



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2019

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, November 14, 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. Mark Wingate, Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin

Dr. Kathleen Ruth

Mr. Aaron V. Johnson

Staff Attending: Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Blake Evans, Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Breauna Jenkins, Administrative Coordinator I; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Mr. Darryl Carver, Communication Division Manager

Guests Attending: Aileen Nakumura, Shea Roberts, Sally FitzGerald (League of Women Voters), Patty Nathan, Milia Akkouris, Saira Draper, Dan Greenberg (Board of Equalization)

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Aileen Nakumura implored **BRE** not to gamble on the Dominion Voting System. Ms. Nakumura expressed major concerns for the counties that participated in the Voting System Pilot Program and explained the issues that those counties experienced, that she witnessed

Shea Roberts expressed concerns regarding the QRC Code reading, the secrecy of the vote, and the cost to Fulton County in maintenance fees in 2022. Ms. Roberts and Ms. Nakumura provided examples of a voter's ballot from across the room

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

➤ **Regular Meeting – October 10, 2019**

- **Special Meeting – October 15, 2019**
- **Special Meeting – October 21, 2019**

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular and Special Meetings of October 10th, 15th, and 21st. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#4– MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019:

- Early Voting (**EV**) began October 15, 2019 and Election Day
- 10 **EV** location for the General Municipal and Special Election
- October 15th Special Runoff Election voter turnout
 - **3.6%** Fulton Commission, District 6
 - **1.7%** Atlanta Board of Education, District 2
- 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
- An overlap exists between 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
 - One Early Voting Location and Election Day Poll will be impacted, **Wolf Creek Library**
- Total voter registration applications received in 2019: **307,643**
- **47,097** voter registration applications received in September
- As of September 1st, **838,839** (747,918 active and 90,921 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- **BOC** Approval of 13 Fulltime Permanent and 3 Long term Supplemental Positions
 - All Positions to start by December 11th

Dr. Ruth inquired about the registration statistic for the year

Mr. Barron explained the breakdown of the statistic portion in the Monthly Operations Report

Dr. Ruth requested the **DRE** provide more information regarding the statistic

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about how additional staff will impact the department and the numbers

Mr. Barron mentioned this will allow the Voter Registration fully staff allows the Division to complete all task instead of a portion

Ms. Nuriddin asked about the procedures being more of an issue than staffing.

Mr. Wingate asked with the approval of the new positions, will that impact the amount of supplemental staff the department will request

Mr. Barron responded by saying not next year due to 2020 being a presidential election year

Mr. Wingate requested a year to date total of new registration (1st time registrant)

Chairperson Cooney inquired about the Felon removal numbers from last month to current

Mr. Jones mentioned that last month removal continued a backlog of Felons due to Secretary of State

(SOS) updating their process and procedures. No counties had the ability to process the removal of felons until **SOS** trained and permitted county officials to proceed with processing Felons.

NEW BUSINESS

#5- UPDATE ON DECEMBER 3RD, GENERAL MUNICIPAL & SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Mr. Barron provided the BRE with a recapped for preparation of the upcoming election:

- **COLLEGE PARK, JOHNS CREEK, ROSWELL**
- Five EV Locations:
- November 25th-27th; Monday- Wednesday at 8:30am- 6:00pm
 - **College Park Historical Building**
 - **East Roswell Branch Library**
 - **Park Place at Newtown (Johns Creek)**
 - **Roswell City Hall**
 - **South Fulton Service Center- Superintendent Location**
- Total Polling Locations: **32** Total Precincts: **60**
- Ballot proofing completed
- **L&A Testing** will begin November 18th
- **Absentee by Mail** due in office by 6pm on Wednesday, November 27th
 - Government Center, South Fulton Service Center, or North Fulton Service Center

Chairperson Cooney mentioned the Board Members' attendance at the upcoming conference for Georgia Voter Registration and Elections Official (**GAVREO**) in Savannah, Georgia. This conference may aid the BRE on all matters of for the Board including amending By Laws

Chairperson Cooney requested a review of the By Laws. According to new or amended legislature, **BRE** will amend their Bylaws to ensure **BRE** is adhering to all applicable laws, including new or amended legislation.

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that the Certification of Results for General Municipal Runoff for the three Municipalities must occur on December 6th or 7th due to the Board and Department personnel attending a conference on December 8-11th

The Board agreed on a tentative date and time to certify the Election Results

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. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson 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 Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wingate moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:05 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary