



**FULTON
COUNTY**

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING – December 4, 2018

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Special Session on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 6:30PM in the Elections Preparation Center, 1365 English Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

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; Dwight Brower, Elections Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Mrs. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Cheryl Ringer, Senior Attorney; Ms. April Majors, Public Affairs Manager; Mr. Darryl Carver, Public Affairs Manager

Guests Attending: None

#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

None

#3– DISCUSSION OF DECEMBER 4, 2018, GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Mr. Barron stated that the votes cast during early voting were 44,308 and 841 ballots by mail were received by Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. Burge inquired about the small amount of ballots received

Mr. Barron agreed that the number of ballots received was significantly low

Mr. Wingate inquired about the court order decision that was rendered by Judge Totenberg on November 13, 2018 regarding provisional ballots and the date that ballots are to be postmarked

Mr. Barron stated that ballots are to be postmarked by December 4th and delivered by December 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Barron stated that at approximately 6:00pm, total votes cast were 69,783 and 350 provisional ballots during the last call out. The number of provisional ballots seems really low despite the increased calls of many voters voting out of precinct today

Mr. Barron stated Joseph McGhee Tennis Center (**10K**) will extend their operational hours to 7:15pm due to precinct late opening. Life Center Ministries (**SS01**) will extend their operational hours to 8:00pm due to poll manager stating the precinct did not have voter access cards. This location began to use provisional ballots until staff arrived with voter access cards.

Mr. Wingate informed BRE and DRE that he visited the Life Center Ministries (SS01) and spoke with the poll manager and he gave the poll manager's account of what occurred. The poll manager stated she received the blue bag and the individual that delivered the bag stated everything was in there. She said she never checked. On Election Day, she began looking for the voter access cards and did not locate any. She contacted someone downtown and she received what was needed after 9:00 a.m. Voters were able to cast a provisional ballot until this issue was resolved

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about Life Center Ministries (**SS01**) not having enough provisional ballots and the poll manager informing voters they would have to come back later

Mr. Barron informed the BRE that he is unaware of what the poll manager said to voters; however, this location did run out of provisional ballots

Mr. Wingate expressed that the poll manager stated a few people came and left; however, they all returned later in the day

Ms. Nuriddin inquired about the tenure of the poll manager of **SS01**

Mr. Burge and Mr. Wingate informed **Ms. Nuriddin** that the poll manager has over 20 years of experience.

Mr. Brower mentioned that the supply delivery person is required to remove the cards from the bag and counts them in front of the poll manager. The poll manager then signs a form indicating items received. **Mr. Brower** intends to review further

Mr. Barron petitioned the court to have **SS01** stay open until 8:00 p.m. due to this precinct missing voter access cards

Ms. Benjamin stated that the only other issue that occurred at the polls was created by the Poll Watchers chasing down voters that were leaving due to out of precinct or out of county status, telling those voters to request a provisional ballot.

Mr. Barron stated that he contacted Ms. Penn Payne regarding one of the groups and did not hear anything more regarding the matter

Mr. Brower mentioned that First United Methodist Church (**EP01A/B**) received calls regarding parking and traffic. This issue occurred due to filming occurring at this location at the same time the poll was open.

Mr. Barron stated that unfortunately the church double booked and this decreased parking severely

Mr. Barron mentioned that the DRE received a phone call from Secretary of State's office due to receiving inquiries from CNN as to why Mr. Ted Turner's ballot was rejected. **Mr. Barron** stated that the inquiry was researched and found that Mr. Turner did not sign his ballot.

Chairperson Cooney discussed various issues with the department's website and the Secretary of State's websites and how these two entities interact with one another to give voters the most accurate and updated information available

#4- CONFIRMATION OF DATE AND TIME FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Chairperson Cooney stated that due to the court injunction that gives absentee voters until 5:00 p.m. on Friday to submit ballots, the BRE's only date available to certify this General Runoff Election will be Monday at 10:00 a.m. **Chairperson Cooney** requested agreement on Monday at 10 a.m. and all Board members concurred.

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 7:01 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary