

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

March 25, 2025

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 4th 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 Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to accept the March 25, 2025, Agenda for the Regular Board meeting. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

3. 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 – Discussion on Consolidation of Polling Locations

- *Will there be a reduction in staff and equipment if polling locations are consolidated?*
- *When is the consolidation of polling locations planned to take place?*
- *What is the process for consolidating polling locations?*
- *Jamie would like clarification on the overall process and timeline for potential consolidation.*
- *Per usual, requesting additional funds for staff pay.*

Vincent Williams – True Light Baptist Church (Precinct #23 Kenwood)

- *Heard about the possible consolidation of polling locations and would like clarification.*
- *While new to the church, he noted they have served as a polling location for 30 years.*
- *Wants to know if the church did something to cause the potential change.*
- *One of his ministers, who helps with equipment drop-off and pick-up, was present and confirmed they are ready for the upcoming June 2025 election.*
- *Would like to know what is going to happen, when a decision will be made, and if they are still being considered as a polling location.*

4. NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Municipal Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Approval-Town of Woosley

Vice-Chair Livsey confirmed that all municipal intergovernmental agreements for Fayette County have been approved, with the exception of Woolsey. He noted that the Woolsey agreement is similar in nature to the others. Director Garrett confirmed this information.

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey, to approve the IGA for the Town of Woosley. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

B. Polling Location Consolidation Review

Vice-Chair Livsey noted that of the eight proposed polling location changes, Braelinn and one consolidation were approved at the last meeting. He asked Director Garrett to provide a brief update on the remaining proposals.

Director Garrett reviewed the six remaining proposals, explaining they were based on co-location feasibility without altering precinct lines and cost savings. She provided a cost analysis and outlined the pros and cons, concluding that the challenges outweighed the benefits and did not support moving forward.

Vice-Chair Livsey provided the findings to the Board including that the cost is approximately \$12,200, with savings of around \$8,300, resulting in a net initial cost of \$4,000. While it will reduce precinct rental fees and logistical costs over time, drawbacks include longer travel distances for voters, potential confusion due to precinct changes, and possible parking issues at larger locations. The overall impact on voter turnout and experience needs careful consideration.

Vice Chair Livsey reiterated Chair Rower's observation on Fayette County's significant growth, particularly along the 54 corridor, Trilith, and Peachtree City area. He emphasized avoiding changes that might limit future flexibility or require amendments.

Board Member Alexander explained that the precincts' discussion began due to security concerns at the Braelinn precinct. The school location was problematic, so a new plan was proposed to share a gym with Oak Grove, keeping separate spaces for each precinct. This prompted a broader review of other precincts as well.

Board Member Alexander clarified in response to public comments that any proposed changes wouldn't take effect until November. She emphasized the need for thorough planning and community input before moving forward, especially if considering consolidating precincts. She noted that co-locating precincts wouldn't affect staffing levels but emphasized the importance of careful consideration and cost implications.

Board Member Alexander expressed concerns about combining precincts addressing the questions from Truelight Baptist Church and also highlighting the potential high turnout if merged. She emphasized the need for more thorough review and community input, especially since changes wouldn't take effect until November and then sought advice from Attorney Stough.

Attorney Stough noted that two issues, including the Braelinn Elementary relocation and combining Windgate and Camp Creek, are set for the April agenda. He emphasized that today's discussion is for any remaining topics, and the Board can decide whether to continue exploring these or not.

Board Member Alexander asked Vice-Chair Livsey to share his thoughts, noting the challenge of making a decision in Chair Rower's absence. She reiterated her concerns about the potential negative impact of consolidating a large number of voters into a single location.

Vice-Chair Livsey expressed agreement and raised concerns about combining precincts, highlighting potential logistical challenges and costs, without short-term savings. He mentioned possible legal liabilities and voter confusion and requested clarification on legal risks, emphasizing the need for careful planning.

Attorney Stough noted that relocating voting locations could lead to legal challenges if voters feel their rights are infringed. Potential issues include voter confusion, increased travel distances, and scrutiny from the Department of Justice, depending on the administration as well as political scrutiny.

Board Member Alexander expressed gratitude to the staff for the work. She also emphasized challenges posed by annexations in Peachtree City and Fayetteville, noting the need to adjust precinct lines to keep voters at a single location, suggesting halting current discussions about combining precincts and beginning the process of thoroughly reviewing all precinct lines countywide.

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to decline moving forward with the proposals 2025-1 through 2025-6. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried

6. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to approve the February 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Livsey expressed gratitude to Director Garrett for her thorough proposal and analysis, noting it provided the necessary information for the board's evaluation.

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Electors List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as Deceased.
(Deceased List)

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to approve, to remove listed electors who are deceased. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

- B. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Electors List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as Cancelled.
(Cancelled)

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey, to remove the listed electors who are cancelled. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

- C. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Electors List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as Felons. **(Felons List)**

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey, to remove the listed electors who are Felons. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

8. DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Garrett reported that as of March 21, 2025, there are 103, 259 registered voters in Fayette County

She informed the Board that, in continued efforts to improve poll worker training—a priority since the beginning of her tenure—the office is actively seeking a seasonal election clerk whose primary responsibility will be leading poll worker training. This individual will also assist in the office, including preparing poll worker supplies. The position is intended for an experienced poll worker and will be promoted through an email blast.

Director Garrett also announced that on March 26, the Elections & Registration Office will host a City Clerk Meeting to provide voter education and facilitate discussions on election procedures. The initiative is designed to strengthen collaboration, enhance understanding of election processes, and ensure city clerks are well-prepared to support their communities for the upcoming November election.

Board Member Alexander sought clarification on the trainer position, confirming it is a seasonal role within the office. Director Garrett explained that the goal is to utilize an experienced in-house individual for the position. She also clarified that the term "seasonal election clerk" serves as an umbrella term encompassing various roles, including technicians, advance voting staff, office aides, and absentee processors.

Vice-Chair Livsey clarified that the seasonal workers return annually, bringing valuable experience and community investment.

Director Garrett thanked Board Member Alexander for clarifying Jamie's concerns, noting that everything shared was accurate. She confirmed that staffing at the Braelinn precinct will not be affected, as the locations are being co-located.

She also addressed the staff at Truelight Baptist Church and all polling locations, expressing sincere appreciation for their outstanding support. She emphasized that the decision and the research behind it were not based on the actions of any polling location. Director Garrett extended heartfelt thanks for their continued support of the electoral process and the vital role Truelight Baptist Church plays in the Fayette County community.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Vice-Chair Livsey expressed gratitude to Attorney Stough for his legal counsel support to the elections staff and Board.

10. BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Board Member Alexander expressed interest in pursuing a discussion on redrawing precinct lines to reflect annexations. She emphasized that voters should be able to vote at a single precinct regardless of the type of election, noting that multiple voting locations can be confusing. She requested that the topic be added to a future agenda, acknowledging that while it may require a countywide review, her hope is that it would primarily impact annexed areas.

Board Member Alexander noted that Tyrone’s recent annexation of the data center on North 74 didn’t add much residential growth. She added that aside from this, the area hasn’t seen major development, but the annexation did occur last year, so it may be worth reviewing the precinct lines.

Attorney Stough suggested that the Director provide data on the number of impacted precincts. Vice-Chair Livsey expressed openness to the idea but stated he would prefer to wait until the full Board is present before taking any action. Director Garrett asked if the item should be added to the upcoming agenda, to which Vice-Chair Livsey clarified that no agenda item should be added at this time, as this was only the start of the discussion.

Vice-Chair Livsey expressed appreciation for the community's participation, emphasizing the importance of public input on election proposals. He specifically thanked Truelight’s Pastor and his church for their longstanding support and use of their facility. He reaffirmed the Board’s commitment to voter accessibility, noting that financial considerations are secondary to ensuring ease of access. He concluded by acknowledging the hard work of the Board and staff in supporting this mission.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (as necessary for litigation and personnel)

No Executive Session.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, to adjourn the meeting. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 P.M.

Brieanna Garrett, Director

Gary Rower, Chair

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County Georgia, held on the 22nd day of April 2025.

Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections’ Office.