



APPROVED MINUTES

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

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, March 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. Aaron Johnson, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Mark Wingate
Ms. Vernetta K. Nuriddin
Mr. David Burge

Staff Attending: Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Mr. Johnny Harris, Elections Officer; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Ms. Breauna Jenkins, Administrative Specialist; Mr. David Lowman, Staff Attorney; Ms. Jessica Corbitt, PIO & Director of External Affairs; Ms. April Majors, Public Affairs Manager

Guests Attending: Foris Webb III (City of Atlanta), Edward Leidelmeijer (Commissioner Hausmann), David Ross (Georgia Democratic Party), Corey Adams (City of South Fulton), Jasmine Campbell (Fulton County External Affairs), Vanessa Waldon (Atlanta City Council), Reginald McClendon

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

None

#3– REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM VOTER LIST DUE TO FELONY CONVICTIONS

Ms. Coman presented the February Felon Report to the Board that was transmitted by the State and recommended the removal of 51 names. Letters were mailed; however, no responses were received

Mr. Johnson informed **Ms. Coman** that his report recommended the removal of 49 names

Chairperson Cooney requested clarity to indicate where the discrepancy occurred

Mr. Jones requested to table the item for further review.

Chairperson Cooney requested consent from the BRE to Table item # 3; due to discrepancy

OLD BUSINESS

#4– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting – February 14, 2019
- Executive Session – February 14, 2019

A motion to approve all the meeting minutes from the Regular and Executive Session Meetings in the month of February 2019 was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Burge and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#5– MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2019

- 21,427 voter registration applications received in February
- As of February 1st, **767,968** (700,288 active and 67,680 inactive) registered voters reside in Fulton County
- All Personnel in the **DRE** are processing applications
- Processed 113 temporary voter ID cards (TVIC)
- Voter Registration Division changed the outer envelope for provisional ballots
- Hired 3 Registration Officers in the Voter Registration Division, staff will start March 20, 2019
- Poll worker training began February 21, 2019
- 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
- Sharon Benjamin continuing CPM training
- Municipalities for the Special Election in March 2019
 - City of Atlanta; **City Council Member, District 3**
 - City of Hapeville; **Alderman At Large**
- Lawsuit filed by **ACLU** on March 11, 2019 against 4 metro counties: **Fulton, Gwinnett, DeKalb, and Cobb**
- 10 Pilot Counties to use new voting system in November 2019 – Fulton County possible pilot participant

Chairperson Cooney informed the BRE that after speaking with **Ms. Ringer** (Senior Attorney) there is no other information available regarding the **ACLU** lawsuit at this time

Mr. Barron stated that according to reports, no other county listed has received any information or copies of the lawsuit

Mr. Barron mentioned a conversation with **SEB** Director, Chris Harvey, regarding receiving the new equipment as early as July 2019. **Mr. Barron** informed the **BRE** that if that is correct the **DRE** could potentially use new equipment for a possible election in September 2019 for Atlanta Board of Education, District 2. **Mr. Barron** informed the **BRE** that **HB 316** passed the Senate and there should be a RFP to follow very soon.

Mr. Wingate inquired about the voter registration dashboard statistics

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that the statistics are based on all applications (online, DDS, and Paper). **Mr. Barron** reminded the **BRE** that the **DRE** was unable to stay on target with processing due to Subpoena documents and the lack of supplemental staff; however, the **BRE** will see a change at the next **BRE** meeting

Mr. Jones informed the **BRE** that the division has the ability to generate a report that reflects the voters registered and residing in City of Atlanta, District 3 and Hapeville. **Mr. Jones** stated that all eligible voters for the March election have been updated, if they registered on or before February 19, 2019.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the **HB 316** returning to the House for a vote on the amendments and concerns regarding delays in producing the **RFP**

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that based on a previous conversation with SEB Director, the **RFP** can be disseminated at any point

Mr. Johnson inquired about other named counties that are being considered for the Pilot program. **Mr. Johnson** requested information on the **DRE's** preparation plan for the pending new voting system with regards to voter outreach education and training

Mr. Barron stated that the Secretary of State plans to complete a massive amount of voter outreach education and training of all Elections' personnel, and the **DRE** intends to do the same

Chairperson Cooney reiterated **Mr. Johnson's** request for clarity for the April Regular **BRE** Meeting

Chairperson Cooney inquired of staffing needs for the **DRE**

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** that all positions are currently filled

#6- INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ELECTIONS CHIEF, JOSEPH BLAKE EVANS

Mr. Barron introduced **Joseph Blake Evans, Elections Chief**, and informed the **BRE** of Mr. Evans' educational and professional background. Mr. Barron highlighted Mr. Evans' activity within the department throughout the week

Mr. Evans informed the **BRE** of his excitement of working with the **DRE** and maneuvering through the upcoming elections. **Mr. Evans** mentioned his tasks leading up to the **BRE** meeting and anticipating learning the processes and procedures of the **DRE** with receiving new voting equipment

Chairperson Cooney welcomed **Mr. Evans** on behalf of the Board of Registration and Elections (**BRE**)

Mr. Burge referenced the last **BRE** meeting and the comments made and advised **Mr. Evans** to ensure he evaluates all areas of poll worker training to improve the program

Mr. Evans assured the **BRE** that reviewing all aspects of the Elections Division is a priority

#7- REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH 19, 2019, SPECIAL ELECTION – RICHARD BARRON

- March 15, 2019, Friday, the last day for Early voting for the Special Election for cities of Hapeville and Atlanta
- Poll worker training has concluded
- Poll workers will pick up their equipment on Sunday, March 17, 2019 for the Special Election

- L&A concluded
- Meeting with IT to transfer phone lines for call center on Election Day

NEW BUSINESS

#8- APPROVAL OF PRECINCT PROPOSALS 5/19, 6/19, 8/19, 9/19 AND 1/19A IN NOVEMBER

Mr. Barron explained the proposals as **5/19** a permanent change from Alpharetta Community Center to **Wills Recreational Center** due to summer schedule conflicts. **6/19** was a temporary change due to Gideon Elementary being renovated; therefore, temporarily moved to **Pittman Park** which will become a permanent change. **8/19** was temporarily moved to Hopewell Middle School due to renovations, renovations are complete and will resume at their permanent polling location of **Cogburn Woods Elementary School**. **9/19** was temporarily moved due to renovations, renovations are completed. Polling place will resume at its permanent location of **S.L. Lewis Elementary School**. **1/19A** was removed due to the Court of Appeals decision which approved the **annexation of Loch Lomond** subdivision into City of South Fulton.

Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to approve 5/19, 6/19, 8/19, 9/19, & 1/19A precinct proposals. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Nuriddin and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#9- POSTAL SERVICE COST ANALYSIS AND USPS MEETING PRESENTATION - PAMELA COMAN

Ms. Coman presented to the **BRE** researched cost through multiple providers to find the most effective and efficient method to service Fulton County voters. The Voter Registration Management Division and the Director have scheduled several meetings to resolve the issues that have occurred with the mailing system.

- Re-designing new precinct cards- Must be approved by the Secretary of State's Office
- Providing better quality envelopes for Head of Household/ Current Resident Letters
- Colored ballot envelopes to ensure prompt delivery - currently using
- Adding **IMB** (Intelligent Mail Barcode)- A serial number that can be linked to the citizen for tracking mail
- Pitney Bowes/ BlueCrest- **DRE** system w/ current capabilities will activate the service to track mail at a fraction of the price of alternative mail carriers

Mr. Wingate inquired about the **DRE** delivering the mail to an alternative location for mailing

Mr. Barron stated that may be an option but waiting on more information from Postmasters Headquarters

Chairperson Cooney mentioned the meeting the **Chair and Mr. Barron** attended at the Coverdell Legislative Office Building with the Voter's Right Caucus.

Mr. Johnson inquired about changing information on the precinct cards

Mr. Barron stated no, any changes can only be made by **SOS**

Mr. Wingate inquired about using alternative mailers for disseminating precinct information or head of household information

Mr. Wingate inquired about **HB 117**(countywide polling places)

Mr. Barron informed **BRE** that the bill did not survive crossover

Chairperson Cooney inquired about the presentation with regards to updating the mailing process

Mr. Barron informed the **BRE** there are pending follow-up correspondences and meetings, then **DRE** will begin implementation.

Chairperson Cooney inquired about the Tabled Item #3; **Removal of Names from Voter List**

Mr. Jones requested to defer to the next scheduled **BRE** Regular meeting on April 11, 2019.

#12- EXECUTIVE SESSION

Did not convene into Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairperson Cooney entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Burge moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Nuriddin seconded the motion.** Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:19 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary