

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor
Leigh Combs, Elections Officer
April Crosby, Elections Officer



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES

March 24, 2017
3:00 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.

Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order

Chairman Hicks called the March 24, 2017 Board of Elections meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. He stated that Mr. Wright was on the way to the meeting since he had been delayed in traffic.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Lester moved to approve the Agenda as published. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Wright not present for the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Hicks opened the floor for public comment. No one commented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of the February 21, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Lester moved to approve the February 21, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Wright not present for the vote.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as deceased.

Chairman Hicks opened the floor for public hearing. No one spoke in favor or in opposition.

Mr. Lester moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as deceased. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Wright not present for the vote. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

3. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as felons.

Chairman Hicks opened the floor for public hearing. No one spoke in favor or in opposition.

Mr. Lester moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as felons. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Wright not present for the vote. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Continued review and discussion of potential changes in the State Elections laws. These changes were last discussed at the February 21, 2017 Board of Elections meeting.

Chairman Hicks asked County Attorney Dennis Davenport if there was any information he would like to add to the discussion held on February 21, 2017. Mr. Davenport replied that he was not at the last meeting so he had nothing to add. Chairman Hicks asked Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones if he had received any further information regarding the discussion held on February 21, 2017. Mr. Jones replied he had not received updated information.

Chairman Hicks stated that the conversation concluded at the last meeting that common sense needed to be utilized and that people should not wear campaign materials to the polls.

Mr. Davenport stated that one item was House Bill 268, which allows for various changes, still had not passed both "houses" completely. He explained one version had passed in the House and another version passed in the Senate so now the bill would go to committee to work the differences out.

Mr. Davenport further reported that House Bill 42 had passed in both the House and Senate and is currently waiting for the Governor's signature. He explained that House Bill 42 allowed the Elections Superintendent to make corrections to the ballot as well as other election matters.

Mr. Lester asked Mr. Jones if he had been able to reach out to other Elections Offices pertaining to how they handle political bumper stickers on cars within 150 feet of a polling location. Mr. Jones replied that he had reached out to some jurisdictions and that there was a mixed response. He reported there were some jurisdictions who were enforcing the bumper stickers while other jurisdictions are not enforcing them until someone makes them.

There was discussion about whether the 150 foot distance from the polling place extends into State Routes 54 and 85 and how to enforce bumper stickers on a state highway. Mr. Davenport stated that vehicles traveling on the road were not violating the spirit of the law since in that context the bumper stickers could be illegible. He stated the problem was when a message was being communicated.

Mr. Lester stated that a small bumper sticker was different than a large billboard display in the parking lot. He stated that the county did not have the resources to monitor bumper stickers in the parking lot. Mr. Davenport replied the county would have to find the resources if it is on the losing side of a lawsuit and if someone feels their election was swayed due to the

presence of bumper stickers in the parking lot. Mr. Lester suggested that it should be conveyed to poll workers that their vehicles not have political stickers on them.

Chairman Hicks stated that the Board understood what the law read, but it was noted that there may be changes to the law that would affect this matter. Chairman Hicks stated that the Board would "hold" on this matter until there was any further development with the law. The Board did not provide further direction and did not make a motion. A copy of this request, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Certification of the March 21, 2017 Special Election results.

Chairman Hicks asked if certifying the election, in general, a confidential process. Mr. Davenport stated that in this instance he did not see a need for this to be a confidential process. Chairman Hicks stated that some of the issues addressed during certification concern people's address, should they have legitimately voted, are they registered to vote, and other private information. Mr. Davenport stated that the provisional ballots that identify where a voter lives or how they voted would be confidential. Chairman Hicks asked if those types of issues were discussed would this be a closed meeting. Mr. Davenport stated that he has limited options for allowing closed meetings. He presumed that since confidential information is being discussed that it could be a matter of threatened litigation- allowing for a closed meeting- but he stated he would want to discuss the matter ahead of time to ensure the meeting could be closed.

Chairman Hicks stated that there was no personal information being discussed at this particular meeting, but he wanted to ensure the Board was in compliance of the Open Records Act while protecting the privacy of the citizens.

The Board certified the election the March 21, 2017 Special Election. Mr. Lester moved to approve the certification of the special election results. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-1 with Mr. Wright not present for the vote.

Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones read into the record that the March 21, 2017 Special Election had 76,737 registered voters of which 8,427 (10.98%) cast a vote. He stated that the number of affirmative votes were 5,851 (69.51%) and the votes in opposition were 2,567 (30.49%). He concluded that the affirmative votes won and the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) initiative was approved. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 4," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

Mr. Wright entered the meeting shortly after the vote to certify was taken.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Fayette Face-to-Face: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones reminded the Board that Fayette County's Face-to-Face event will correspond with Earth Day on Saturday, April 22, 2017. He reminded the Board that both he and Leigh Combs will attend the event to register voters. He added that the County currently has 88,630 active and non-active voters out of an estimated population of 113,000 citizens.

Fayette County Annual Retreat: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones informed the Board that the Board of Commissioners will hold its annual Retreat from Wednesday, May 3 through Thursday, May 4, 2017. He stated that the retreat will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will end each day around 5 p.m. He stated that everyone is welcome to attend.

Georgia Elections Officials Association (GEOA) Conference: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones reported that the Georgia Elections Officials Association (GEOA) Conference is taking place from Sunday, May 7 through Wednesday, May 10, 2017 in Savannah. He reported that each board member and staff have reservations at the Savannah Marriot Riverfront and that itineraries and per diem checks will be provided near to date.

Intergovernmental Agreements for Municipal Elections: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones reminded the Board that in January 2017, it approved five intergovernmental agreements to conduct municipal elections. He reported that the five agreements were sent to the municipalities and approved, and then, subsequently, were sent to the Board of Commissioners for approval. He reported that the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved each of the intergovernmental agreements on Thursday, March 23, 2017 enabling the county to conduct municipal elections.

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones informed the Board that the Fiscal Year 2018 budget is due to the County's Finance and Administration Departments by March 31, 2017. He stated that he had been working on the budget in conjunction with the election. He stated he would likely send an email to the Board providing it with the proposed budget and he would be glad to discuss the budget with the Board on a one-on-one basis.

Compensation and Classification Study: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones stated that the Compensation and Classification study is currently with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG). He stated that the CVIOG is reviewing the proposals and will send a draft of their findings and recommendations back to the county in the near future. He stated that those drafts would be provided the Board of Elections for review and input.

Acknowledgement of Staff and Departments: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones thanked staff for its work in getting the election completed. He said the work looked easy because of the staff at work. He further noted there were several departments that helped in the elections including Administration, Buildings and Grounds, the Recreation Department, Extension Office, Finance, the Sheriff's Office, Stormwater Management, poll managers, assistant managers, clerks, and the Technical Team. Mr. Jones named three people in the Building and Grounds Department- Josh Wilson, Troy Donaldson, and Neitrick Venson- who went above and beyond their work by helping move tables at a church in order to have a space for the voting machines and then put the tables back in place after the election was completed. The Board asked Mr. Jones to write County Administrator Steve Rapson and Building and Grounds Director Carlos Christian an email to thank them for the extra work they put in.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Aaron Wright: Mr. Wright apologized for being late to the meeting. He stated he was involved with a police sting and that, once the sting began, no one could leave. He emphasized that the sting was not on him

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lester moved to adjourn the March 24, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The March 24, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

POST-MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alberta Lucas: Ms. Lucas stated there was poll worker training for the election last fall. She asked if the Board of Elections could compose a short outline for poll worker training that would place stress on the do's and do not's. Mrs. Lucas then corrected her comments asking that information on poll watchers- not poll workers- be made available. Chairman Hicks replied that the political parties provide that information and that the Elections Office could provide information to the parties. Mr. Wright added that information was provided to the Republican Party back in November but that the information could be sent again. Mr. Wright replied that information is on the Secretary of State's website and that a link could be placed on the county's website forwarding to the Secretary of State's website. Ms. Lucas then asked how the plans are coming for precinct consolidation. Chairman Hicks replied that the process is in its beginning stages and that staff has been asked to provide documentation on where it is and the cost. He said the Board would evaluate the impact in deciding if it wanted to move in that direction. Mrs. Lucas asked if there would be a problem using churches and schools. Chairman Hicks replied that the Elections Office has to have the permission of the churches to use the churches, and he mentioned that the schools are concerned about the safety aspect. He said if he had to guess, if other locations could be found, then the Board would likely not use the schools.

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 25th day of April 2017. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.

Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor