



UNAPPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2020

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

**Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
FGTV YouTube Channel**

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

Presiding: Ms. Mary Carole Cooney, Chairperson

Other Board Members Present:

Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Mark Wingate
Mr. Aaron V. Johnson
Dr. Kathleen Ruth

Staff Attending: Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Blake Evans, Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Election Chief; Ms. Nadine Williams, Elections Equipment Manager; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Mrs. Cheryl Ringer, County Attorney; Mr. David Lowman, County Attorney; Mr. James Reese, Production Manager; Mr. Rico Dollar, Senior Graphics Designer, Jessica Corbitt, PIO & Director of External Affairs; Regina Waller, Senior Public Affairs Officer

County Manager and Executive Team: Mr. Dick Anderson, Ms. Anna Roach, Mr. Kirby Ellis, Ms. April Pye, Mrs. Patrise Perkins-Hooker, Ms. Bridgette Bailey

Office of the County Commission: Chairman Robb L. Pitts, D7, At- Large; Ms. Harriet Thomas, Chief of Staff; Mr. A.J. Jain (Citizen Task Force)

Guests Attending: Penn Payne (Democratic Party of Georgia), David Ross (Democratic Party of Georgia), Aileen Nakamura (Coalition of Good Governance), Bea Brown (Coalition of Good Governance), Cindy Battles, Rhonda Martin (Coalition of Good Governance), Jacey Sebastian, Marilyn Marks (Coalition of Good Governance)

Chairperson Cooney announced that this teleconferenced meeting is authorized pursuant to §50-14-1(g) of the Official Code of Georgia because of the Public Health State of Emergency declared by Governor Kemp on March 14, 2020, and renewed most recently on June 29, 2020, pursuant to which public meeting spaces in state and local Government have been closed due to COVID-19, and because means have been afforded for the public to have simultaneous access to this teleconference.

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Aileen Nakamura, Member of Coalition of Good Governance, offered a solution to long lines and poll book failure, to equip all precincts with Paper Poll Book back-ups. Also, **Ms. Nakamura** urged the **BRE** to implement the use of hand marked paper ballots

Rhonda Martin, Member of Coalition of Good Governance, expressed concerns of the voting process and the length of time needed to vote utilizing the new voting system. Also, **Ms. Martin** urged the **BRE** to implement the use of hand mark paper ballots

Garland Favorito, Founder of Voter GA, expressed concerns of the largely under reported issues with regards to the new voting system. **Mr. Favorito** reported states that deemed this voting system unsecure.

- Non-verifiable ballots, due to the QR code
- Non-verifiable Races were audited
- Non-verifiable Recounts
- Mail- In Ballots Adjudications Errors

Bea Brown, Intern of Coalition of Good Governance, expressed concerns for the lack of privacy while voting

Cindy Battles Inquired about staffing needs for State Farm Arena and listed Early Voting locations

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Special Meeting- June 9, 2020**
- **Regular Meeting- June 9, 2020**
- **Regular Meeting- June 19, 2020**
- **Executive Session Meeting- June 19, 2020**
- **Special Called Meeting- June 29, 2020**

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting, Special Meeting and Executive Session Meeting on June 9th, 11th, 19th, and 29th, 2020. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Ms. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#4– MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR JUNE 2020:

- Preparation for August 11th Runoff working with Internal Working Group
- Early Voting (EV) began July 20th – August 7th: 19 Locations
- All In Person training
- Partnering with State Farm Arena, the largest EV site in the country
 - Multiple voting areas for voters
- State Farm Arena offering 197 Staff (Security, IT, House Keeping, & etc.)
- Lost Polling Places due to the COVID-19 concerns, **45**
- **165** polling locations instead of the original **198** polling locations
 - Revisiting locations that cancelled- offering Post-decontamination services

- 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 (**Relocated to offsite facility**)
- Risk Limiting Audit on June 28, 2020 completed by Vote Works, partnership with Secretary of State's:
Audit Successful
- Total voter registration applications received in 2020: **138,455**
- **28,563** voter registration applications received in June
- As of July 1st, **815,939** (770,179 active and 45,760 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- Total New Applications: **42,265**
- Felon Hearings: **0**
- Felon Letters Mailed-**205**
- *Early Scanning of Absentee Ballots until January 2021*
- *20 Ballot Boxes installed throughout the county*
 - *Daily removal no longer mandatory*
<https://fultoncountyga.gov/inside-fulton-county/fulton-county-departments/registration-and-elections/absentee-ballot-box>
<https://gismaps.fultoncountyga.gov/portalpub/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=96c3363d99f74ed0bb38f53099e6b350>
- *VEO discussing Virtual Demonstrations*

Mr. Johnson inquired about poll worker applications and the lack of confirmation

Mr. Barron explained that the civic organizations have been directed to contact **Ms. Breana Jenkins** and **Ms. Cobi Haggard** to ensure they do not get lost in the poll worker database

Mr. Johnson inquired about scanners that **were** previously discussed

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** the request was made and **that we** offered to purchase additional scanners and the better model.

Mr. Johnson recommended daily pick-up, to ensure the ballots are more secure

Mr. Barron agreed the suggestions of daily pick-up. **Mr. Barron** explained that the State Election Board (**SEB**) made changes and he wanted the Board to be aware. **Mr. Barron** believed this change will provide relief for smaller counties.

Mr. Johnson mentioned privacy concerns and the ability to read the voters ballots at various locations

Mr. Barron mentioned that there is a concern and one of the ways the county can assist with privacy will be to order the Opaque Sneeze guards from Elections Works, the creator of Vote Carriers that was purchased by the **DRE**.

Dr. Ruth inquired about the data sources the **DRE** will **use** compiled from the Internal Working Group

Mr. Barron explained the data sources:

- Precinct information, voter registration for each precinct
- Former Tracking System on Line Lengths & Wait Times
- Previous Voter Turnout
- Absentee by Mail

Mr. Barron mentioned the data sources listed will be used for allocation, resources and projections for voter turnout.

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to waive the rules on public comment to allow two more speakers who made requests at the start of the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE- Resumed

Shea Roberts implored the **BRE** and **DRE** to ensure all voters have ballot secrecy and social distancing.
Marilyn Marks a sent letter to be on record.

NEW BUSINESS

#5- ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

- Term: One Year

Chairperson Cooney expressed gratitude to **Mr. Wingate** for his term of service as Vice Chairperson

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to nominate the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Registration and Elections for the coming year from the Democratic Party. -Mr. Johnson nominated Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#6-PRESENTATION OF TASK FORCE INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELECTION OPERATIONS

Mr. A.J. Jain presented the compiled comprehensive document to highlight areas of concerns and provide solutions. **Mr. Jain** explained the initiatives provided are separate recommendations from the Internal Working Group. **Mr. Jain** explained that the **BRE** and **DRE** should review the document and consider implementation efforts. **Mr. Jain** implored the BRE to take the help.

Recommendations:

Task Force Concentration Areas:

- Absentee Ballots- Vote By Mail (VBM)
- Facilities/ Logistics
- Personnel/ Logistics
- Equipment/ Technology
- Communications

See the hyperlink below of the Citizen's Task Force Recommendations.

<https://fultoncountyga.gov/services/voting-and-elections>

Chairperson Cooney suggested the **BRE** thoroughly review the information presented

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that the Internal Working Group will provide recommendations at a later time.

Mr. Johnson informed the **BRE** of the partnership with **Dr. Ruth** to present the Board with an Action Plan for approval. This action plan would be fully implemented by the **DRE**. **Mr. Johnson** suggested reviewing the recommendations from the Citizen's Task Force and merging with the **BRE's** Action Plan.

County Attorney Perkins-Hooker recommended the adoption of a motion to the Board

Dr. Ruth reviewed the Citizen's Task Force recommendations with regards to returning to former successful polling locations with the exception of Senior Living Facilities and Nursing Homes; those facilities are still impacted due to COVID-19

Mr. Jain expressed that the exception **Dr. Ruth** mentioned was an oversight and should have been removed prior to dissemination.

Mr. Wingate stated that he is confused on why a motion was needed, **because** the Director, **Mr. Barron**, is capable of making decisions that benefit the department and the citizens of the county.

County Attorney Perkins-Hooker stated this is to ensure that time is not lost while the Board is adjourn. This will ensure that **Mr. Barron** has the ability to implement recommendations in real time

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about the original motion with regards to synthesizing data compiled from the both Task Forces and the Board.

Dr. Ruth answered yes because all the data presented may not be reflective of the Task Force recommendations

Chairperson Cooney asked for a motion to authorize Mr. Barron to work on recommendations presented by the Task Force and to provide daily reports to the Board as appropriate. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ruth and carried by a vote of 4-0-1, Mr. Wingate abstained.

#7- DISCUSSION OF AUGUST 11TH ELECTION PREPARATIONS

Mr. Barron expressed gratitude to the **Task Forces**, **Chairman Pitts** and the **County Manager** for all their support and dedication to the Department. **Mr. Barron** expressed that there are some really great recommendations presented. This plan is designed to outline specific functions using data driven techniques for all departmental functions.

- Postcard encouraging Vote By Mail, External Affairs Department will complete
- Tracking Mail to Voters
- Online Portal for online Absentee applications
- Call Center implemented for remaining 2020 Elections
- Increased Early Voting Locations: 19 locations plus 1 Outreach Location in week 3
- State Farm as a Mega Site
 - Central facility for Absentee By Mail Processing Center
- Onsite Technicians for EV
- Recruiting Additional Staff for EV
- Internal Election Day Recruitment
- Lunches on Election Day
- Increase Polling Place Locations to 174
- Implementing a **5000** voter registration cap for all polling precincts, Partnering with D.R.E.A.M and Civic Groups
- Technicians in every Polling locations
- DRE mail out for Absentee Ballots starts: Monday, July 13th Total: 1,761
- Rollover List (65 or older and Disable) mailed by Secretary of State's Office (SOS)
 - SOS will mail out: **24,690** Democratic; **1,298** Nonpartisan; **10,697** Republican
 - Republicans will receive Nonpartisan Ballots due to No Republican races for Runoff Election
- Poll Worker Training will be delayed a few days due to updates by the vendor
- Pending Absentee By Mail Plan

Mr. Wingate requested an updated poll worker training schedule

Mr. Barron directed **Mr. Harris** to provide to the Board the revised schedule

Dr. Ruth requested clarity on the **number** of poll workers assigned for the upcoming election
Mr. Barron answered **that** equipment allocations **including** poll workers assigned will be forwarded at the conclusion of the meeting

Dr. Ruth implored **DRE** to contact volunteers **who** have applied to assist with the elections

Dr. Ruth inquired about the **BMDs** and on-site technicians allocated for the Mega Site

Mr. Barron stated **100 BMDs are allocated** with a portion being used upstairs for ADA/Disability compliance; however, in November there will be **200 BMDs**. **Mr. Barron** mentioned that for this election there will be 3 technicians at the Mega-site and on Election Day there will be 1-2 technicians per locations depending on size.

Dr. Ruth requested a communications plan for upcoming elections

Mr. Barron will discuss with **Ms. Corbitt** to complete the request

Ms. Nuriddin suggested that during training **that staff should** provide correct verbiage and techniques for properly assisting voters. Additionally, due to the ballot secrecy concerns expressed today; **Ms. Nuriddin** suggested portable curtains to ensure ballot secrecy

Ms. Nuriddin asked about screen readers **and** ADA equipment. **Ms. Nuriddin** referenced a complaint received from a voter with regards to waiting for additional equipment to view the ballot

Mr. Barron stated that the ADA devices are attached to the equipment

Ms. Nuriddin asked **Mr. Barron** about Civic Groups and Political Parties that want to offer suggestions or provide insight on how to improve the **DRE's** processes

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** the listed persons can contact **Mr. Evans** until Monday and thereafter, **Mr. Brower** will be available to assist.

Mr. Johnson stated that he will provide **Mr. Barron** a list of poll workers that have **been volunteered**.

Mr. Johnson asked about scanners and the amount per locations

Mr. Barron mentioned that Fulton will have additional scanners and more are being purchased

Mr. Johnson asked for clarity on party options in the Runoff election

Mr. Barron explained the matrix for voting during this Primary Runoff Election; however, there are no **Republican** races in this runoff election and the **Republican** voter will be given a Nonpartisan Ballot.

June 9, 2020 PRIMARY		August 11, 2020 GENERAL PRIMARY & RUNOFF		
ELECTION	VOTED	ELIGIBLE TO VOTE REPUBLICAN	ELIGIBLE TO VOTE DEMOCRAT	ELIGIBLE TO VOTE NONPARTISAN
June 9, 2020 PRIMARY	REPUBLICAN	No Republican ballot for the August runoff election	NO	YES
June 9, 2020 PRIMARY	DEMOCRAT	NO	YES	YES
June 9, 2020 PRIMARY	NONPARTISAN	YES	YES	YES
June 9, 2020 PRIMARY	NO	YES	YES	YES

#8-DISCUSSION OF POLLING PLACE CHANGES FOR AUGUST 11TH

Mr. Evans informed the Board this is informational for the purpose of allowing the **DRE** to advertise and finalize some locations. The **DRE** is attempting to increase the **number** of the polling place locations and to reduce registered voters assigned per location

Ms. Williams explained the precinct proposals. All polling locations are American with Disabilities Act (**ADA**) compliant and all impacted voters will be notified as soon as possible prior to the next scheduled election.

Proposal #s	Precinct(s)	Facility Name	Reason	Proposed Change	Mile(s) to New Location
41.2/20	02A 02L1	Park Tavern 500 10th Street NE	Reduce number of voters assigned to Park Tavern	Piedmont Park Magnolia Hall 1320 Monroe Drive	0.6
42.2/20	02B 02L2 05D	Liberty Baptist Church 395 Chamberlain Street SE	permitted to return to original precinct	Saint Luke's Episcopal Church 435 Peachtree Street NE	1.1
43.2/20	06F	Butler Street Baptist Church 315 Ralph McGill Blvd NE	renovations completed return to original location	Ponce De Leon Library 980 Ponce De Leon Ave	2.0
44.2/20	07D	Peachtree Presbyterian Church 3434 Roswell Road NW	renovations completed	Buckhead Library 269 Buckhead Ave	1.0
45.2/20	08D	Morris Brandon Elementary 2741 Howell Mill Road NW	renovations completed	Northside Library 3295 Northside Parkway Atlanta 30327	1.0
46.2/20	10C	C.T. Martin Recreation Center 3201 Martin Luther King Jr Dr.	renovations completed return to original location	Old Adamsville Emergency Shelter 3404 Delmar Lane	0.5
47.2/20	JC04 A/B/C	Messiah Lutheran Church 4765 Kimball Bridge Road	renovations completed return to original location	Dr. Robert E. Fulton (Ocee Library) 5090 Abbotts Bridge Road Johns Creek 30005	0.7

48.2/20	JC12	Dolvin Elementary School 10495 Jones Bridge Road	renovations completed	Northeast / Spruill Oaks Library 9560 Spruill Road	2.0
49.2/20	SC211 SC212	Christian City Welcome Center 7345 Red Oak Road	Senior COVID-19 Safety	Oakley Elementary 7220 Oakley Terrace	1.5
50.2/20	SS01	Johns Creek Environmental Campus 8100 Holcomb Bridge Road	permitted to return to original precinct	Life Center Ministries 2690 Mt. Vernon Road	3.5
50.2/20	SS01	Johns Creek Environmental Campus 8100 Holcomb Bridge Road	permitted to return to original precinct	Life Center Ministries 2690 Mt. Vernon Road	3.5

Mr. Wingate requested a formal list upon final approval

Mr. Barron extended well wishes and good luck to **Mr. Evans** as he continues his Election career with the Secretary of State's office

Mr. Johnson requested that Elections information be added to the home page of the website:
www.fultoncountyga.gov

Ms. Corbitt informed the **BRE** that the information is posted on the home page and as External Affairs moves forward in the coming days the election update will increase significantly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene into executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Nuriddin seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:59 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared By,

Mariska Bodison, **Board Secretary**