

**FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
November Monthly Meeting**

November 15, 2016

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:	Darryl Hicks, Chairman Aaron Wright
Board Member Absent:	Addison Lester
Staff Present:	Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor Lee Combs, Elections Officer April Crosby, Elections Officer

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hicks called the November 15, 2016 Board of Elections meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. The introduction and welcome of Floyd Jones, Fayette County Elections and Voter Registration Supervisor

Chairman Hicks and Mr. Wright introduced and welcomed Mr. Jones as the Fayette County Elections and Voter Registration Supervisor.

B. APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. Wright moved to approve the Agenda as published. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester absent from the vote.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leonard Presburg: Mr. Presburg, Chairman of the Fayette County Democratic Committee, thanked the Elections Office including thanked Mrs. Crosby and Mrs. Combs for their diligent work during redistricting and the recently concluded presidential election. The Board thanked Mr. Presburg for his kind comments.

Alberta Lucas: Ms. Lucas referred to the October 2016 meeting where it was mentioned that the Fayette County schools would no longer be used as polling places, and she asked why that was a concern.

Chairman Hicks replied that the main reason concerned the security of the students since parents are concerned that voters are coming to the public schools; particularly middle schools and elementary schools. He explained that once the precinct locations process occurs, all of these matters will be taken into consideration. He mentioned that the Superintendent of Schools has echoed the parents' concerns, but that he had asked the Superintendent to allow the schools to be used at least through the potential Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) election.

No one else spoke and the Public Comments portion of the meeting was closed.

D. HEARING

1. DECEASED ELECTORS

Chairman Hicks and Mr. Wright reviewed the Deceased Electors list. Mr. Wright moved to approve the list. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester absent from the vote.

2. FELONS

Chairman Hicks and Mr. Wright reviewed the Felons list. Mr. Wright moved to approve the list. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester absent from the vote.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a. October 20, 2016

Chairman Hicks and Mr. Wright reviewed the October 20, 2016 Minutes. Mr. Wright moved to accept the October 20, 2016 Board of Elections Minutes as presented. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester absent from the vote.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Political Attire at the Polling Place

Chairman Hicks stated that this issue arose after someone wore an "Obama" shirt at the polls. He explained that the issue is not whether someone can campaign at the polls since it was understood that campaigning is not allowed at the polls. He said the issue was if it is considered campaigning if a person wears a political shirt when the candidate is not on the ballot. He suggested this was a legal question.

Mrs. Crosby stated that she and Mr. Jones had looked at the code and it appears that the Elections Code does not prevent someone from wearing political clothing so long as the candidate is not on the ballot. She stated that Chris Harvey mentioned that different counties set policy. She mentioned there was some ambiguity in how counties handle these matters.

Mr. Jones agreed that the code appeared to allow for political clothing to be worn for those who are not on a ballot, but there was some vagary with regard to political party wear. He mentioned there was a news article published about a week earlier that provided guidance from Mr. Harvey on the subject. He stated that once his office transition is completed, he would be able to find and provide that article.

Chairman Hicks asked that this item be added to the next agenda in order for the County Attorney to provide insight into the matter, to provide time to produce the news article that was mentioned, and to obtain Mr. Harvey's guidance.

Mr. Wright stated there he spoke to some friends and did some research, and that it appeared there was some consistency around the state that wearing a Democrat t-shirt or a Republican t-shirt is not acceptable since it is considered to be campaigning. He stated that to be consistent, even if the voters were wearing a "Deplorables" t-shirt or a "Dole /Kemp 96" t-shirt they were asked to cover them up. He stated that campaigning in any form is not permitted within 150 feet of the furthest edge of the building that is the precinct. He said the rule was applied consistently in Fayette County with no campaigning at all. He agreed that the Board could change how the rule is applied, but that Mr. Davenport's input would be welcomed.

Mr. Jones replied that he would reach out to Mr. Davenport about this matter. Mrs. Crosby stated that jewelry needed to be considered. Mr. Jones asked if people would have to take bumper stickers off their cars if they do early voting in the county's parking lot. Chairman Hicks added that on the Saturday of early voting the City held a fair on county property and at the fair there were people campaigning for their particular candidates. It was agreed that this topic would be on the next agenda.

2. Certification of The November 8, 2016 General Election

Chairman Hicks asked to delay the certification of the election until the other items on the Agenda were addressed.

The Board reviewed provisional ballots and certified the November 8, 2016 General Election by 3:00 p.m.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought before the Board of Elections.

H. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

No other items for consideration were brought before the Board of Elections.

I. ADJOURNMENT

After other business and other items were considered, Chairman Hicks announced that the Board would enter into the process of certifying the November 8, 2016 General Election.


Chairman Hicks further announced that the public meeting would be closed since the certification process involved going over people's personal matters.

Chairman Hicks thanked County Commission Chairman Charles W. Oddo for the approval of the Election's Agenda item and he thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support during the election.

Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester being absent from the vote.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 27, 2016 at 5:00 P.M.



Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor



Darryl Hicks, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 27th day of December 2016. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.



Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor