



APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 3, 2020

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Special Session on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 6:30 p.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. Dwight Brower, Interim Elections Chief; Ms. Nadine Williams, Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; 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, Regina Waller, Senior Public Affairs Officer; Jessica Corbitt, PIO & Director of External Affairs

Guests Attending: Senator Vincent Fort, David Ross (Democratic Party of Georgia), Fox 5/ WAGA TV, Kate Brumback, Raisa Habersham

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 October 30, 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.

Chairperson Cooney announced Mr. Barron will not attend this meeting due matters being resolved in court.

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to amend the agenda to add the approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the City of Atlanta and Union City. City of Atlanta's IGA approval will be item# 3 and Union City's IGA approval will be item # 4; all original items will follow in sequential order. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

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

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Senator Vincent Fort expressed concerns of how the Senate District 39 race (the Special Democratic Primary) was conducted during the General Elections. **Senator Fort** expressed concerns of the training of poll workers and the lack of notice provided to the candidates. **Senator Fort** requested the **BRE** conduct an independent investigation.

NEW BUSINESS

#3 – APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA)

➤ City of Atlanta

“Shall the Act be approved which provides a new homestead exemption from City of Atlanta ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$30,000 for each resident of the City of Atlanta who holds real property subject to a written lease having an initial term of not less than 99 years with a landlord that is an entity exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code and who owns all improvements located on the real property?”

Ms. Nuriddin provided a point of clarity on the discussion of the IGAs presented for approval on an election that will conclude shortly.

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

#4- APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA)

➤ City of Union City

“Shall the Act be approved which provides a new homestead exemption from City of Union City ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$2,000.00 of assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city?”

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the City of East Point to conduct their election. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#5-DISCUSSION OF NOVEMBER 3RD, GENERAL /SPECIAL ELECTION

Chairperson Cooney called on **Mr. Brower** to update the **BRE** of the **Election Day** activities.

Mr. Brower shared how quiet the day was with the exception of two polling locations having equipment issues. **Mr. Brower** explained the real excitement was prior to today and it stemmed from a moving company cancellation of service with short notice. Another moving company was procured to assist with equipment deliveries to numerous polling locations.

Chairperson Cooney asked **Mr. Brower** about what happened at State Farm Arena?

Mr. Brower explained that **Mr. Jones** can expound on the inquiry but a pipe burst in the room where Absentee By Mail (**ABM**) was being processed. **Mr. Brower** explained none of the ballots were damaged.

Mr. Jones added the water from the ceiling ran on the left side of the room and no damages occurred to the ballots. The personnel was moved to an alternative room and the work was able to resume after a (4) hour delay.

Mr. Brower announced as of 5pm on Election Day:

- Votes Cast **14,152**
- Provisional Ballots **598**

These numbers are approximate.

Mr. Johnson inquired about how the delay at State Farm Arena will affect the count tonight.

Mr. Jones explained that they will continue to work and at 10pm, the file will be pulled and the Division will make an assessment at that point. **Mr. Jones** mentioned the Division is behind 30,000 **ABM** to be processed.

Vice Chair Nuriddin mentioned that the numbers provided seem relatively low and requested **Mr. Brower** provided Early Voting (**EV**) statistics:

- Votes Cast **315,656**

Mr. Wingate indicated that he spoke with **Mr. Jones** on all figures until October 30th and Mr. Barron mentioned that he was waiting on **Mr. Jones** to complete.

Dr. Ruth inquired about the drop box statistics?

Mr. Brower mentioned a final count will be submitted today.

Mr. Jones explained that permanent Fulton County employees from various departments have been assigned to each drop box locations to lock the box at 7pm and the courier will be responsible for transporting the ballots to the Government Center and then to State Farm Arena.

Chairperson Cooney asked **Mr. Brower** to provide a cross comparison

Vice Chair Nuriddin asked where **Mr. Barron** was during this meeting

Mr. Brower confirmed that **Mr. Barron** was in court resolving a legal matter pertaining to two polling locations delayed opening this morning. Ponce De Leon Library operational time was extended.

Mr. Lowman interjected to inform the Board that **Mr. Barron** was going before a judge to resolve the matter of Bethune Elementary. The Ponce De Leon Library matter has been resolved and that location is required to extend their time to 7:20 p.m. There is a discrepancy on the matter of Bethune Elementary as it pertains to the timeframe of delays.

Ms. Corbitt announced that public notice was provided for the Ponce De Leon Library polling locations and the External Affairs was on standby for the outcome of the Bethune Elementary polling locations to provide additional notice.

Mr. Wingate asked how many ballots **Mr. Jones'** team have processed

Mr. Jones informed the Board:

The amount scanned: **86,191**

Total Ballots received: **130,530**

Ballots rejected: **363**

Mr. Wingate questioned the amount of ballots remaining and noted that the Absentee Team started processing ballots on October 19th.

Mr. Jones explained that the Team should complete the amount remaining by tomorrow.

Mr. Wingate inquired about adjudication process

Mr. Jones mentioned the adjudication process is ongoing

#6- CONFIRMATION OF CERTIFICATION DATE

After a brief discussion, **Chairperson Cooney** announced that the Certification meeting will be in conjunction with the Regular Meeting on Friday, November 13th at 10am.

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. Wingate moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 10:52 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary