

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Gary Rower, Chairman  
Zach Livsey, Vice Chairman  
Sharlene Alexander

## FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Brieanna Garrett, Director  
Beverly Daniel, Registrar  
Margaret Johnson, Elections Supervisor

175 Johnson Ave., Suite B  
Fayetteville, GA 30214



## APPROVED MINUTES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

July 16, 2024

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Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Elections. Your participation is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

### 1. CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

*Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to accept the July 16, 2024 meeting agenda for the Special Board meeting. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.*

### 3. NEW BUSINESS:

#### A. Voter Challenges Consideration

Attorney Stough reviewed the process for voter challenges under Georgia law, specifically O.C.G.A. § 21-2-229 and § 21-2-230. The current challenges fall under § 21-2-229, which allows an elector to challenge another elector's eligibility to remain on or be added to the voter roll. The challenge must be in writing, specify the grounds, and be made by a Fayette County elector. The board holds a hearing, notifying both parties, and the challenger bears the burden of proof.

Attorney Stough further provide that there are over 5,800 names are on Fayette County's challenge list, with challenges based on residency, deceased status, or mental incompetence. The National Voter Registration Act restricts removal based on a change of residence unless confirmed in writing or through a failure to respond to a notice and non-voting in the last two general elections. If the only grounds provided are a change of residence, the Board of Elections' hands are tied until the specified process is completed.

Vice-Chair Livsey commented that the challenges were mainly based on address changes.

Attorney Stough noted some challenges involved commercial addresses, which can possibly be legitimate residences. For example, homeless individuals are registered at the courthouse, and many people run businesses from their homes. If there is reason to believe that a person is registered at a commercial address, the Board should proceed with a hearing.

County Registrar Daniel reported findings, including various commercial addresses, churches, home businesses, and other categories. Director Garret added that most commercial addresses were legitimate residential addresses except for one Studio Café address. Board Member Alexander inquired on if the challenges were based on state laws.

Attorney Stough confirmed this. Chairman Rower informed the Board that he requested the staff to conduct as much research as possible and minimize the notification requirements under the state law due to the number of names on the list and the cost to taxpayers.

***Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to schedule a hearing for one challenged voter at the July 23, 2024 Board Meeting. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.***

***Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to dismiss the remaining voter challenges. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.***

***Motion made by Board Member Alexander, Amend by Chairman Rower, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to develop a policy and procedures on voter challenges expeditiously. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.***

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Speakers will be given a five (5) minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Elections about various topics, issues, and concerns. Speakers must direct comments to the Board. Responses are reserved at the direction of the Board.**

Jamie Harmon addressed the Board to request a Screen on the Green educational event be held to inform Fayette County residence what it takes to run an election. This will help dispel myths about what is done in Fayette County regarding how Election and Registrations are run because there is so much misinformation floating around.

Kimberly Hearn thanked the Board for their service and commend them on how civilly and polite the meetings are performed. She stated that she attended the State Election Board Meeting and was not pleased they scheduled an emergency meeting on Friday without alerting the public. She believes there are people who are searching for problems and has concerns about a lot of social issues and looking to get involved since she is newly retired.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT:**

***Chairman Rower recommend to adjourn the July 16, 2024 Board meeting. Vice-Chair Livsey motioned to adjourn. Board Member Alexander second the motion. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:37PM.***

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Brianna Garrett, Director

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Gary Rower, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette

County Georgia, held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2024.