

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Darryl Hicks, Chairman  
Addison Lester  
Aaron Wright

## FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L Jones, Director  
Leigh Combs, Registrar  
April Crosby, Elections Supervisor



140 Stonewall Avenue West  
Public Meeting Room  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

## Minutes

September 26, 2017  
4:00 p.m.

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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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

### **Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order**

Chairman Hicks called the September 26, 2017 Board of Elections meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Board member Addison Lester was not present for the meeting.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no Public Comments given.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the August 29, 2017 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the August 29, 2017 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester being absent from 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.**

No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to this matter.

Mr. Wright 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. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

It was noted there were no felons to be removed during this meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

There was no item on the Consent Agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**3. Consideration of staff's request to appoint Mr. Eddie Stauber as Poll Manager for Precinct #36- Antioch for the November 7, 2017 municipal and Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST) elections.**

Mr. Wright moved to approve staff's request to appoint Mr. Eddie Stauber as Poll Manager for Precinct #36- Antioch for the November 7, 2017 municipal and Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST) elections. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester being absent from the vote. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

**4. Consideration of staff's recommendation to adopt the Fayette County Board of Elections By-laws.**

No discussion was held pertaining to this request.

Mr. Wright moved to table staff's recommendation to adopt the Fayette County Board of Elections By-laws until the October 24, 2017 Board of Elections meeting. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester being absent from the meeting. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and made an official part hereof.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**5. Update concerning the disposition of Mr. John Kimbell and the State Board of Elections.**

Director Jones read the supporting documentation belonging to this request into the record.

The Board did not take action or provide direction on this matter.

A copy of the request and its supporting documentation, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission:** Director Jones reported that the Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission has tabled their discussion about proposed new rules pertaining to ethics reporting. Reportedly, the commission is weighing whether reporting agencies "shall" report at the end of each month or whether they "may" report at the end of each month.

**Staff Training on Balotar Equipment:** Director Jones reported that ES&S was at the county earlier today training staff on the Balotar System and how to produce provisional ballots.

**Early Voting Dates and Times:** Director Jones reminded the Board and audience that the Absentee In-Person election begins on Monday, October 16 and extends through Friday, November 3.

**Discussion on Opening the Municipal and Special Election for Saturday Voting:** Director Jones stated that an email had been sent from Mr. Neil Sullivan asking for early voting to include a Saturday for those who are unable to vote throughout the week. He added that the email pointed out some of the issues involving two elections held simultaneously- particularly with some voters having to go to two different locations to vote on the city and county question.

It was pointed out that any additional cost for opening on Saturday would be charged back to the Board of Education as well as to the City of Fayetteville, the City of Peachtree City, and the Town of Tyrone. It was further pointed out that absentee voting by mail was available for 21 days since this involved a municipal election. It was agreed upon that a decision would have to be made at this Board of Elections meeting since the next meeting, held in October, would be too late.

Director Jones stated there had been some consideration about having only one early voting location open for three weeks with the remaining two voting locations being opened for one week. He explained that this consideration was based on expected low-voter turnout. He stated that the reason all three voting locations were opened for all three weeks was due to the ESPLOST question being presented to the voters; meaning- from that perspective- there were two extra weeks available at two separate sites for anyone who wants to vote.

It was understood that if Saturday voting was agreed upon it would likely interfere with events that the City of Fayetteville has already scheduled for the County's Administrative Complex, and it would make voting on that Saturday problematic.

Mr. Wright asked if the early voting hours could be shifted, for instance, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Considerable discussion followed about this matter but it was understood that early voting had to occur during normal business hours from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., but that the hours could be extended should the Board decide to do so. It was further understood that extending hours would involve overtime for staff.

Mr. Wright asked County Attorney Dennis Davenport if this a decision that Mr. Jones could make or was it a Board decision. Mr. Davenport replied this is a Board decision.

Chairman Hicks stated he wanted to give staff the latitude to decide on how to provide greater access. Mr. Wright added that whatever decision is made it would have to be consistent on a go-forward basis for future elections. Chairman Hicks pointed out that extending hours could provide greater than one day for people to vote outside of normal business hours. Considerable discussion continued.

Mr. Wright stated that a broad conversation was in order for this matter, but he was not necessarily in favor to have Saturday voting this time. He said he thought the topic would have to be thoroughly researched and that it would have greater impact at larger elections. Chairman Hicks added this was an opportunity to take this step in order to serve the people. Mr. Wright stated he wanted to know what the changes involved before making the change.

Chairman Hicks stated this was an opportunity of being proactive. He asked, if extending hours failed, what would be the cost. He asked Mr. Davenport if it was a proper motion to either shift or extend the voting hours unless staff returns stating it would cause a problem would it be acceptable. Mr. Davenport advised that the motion should not have qualifications. Mr. Davenport stated the motion would need certainty. Director Jones added that if a motion was made to extend hours only for staff to find out that it cannot extend hours, then mixed messages would be sent to the public regarding voting hours.

Chairman Hicks stated that this was a perfect opportunity to make a change. Mr. Wright replied that he was not willing, based on one email, to make a decision on cost and employment issues. He said he wanted to have this conversation, but he wanted to have the information in front of him prior to making the decision. Mr. Wright further pointed out that this election was a relatively small election with the voters having many options to vote. Chairman Hicks disagreed saying there have been discussions about Sunday voting and extending hours for years and that this was not a hasty decision. He concluded that this was another opportunity where the issue goes into how does "it serve us personally rather than the constituents." He said drive needs to be serving the constituents. Chairman Hicks stated that while opening on Saturday may conflict with other events going on in the county there should be other options to consider. He concluded that there needs to be a time when everyone involved in elections from the local level to the federal government will come together to make it easier for people to vote while protecting the integrity of the vote. Mr. Wright agreed that the discussion needs to be had, but the facts are needed before a decision can be made. Chairman Hicks replied that there needs to be change.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

There was no Attorney's Report

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

**Chairman Hicks:** Chairman Hicks stated that a reply to Mr. Sullivan needed to be sent based on the Board discussion. Director Jones indicated he would send the reply.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the September 26, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Lester being absent from the vote.

The Board of Elections meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

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Floyd L. Jones, Director

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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 24th day of October 2017. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.

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Floyd L. Jones, Director