



## APPROVED MINUTES

### **BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 11, 2020**

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Special Session on Tuesday, August 11, 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:**

Mr. Mark Wingate, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Aaron V. Johnson

Dr. Kathleen Ruth

Ms. Vernetta Keith Nuriddin

**Staff Attending:** Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mr. Dwight Brower, Interim Elections Chief; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections 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

**Guests Attending:** Emil Moffatt, Matthew Serafin, Tori McFarland

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**

No communications from the public.

## NEW BUSINESS

### #3– DISCUSSION OF AUGUST 11, 2020, GENERAL PRIMARY, NONPARTISAN AND SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION

**Mr. Barron** informed the Board:

- 34,657 Votes cast during Early Voting
- 31,116 Absentee by Mail (**ABM**) counted as of **2 p.m.**; Drop box ballots count remaining
- 19,279 Votes cast on Election Day as of **5:30 p.m.** on Election Day
- 560 Provisional Ballots as of **5:30 p.m.** on Election Day

**Mr. Barron** mentioned that Election Day overall went well with the exception of four polling locations that experienced poll pads issues. The **DRE** was alerted by the vendor, Know Ink, of the technical issues with the poll pads at 8:05 a.m. The poll pads were able to look-up a voter but unable to issue vote cards at the four listed locations:

- Buckhead Library
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- Helene E. Mills Senior Ctr.
- FanPlex

**Mr. Jones** informed the **BRE** that Adjudication process went well and all assigned personnel preferred the new process.

**Mr. Barron** mentioned the efforts made to increase performance measures by the **DRE**:

- Partnership with State Farm and The Hawks
- Dominion Technicians assistance with increasing Scanners throughput to exceed scanning capabilities
- Elimination of duplicating ballots for Absentee by Mail- Adjudication process

**Mr. Brower** informed the **BRE** of a concern regarding uploading the State's file on the poll pads and the length of time required to perform the task. **Mr. Brower** mentioned meeting with **IT** Department and the internet provider (AT&T) to resolve the bandwidth concerns to alleviate the **DRE** of this tedious process.

**Mr. Barron** mentioned the uploading to the poll pads for Election Day began on Thursday and the length of time required was extreme, 36 hours. **Mr. Barron** mentioned it took longer this Election than in the June Election. **Mr. Barron** is expecting an increase in bandwidth to improve performance

**Dr. Ruth** asked can this upload be completed sooner than Thursday

**Mr. Barron** answered the main component of the file cannot be uploaded until Saturday. This component uploads the records of every voter **who** voted during early voting which ends on the Friday before Poll Pad Saturday. The file was available at 5:30am, Saturday morning.

**Mr. Wingate** requested a breakdown of Absentee by Mail (**ABM**) ballots by party

**Mr. Jones** responded with the overall statistic; however, a breakdown can be provided later

**Mr. Wingate** reiterated his request of a breakdown of all **ABM** numbers prior to certification of the election

**Mr. Barron** noted that all final numbers will be provided prior to the **BRE** meeting and presented at the BRE Regular meeting on Thursday

**Mr. Wingate** asked the date **that** the Certification of Result is scheduled

**Chairperson Cooney** responded that the **BRE** calendar has August 21<sup>st</sup>, Friday; however, if this change all will be notified

**Chairperson Cooney** asked where **were** the ballots adjudicated

**Mr. Jones** answered the adjudication process was completed at the **EPC** (Election Preparation Center) with six teams; the task was completed in two hours. **Mr. Jones** mentioned the Division is considering a method for the public to visibly view the process; to add monitor screens to each adjudication station for easy viewing

**Mr. Wingate** asked the number of ballots adjudicated

**Mr. Jones** stated the total numbers weren't available and they will be provided at the Regular meeting

**Chairperson Cooney** asked for clarification on why a ballot would be adjudicated

**Mr. Jones** explained that the adjudication process is required for **ABM** ballots when one of the three listed items occur to the scanned ballots:

- No Marks (Blank ballot)
- Over Voting
- Ambiguous Marks

**Mr. Johnson** asked for the overall voter turnout

**Mr. Barron** responded that after early voting it was 8.06%

**Mr. Wingate** asked for drop box totals

**Mr. Barron** mentioned the dispatch teams are waiting at drop boxes waiting for polls to close, no final numbers

**Ms. Williams** responded that as of August 9<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, 3,092 ballots removed from all 20 drop boxes. **Ms. Williams** mentioned all other totals will be inputted to compile a completed spreadsheet for dissemination.

## 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 6:58 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary