties use this program during their early and absentee voting period, and Douglas County primarily utilizes this software for its campaign finance management suite.

#### Board Member Concerns

There were no Board Member concerns

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13PM

Next Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, 13 April 2023 at 5:00pm