

**FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND VOTER REGISTRATION**

ACTION OF AGENDA

*October 20, 2016
4:00 P.M.*

Board Members Present: Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

Staff Present: Leigh Combs, Elections Officer
April Crosby, Elections Officer
Beverly Westmoreland, Part-time Elections Clerk

Others in Attendance: Steve Brown
Lane Watts
Marilyn Watts

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hicks called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. with himself, Member Lester and Member Wright present. Chairman Hicks welcomed the visitors to the meeting.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Wright made the motion to approve the agenda. Member Lester seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

C. HEARING

1. DECEASED ELECTORS

Elections Officer Combs presented the list of deceased Fayette County voters for August and September, 2016. Member Wright made the motion to approve the list of cancelled deceased Fayette County voters. Member Lester seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

2. FELON ELECTORS

Elections Officer Combs presented the list of felon Fayette County voters for August and September, 2016. Member Wright made the motion to approve the list of cancelled felon Fayette County voters. Member Lester seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. August 23, 2016; Regular Meeting

Member Lester made the motion to approve the August 23, 2016 BOE Meeting Minutes; Member Wright seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. GENERAL ELECTION

a. Recent action for previously unverified voter registration applicants

Officer Combs explained to the Board the direction given by the Secretary of State's office regarding unverified voter registration applicants and she said poll workers have been instructed how to handle.

b. Statewide Poll Watchers list on behalf of the Republican Party of Georgia

A list of Poll Watchers for Fayette County on behalf of the Republican Party was presented to the Board for their perusal. Member Wright made the comment that there needs to be strict adherence to the Code regarding use of cell phones and this must be reiterated to these poll watchers.

c. Fayette County Sheriff Officers at schools used as polling places

Officer Combs discussed with the Board issues regarding school polling locations. Parents of school children have expressed concern and plans are in place for law enforcement to be at school polling locations.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Challenged absentee ballot request by mail

Officer Crosby explained the circumstances surrounding a challenged absentee ballot involving a father who had requested a ballot for a deceased son. Since this was a fraudulent request, the Board agreed that this issue will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for investigation.

2. Fayette County Schools no longer being used as polling places

Officer Combs told the Board, that after the November 8, 2016 election, the County schools will no longer be an option to use as polling locations per Mike Sanders, the Assistant School Superintendent. Chairman Hicks said he will speak to the Fayette County School Superintendent and Assistant School Superintendent on this issue. This matter will be discussed again in the next Board meeting.

3. SPLOST information provided during Early/Advance Voting

Officer Combs said that brochures regarding the SPLOST are currently being provided at Advanced Polling sites, as well as all precinct locations on Election Day.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Marilyn Watts, former member of the Fayette County Board of Elections, asked to make a public comment. Ms. Watts said that a member of the Board of Elections had sent an email that defamed her. She asked that her complaint be on public record. She said that the Bylaws of the Board of Elections specifically state that Board members do not make public defamation comments against former Board members. She asked for a public apology for comments that were made against her and that were degrading to the Board of Elections and the Staff of the Elections Office.

No apology was made. Chairman Hicks then stated that the Staff of the Elections office has done a tremendous job in the last several months and it is a testimony to the dedication and expertise of the Fayette County Elections Staff. He further said that “no individual speaks for the Board”.

H. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Officer Combs had an issue to mention to the Board regarding a voter registration application that was filled out and returned to the office with a voter's personal information. After examination of the application, the voter claims she did not fill out or sign the application. The issue was filed with the City of Fayetteville Police Department.

There was brief discussion about how Advance Voting has been going. The longest wait has been 45 minutes and the voting has been steady.

Member Lester asked how the trend has been compared to 2008 and 2012. Officer Crosby will get figures for comparison purposes to report to the Board.

There was brief discussion about the Elections Facebook page and how to manage comments in the future.

There were no other items for consideration.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

The Board plans to meet November 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. to certify the November 8, 2016 Election and to hold the November Board meeting. Member Lester said he will not be able to attend that meeting.