

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Zach Livsey, Chairperson
Sharlene Alexander, Vice Chairperson
Morris Kelly, Member



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

175 Johnson Ave., Suite B
Fayetteville, GA 30214

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2025
5:00 P.M.

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. ACTING CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Board Member Kelly to accept the June 20, 2025, Agenda for the Board meeting. 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.

Yes, my name is Jaime Harmon. I am a resident of Fayette County. I live in the county. I rise again to speak on a few things to the board. First of all, I'm thankful for the website that explains exactly what the Public Service Commissioner is. That's a great thing.

The next thing is, we need to have unfettered access to the ballot in the United States. We do not have an issue of people cheating or trying to vote when they should not. The issue is that most of us don't vote. I don't care what's going on, we just don't vote. I realized over the week that on Tuesday, the safest place to leave my car unlocked was at a voting precinct, because no one would come by there. No one was showing up.

So we don't need to make it harder to access the ballot in the United States. We need to make it easier. I don't know—maybe incentivize it. I'm sure that's illegal, scratch that.

The next thing is, a candidate said to me that they depended on low voter turnout in order to win. That says a lot about our system in the United States. We need to do all that we can to encourage voting.

To that matter, what I say is—when the new sign, the blue on red, creates an effect where it makes the wording almost invisible when you're driving—you cannot see it. We need to have more prominent signage along the highways to let people know where they may vote. The basic black on white that we had, that works well.

Going into Whitewater High School, passing by that on 85 for the people who normally voted at Starr's Mill, if they were looking for where they needed to go, they would've missed it. There was a little small sign on 85,

very small, that pointed to go vote. And if you're driving, and we all drive 55 at least there, you would've missed it. I was like, "What did I just see? Is someone trying to buy my house? Was this my cell phone sale?" I had no idea. So we need prominent signage. Going over to Braelinn, there is no signage on South Peachtree Parkway. The actual precinct is on Robinson Road. There should've been signage on Peachtree Parkway that points to Robinson Road. We need to let people know where the precincts are. Let's not assume they know. They know there is an election "Oh my God, this is for the Public Service Commissioner." We need, in those primaries, to show up and vote in your primary. You can choose the best candidate. So that's all that I have, and thank you for your time.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Certification of Election – June 17, 2025, PSC Special Election

Director Garrett reported that a total of 3,697 ballots were cast in the June 2025 election. Of those, 2,470 were cast on Election Day, 1,202 during Advance Voting, and 23 were eligible absentee ballots. Additionally, two provisional ballots were received on Election Day.

Director Garrett provided the Board with a list of three provisional ballots for review. Of the three, two were deemed eligible and accepted; all were cast out-of-precinct but received full credit due to the statewide nature of the election. One provisional ballot was rejected due to the voter being registered outside the county.

No Board action was required on provisional ballots. Director Garrett requested certification of the election results for the Public Service Commission contest held on June 17, 2025.

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Board Member Alexander to certify the June 17, 2025, PSC Special Election. Motion carried.

B. Board Elections-Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Contest

Chair Livsey addressed the need to formalize Board leadership roles following the resignation of former Chair Gary Rower, effective June 1. Having served as acting chair since that time, Chair Livsey stated that, in consultation with Attorney Stough and Director Garrett, it was necessary to proceed with official nominations. He opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair.

Motion made by Board Member Kelly to nominate Zack Livsey as Chairman, seconded by Board Member Alexander, Vice-Chair Livsey abstained. Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Livsey moved to the next item regarding the nomination for Vice Chair, a role he had held for over a year. He acknowledged the experience of Board Member Alexander and formally nominated her to serve as Vice Chair.

Motion made by Chair Livsey to nominate Sharlene Alexander as Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Board Member Kelly, Board Member Alexander abstained. Motion carried.

C. Advance Voting Dates and Times- July 15, 2025, Special Primary PSC Runoff Election

Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander to accept Voting dates and times, second by Board Member Kelly. Motion carried.

Director Garrett noted that she had initially omitted voter turnout percentages during certification and provided them for the record: overall county turnout was 3.97%, with 1.29% on Election Day and 2.65% during Advance Voting. She recommended Advance Voting be held from Monday, July 7 through Friday, July 11, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, as mandated. This recommendation is also documented on the first page of the Director's report. Director Garrett proposed using one voting location, the main office, based on turnout data, though she briefly recanted the justification before confirming the recommendation.

Chair Livsey expressed support for Director Garrett's proposal, noting that approximately two-thirds of voters participated on Election Day rather than during Advance Voting. He emphasized that the recommendation helps balance public access with financial responsibility, particularly for a low-turnout election. He then opened the floor for a motion to approve the proposal.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Voter Challenge Policy Review

Vice-Chair Alexander asked whether only one party would appear on the ballot for the upcoming runoff. Director Garrett confirmed that the only eligible contest was in District 3 on the Democratic side. She clarified that voters who cast a Republican ballot in the primary are not eligible to vote in the runoff, which could result in lower overall turnout. Vice-Chair Alexander acknowledged this clarification and thanked the Director.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 27, 2025, REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander to approve the May 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 22, 2025, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Kelly to accept Special Called Meeting Minutes.

Director Garrett informed the Board that while preparing to post the approved April 22, 2025 Special Meeting minutes, she realized that public comment had been inadvertently omitted. She asked for clarification on whether the correction should be handled as an amendment to the previously approved minutes. Attorney Stough advised that the original motion could be amended by the member who made it, allowing the Board to approve the revised version with the public comment included.

Motion made by Board Member Kelly to accept the amended Special Called Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander. Motion carried.

8. 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 Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Board Member Kelly, to remove the listed electors who are deceased. 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 Kelly, seconded by Vice- Chair Alexander, to remove the listed electors who are cancelled. Motion carried.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Garrett began by reporting that as of June 20, 2025, there are 103,461 registered voters in Fayette County. With the June Public Service Commission election completed, the office is now preparing for the upcoming runoff. Logic and accuracy testing will begin once ballots are received from the Secretary of State's Office. She noted that because this is a runoff election, only five days' public notice is required before testing begins, and that notice will be posted on the county website once dates are confirmed.

She clarified for educational purposes, particularly for new board member Mr. Kelly, that poll workers who served during the primary are not required to undergo training for the runoff. However, in reviewing some of the election paperwork and internal processes, the office will offer optional sessions for poll workers who would benefit from additional support, especially regarding paperwork completion. Due to summer scheduling conflicts, many veteran managers were unavailable for the June election, resulting in new personnel stepping into key roles. The additional sessions aim to bridge that gap and offer one-on-one support where needed.

Director Garrett reported that the state-mandated Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA) is scheduled for June 26 at 2:00 AM and will take place at the library. Details are also included in the Director's written report.

Personnel updates included the appointment of Jenny Gray to the Deputy Registrar position. Gray began her role on Election Day and has already proven to be a strong addition to the team. Director Garrett welcomed her and acknowledged the many new faces currently working in the Elections Office.

She then directed the Board's attention to precinct location updates included on page 2 of the Director's Report and emphasized the importance of reviewing these ahead of the November election. The county is currently prepared for the July runoff across all 36 precincts.

She provided several key facility updates:

Tyrone Precinct: Due to persistent issues with the building, the Tyrone precinct has been permanently closed. For the runoff election, voters assigned to this precinct will vote at the library.

Peachtree City – Kedron Aquatic Center (Precinct 31): Peachtree City officials have informed the Elections Office of potential renovations at City Hall. As part of their contingency planning, the city is considering moving its operations to the Kedron Aquatic Center. While no timeline has been finalized, Director Garrett assured the Board that the aquatic center is still available for election use in November. She has been in active discussions with city staff to maintain election access and avoid any facility conflicts. The city has expressed a willingness to accommodate election needs, including clearing space if necessary.

Starr's Mill Precinct: This location was unavailable for the June election due to summer camp activities and renovation work. As a result, the precinct was temporarily moved to Whitewater High School for June and was

expected to remain off-limits for the rest of the year. However, as of approximately 12:30 PM on the day of the meeting, the Elections Office received confirmation that renovations will not begin until September, and the Starr's Mill facility will be available for both the November and December elections. Director Garrett noted this as a positive development, reversing the earlier plan to relocate the precinct permanently.

Director Garrett emphasized her goal of maintaining consistency in polling locations whenever possible to reduce disruption for voters. She acknowledged the complexity and workload involved in changing polling sites, including legal notices, voter outreach, signage, and logistics, and stated that consistency benefits both the office and the public. She expressed her intent to build stronger relationships with facilities to lock in election access well in advance and avoid last-minute relocations, particularly for spring and larger elections in 2026.

Vice-Chair Alexander addressed a concern raised during public comment regarding the former voting site at the old Tyrone Police Department, which has since been demolished. She confirmed voters were redirected to the library for the recent election and raised concerns about future accommodation.

Director Garrett explained that while the library served as a temporary solution, its limited size and scheduling conflicts, especially during Advance Voting periods, make it difficult to secure long-term. Other options like churches or recreation centers pose challenges due to revenue-generating programs. She is working with local officials, including Brandon, to explore viable alternatives for future elections, particularly for high-turnout events in the spring, and emphasized the value of local support in securing appropriate facilities.

Vice-Chair Alexander raised a question regarding how vacancies are handled when a current officeholder in Fayette County declares candidacy for a state office, particularly in light of the upcoming November General Election, which includes both municipal and statewide contests. She inquired about when a replacement election would be required if such a vacancy occurs.

Attorney Stough responded that it had been a while since he reviewed the specific constitutional language, but his understanding is that if an officeholder qualifies for a new position whose term begins before their current term ends, the original position is vacated at the time of qualification. For example, if a mayor with a term ending in 2027 qualifies for a state office with a 2025 start date, they would automatically vacate their mayoral seat upon qualification. He noted that qualification for state offices generally occurs in the spring.

Vice-Chair Alexander confirmed that the key issue would be tracking the official qualification date, which has not yet been released.

Director Garrett agreed and stated she would follow up with the Secretary of State's Office to determine whether any local seats would need to appear on the November ballot or be filled via a special election at a later date. She emphasized the importance of staying ahead of ballot deadlines and ensuring legal compliance.

Chair Livsey added that the 2026 election calendar had not yet been published by the Secretary of State, but based on past cycles, state qualifications typically occur in February or early March. He agreed that avoiding a special election, if legally permissible, would be ideal.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

10. BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Board Member Kelly expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Board, stating that he considers it an honor and is committed to doing his best for the cities and residents of Fayette County. He appreciates the appointment.

Vice-Chair Alexander welcomed Board Member Kelly and encouraged him to ask questions, emphasizing that no question is too small and it's always better to ask than assume. She expressed appreciation for those who attend meetings and provide public comment, noting that the Board values input from the community. She affirmed the Board's role in serving both the voters of Fayette County and the Elections Office staff, and reiterated that comments, questions, and recommendations are always welcome.

Chair Livsey welcomed Mr. Kelly to the Board and expressed his commitment to working together in service of the public. He emphasized the Board's shared responsibility to ensure voter access and a smooth voting experience for all Fayette County residents. Livsey thanked his colleagues for their support in his appointment as Chair and shared his intent to lean on their guidance as the department moves forward.

He outlined his priorities for the remainder of his term, including elevating the visibility and perceived importance of all elections, even lower-profile contests like the Public Service Commission, through enhanced voter education. He highlighted the role of local government in everyday life and the importance of keeping voters informed and engaged.

Livsey also briefly referenced statewide discussions regarding OCGA § 21-2-270, which allows counties to reduce polling locations for races with under 1% turnout, noting its potential relevance for future planning.

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

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 P.M.

Brieanna Garrett, Director

Zachary Livsey, Chairmam

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County Georgia, held on the 18th day of July 2025.