

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L Jones, Director
April Crosby, Elections Supervisor
Brian Hill, County Registrar



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

AGENDA

March 29, 2018
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.

Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order

Approval of the Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the February 27, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes. **(Pages 1-7)**

PUBLIC HEARING:

2. 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. **(Pages 8-9)**
3. 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 felons. **(Pages 10-11)**

CONSENT AGENDA:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Discussion concerning extending advanced in-person (early voting) voting hours for primaries, runoffs, and general elections. **(Pages 12-15)**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE	<input type="text" value="03/29/2018"/>	AGENDA ITEM #	<input type="text" value="Approval of Minutes #1"/>
PRESENTER(S)	<input type="text" value="Floyd L. Jones, Director"/>		
TYPE OF REQUEST	<input type="text" value="Minutes"/>		

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

Consideration of staff's request to approve the February 27, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(3)(B) reads: The regular minutes of a meeting subject to this chapter shall be promptly recorded and such records shall be open to public inspection once approved as official by the agency or its committee, but in no case later than immediately following its next regular meeting; provided, however, that nothing contained in this chapter shall prohibit the earlier release of minutes, whether approved by the agency or not. Such minutes shall, at a minimum, include the names of the members present at the meeting, a description of each motion or other proposal made, the identity of the person making and seconding the motion or other proposal, and a record of all votes. The name of each person voting for or against a proposal shall be recorded. It shall be presumed that the action taken was approved by each person in attendance unless the minutes reflect the name of the persons voting against the proposal or abstaining.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Approve the February 27, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Addison Lester, Chairman
Darryl Hicks
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L Jones, Director
April Crosby, Elections Supervisor
Patrick Stough, Assistant County Attorney



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES

February 27, 2018
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.

Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order

Chairman Hicks called the February 27, 2018 Board of Elections meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Lester moved to approve the Agenda as published. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION:

1. Election of Chairman to the Fayette County Board of Elections.

Chairman Hicks stated that every two years the Board selects a Chairman to represent the Board for a two-year period. He then moved to select Mr. Addison Lester as Chairman of the Board of Elections. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Hicks turned the gavel over to Chairman Lester.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one spoke during public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Consideration of staff's request to approve the January 23, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the January 23, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There were no items for Public Hearing.

Director Jones stated that he had received a list of deceased citizens but had not had an opportunity to review the list. He stated that the deceased list would be on the March Agenda. He added that there was no election to be held prior to March.

Director Jones stated that no felon list had been provided to him for February.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda items for approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were no Old Business items for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Review of the current Fayette County Board of Elections' Bylaws.

Chairman Lester stated that the Board wanted to review the by-laws every February, however, they were recently approved in October 2017. He asked the Board if there were any changes.

Mr. Wright suggested that the wording in the by-laws needed to be amended to reference which County Code of Ethics was in use by the by-laws. Assistant County Attorney Patrick Stough replied that as far as he was aware the Code of Ethics provided with the by-laws was the most current code.

Chairman Lester observed that the County Code of Ethics, on page 3, stated that it applied to those appointed by the Board of Commissioners. He pointed out that he is the only person on the Board who is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and that the other two members were possibly ratified. Director Jones briefly explained the process for those appointed to the Board of Elections from a County Commission perspective stating that the political appointees were acknowledged as appointments.

Assistant County Attorney Patrick Stough stated that the Board of Election's vote to approve the by-laws as written assumed that the Board would abide by the county's Code of Ethics.

Mr. Hicks moved to ratify the Board of Election's By-Laws. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

4. Consideration of staff's recommendation to approve Poll Managers for the May 22, 2018 General Primary Election and the July 24, 2018 Primary Runoff Election.

Director Jones stated that a list of poll managers had been provided to the Board through the Agenda packet as required by Georgia Law and the By-Laws. He stated that those highlighted in green were new poll managers and the one in yellow was currently a poll manager but may change due to health matters.

Chairman Lester asked what the notes next to the poll managers' first names meant. Director Jones replied that the notes were Election Supervisor April Crosby's internal notes pertaining to the qualifications of those recommended to be poll managers.

Mr. Hicks asked how poll managers were selected. Director Jones replied that the selection of poll managers goes back a number of years, but that, usually, poll managers are picked after they come through the ranks as clerks and assistant managers. He added there was not a truly scientific manner of picking poll managers and that generally they are selected after expressing interest of being in the position.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the poll managers' list. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

5. Discussion of House Bills 680 and 848 and of Senate Bills 59 and 403.

Director Jones gave a high-level overview of House Bills 680 and 848 and of Senate Bill 403. He mentioned that Senate Bill 59 was a bill to move toward paper balloting, but that it did not have the same priority behind it as Senate Bill 403 had. He further explained how paper balloting could differ from the current electronic balloting based on a demonstration provided by ES&S.

Chairman Lester added that during the demonstration given a week ago, it was noted that House Bill 680 appeared to have been drafted by one of the vendors promoting paper balloting, and as a result it had a potential of shutting out competing vendors.

The Board reviewed a draft letter to be sent to Fayette County's Legislative Delegation that opposed House Bill 680 and supported Senate Bill 403 with certain changes made during a recent state committee meeting.

The Board accepted the draft letter as written, agreed for the letter to be mailed to the county's Legislative Delegation, and asked Director Jones to email them an official copy. The Board did not vote on this matter. A copy of this request, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

6. Discussion concerning the May 22, 2018 General Primary Election.

Director Jones gave a high-level review of the upcoming May 22, 2018 Primary Election pertaining to machines, mandatory Saturday voting, election machines, and staffing requests. The information that was discussed was provided to the Board in the Agenda packet. Discussion followed.

The Board directed Mr. Jones to return to the March Board of Elections meeting with recommendations on expanding voting hours during the three weeks of early voting. Special consideration was given to the possibility of expanding voting hours during the third week. Mr. Jones replied he would return with recommendations.

The Board consented to accept the report provided by Director Jones. No vote was taken. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 4," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- A. Next Board of Elections Meeting Date:** Director Jones reminded the Board that the next Board of Elections' meeting will be held on Thursday, March 29 at 5:00 p.m. in order to accommodate the upcoming GEOA / VRAG Conference.
- B. GEOA / VRAG Joint Conference:** Director Jones reminded the Board that the GEOA / VRAG Joint Conference will be held from March 25 through March 28, 2018. He added that he would email itineraries to the Board members when available.
- C. Qualifying for Office:** Director Jones reminded the Board that qualifying for local office will begin on Monday, March 5, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., and then from Tuesday, March 6 through Thursday, March 8 qualifying would continue from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. He added that qualifying would end at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 9, 2018. He stated that those who want to run for the offices of County Commissioner or Board of Education would qualify at the local party offices. He concluded that those running for the office of State Court Judge need to qualify at the Election's Office.

- D. **Primary Runoff Election Update:** Director Jones reminded the Board that during the January 2018 Board of Elections meeting, he spoke about the possibility of dual elections being necessary if there was a runoff election in July. One runoff election would be for federal candidates and the other runoff election would be for all other candidates. He stated that he had a recent conversation with the Secretary of State's Office during which the Secretary of State's Office indicated it may have found a solution to the dual election problem. Director Jones reported that he then asked if that solution would solve dual elections when municipal / county elections occur and he was told by the Secretary of State's Office that the solution was promising for all such scenarios.
- E. **Automatically Renewing ES&S Contract:** Director Jones stated that the Elections Department has a contract with ES&S for software. He stated that the contract expires each year and requires staff from both departments to revisit the issue. He stated that he had worked with the Purchasing Department and the contract has been amended to be automatically renewable for the next five years, meaning both staff will not have to "reinvent the wheel every year."
- F. **Elections Website:** Director Jones reminded the Board that during the January 2018 Board of Elections meeting, Mr. Wright stated some at the Republican Party mentioned there was conflicting or confusing information on the website. Mr. Jones reported that he had reviewed the website and made updates to it. He acknowledged that there is still some information from 2017 on the website only because there is no information at this time that would replace the 2017 information. He suspected that some of older information would be replaced in the near future as fresher information becomes available.
- G. **Poll Worker / Absentee Worker Applications:** Director Jones informed the Board that Elections Supervisor April Crosby has completed her Management Development Project by creating and posting poll worker and absentee worker applications on the website. He stated that this effort would provide a greater opportunity for citizens to apply for and be appointed to those positions, and he was looking forward to its prosperous results.
- H. **Electronic Voter Registration:** Director Jones informed the Board that prior to leaving employment, former County Registrar Leigh Combs was able to convert the Voter Registration filing system from a hybrid electronic / paper filing system to a full electronic filing system with redundant information being stored both in E-Net and AXS. He explained that the Information Technology Department has confirmed that there are contingencies on retrieving information stored on county computers. He further added that E-Net is a program maintained by the Secretary of State's Office.
- I. **National Change of Addresses / In-County Change of Address:** Director Jones said he first learned of this initiative after Mr. Hicks sent an email from NPR regarding a lawsuit involving Fulton County. He explained that he later found out that the problems being faced by Fulton County were actually statewide problems. He stated that the basic problem was in receiving changes of addresses from the post offices pertaining to "within-county" movers that resulted in some people on the voter registration list who were registered at one address when they reside at a different county address. Director Jones reported that the Secretary of State is working with the post offices and had provided the counties with National Change of Address Changes for Within-County Movers. He concluded that Fayette County had updated approximately 250 voter records based on the information provided.
- J. **Simplifying the Budget:** Director Jones reported he had been in a very brief meeting with Chief Financial Officer Mary Parrott regarding ways to possibly simplify the department's budget. He stated that many departmental budgets had one line item for expenses, but the Elections budget had several line items for the same types of expenses. He explained that the current budget's structure was done at a time when questions regarding how much an election cost could not be answered in a timely basis, but he concluded that that time was over.

K. Municipalities Invoiced for the 2017 Elections: Director Jones reported that the following jurisdictions were billed for the November Elections and, when necessary, the runoff:

- a. Fayette County Board of Education . . . \$43,333.26
- b. City of Fayetteville . . . \$2,300.00
- c. Town of Tyrone . . . \$1,147.02
- d. City of Peachtree City (election and runoff) . . . \$15,110.09

He continued reporting that the aggregate billing total for all four jurisdictions was \$61,890.37. He informed the Board that the Finance Department reported all jurisdictions, with the exception of Tyrone, have paid their invoice, meaning \$60,890.37 has been reimbursed to the county. The funds are not returned to the Elections budget but are returned to the General Fund in the "Municipal Handling Fee" account.

L. Board of Commissioners Retreat: Director Jones reported that the Elections Department, along with all county departments, has been asked to give a fifteen minute presentation to the Board of Commissioners during the upcoming Retreat. This will be a time to discuss the department's purpose, 2018 accomplishments, projects / goals in 2019, the county's budget (provided by Finance), and 2019 budget requests including personnel changes / requests; contracts; or significant asset or equipment changes. The presentation will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 and Elections is the second department on the docket to give its presentation.

M. County Registrar Position: Director Jones reminded the Board that the Elections Department had twenty-eight people apply for the position of County Registrar. Last Friday, both he and County Clerk Tameca White interviewed six of the candidates and selected two for a second interview. He said the second interviews are currently set for this Friday, March 2 beginning at 2 o'clock for the first candidate and 3 o'clock for the second candidate. This has been an operation in juggling schedules and trying to make it as accommodating as possible for everyone.

N. Departmental Budget Due Date: Director Jones informed the Board that the department's budget will be due by March 23, 2018 and so his attention will soon be going to developing the budget.

O. Fayette County Historical Society: Director Jones stated that several weeks ago the Elections Department was contacted for records. He said the records were found dating all the way back to the 1970s. He explained that had the county followed the retention schedule for those records then the records would have been destroyed a long time ago. He further explained that the records did not have redactable information, but did provide some history of Fayette County regarding how the county voted for offices ranging from President of the United States to city council. He informed the Board that he provided those records to the Fayette County Historical Society for keeping and that he intended to continue providing such records as they are found or become available.

P. Machinery Repair: Director Jones stated that he had been told that from time to time the Tech Team would ask to go to the Elections Trailer to make a review and repair of the elections machinery. He said the answer the team received was always, "There's not enough time," or "There's not enough budget." Mr. Jones stated that he was a big believer that if there are no machines or broken machines then there is no election. He stated that he authorized the Tech Team to go to the trailer, assess the equipment, and make repairs as able. He reported that apart from two DREs and two Express Polls, all machines were repaired. The ones that are not repaired have to be shipped to Texas for repair. He concluded that the Tech Team was "singing praises" for the ability to get this work accomplished.

Q. Twiddling Thumbs: Director Jones stated that when he came to the Elections Department someone told him all he would do was twiddle his thumbs. He suggested that person did not know what they were talking about.

R. Congratulations and Thank You: Director Jones congratulated Mr. Lester for becoming Chairman and he thanked Mr. Hicks for working with him during his time as Chairman.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Campaign Disclosures: Mr. Hicks mentioned that he has been questioned about campaign disclosures and, as a result, he wanted to know what kind of training staff received with regard to the responsibilities of filing campaign disclosures. Director Jones replied that the State of Georgia provides training on the topic all the time and even asks for opportunities to conduct training. He said Marie Bazille from Ethics came to Fayette County last year to give training. He explained that there this is an on-going learning process and that he is often on the phone with Georgia Ethics asking questions and getting clarity. He further explained that he maintains a list of who is required to provide campaign disclosure reports on his computer and he is in contact with all elected officials about their requirements. He also confirmed that there are some campaign disclosure reports that have a grace period for those who turn in their reports late and there are other campaign disclosure reports that do not have any grace period associated with them.

"What is important to us?": Chairman Lester asked the Board what was important to it with regard to hiring the County Registrar such as "bench strength to succeed Floyd" or "just strong bench strength period." Mr. Hicks stated that, in his opinion, when the Board looks at a person at the level of County Registrar, which is a supervisory level, then that person needs to be able to move into the next level. Mr. Wright added that he wanted someone who could step into the director's role if need be while being able to know all jobs. He said someone who has leadership skills was what he was really wanting to have as well as someone who could "think outside the box." Director Jones commented that he does not like the phrase "think outside the box" so much only because even the phrase is outdated, but rather he would have someone who could blow up the box. Chairman Lester and the Board stated they were looking forward to meeting the candidates on Friday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the February 27, 2018 Board of Elections Meeting. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The February 27, 2018 Board of Elections Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Director

Addison Lester, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 29th day of March 2018. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.

Floyd L. Jones, Director

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE	<input type="text" value="03/29/2018"/>	AGENDA ITEM #	<input type="text" value="Public Hearing #2"/>
PRESENTER(S)	<input type="text" value="Brian Hill, Registrar"/>		
TYPE OF REQUEST	<input type="text" value="Public Hearing"/>		

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

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.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

O.C.G.A. 21-2-228(d) and 21-2-231 provide instructions pertaining to the removal of registered voters from an Electors List.

The Secretary of State's Office provides monthly reports to county offices detailing deceased voters. This request is based the information provided from the Secretary of State's Office. Families are notified by an official letter informing them of the removal of these electors.

Each person in question has been notified of this meeting via first-class mail as required by law.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Conduct Public Hearing on 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.

GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

CANCELLED VOTERS-VITALS For week of 03/19/2018

Cancelled Date	Status with Reason	Last Name	First Name	Suffix	Race	Gender	Residence Address	Voter Registration #
03/21/2018	Cancelled Deceased	LIAO	BERNITA		Asian or Pacific Islander	FEMALE	808 SMOKEY WAY PEACHTREE CITY GA 30269-3380	07825726
03/21/2018	Cancelled Deceased	SCOTT	THOMAS		Unknown	MALE	2413 PARK AVE PEACHTREE CITY GA 30269-2985	08072231
03/21/2018	Cancelled Deceased	VALOIS	BETTY		Unknown	FEMALE	2185 CASTLE LAKE DR TYRONE GA 30290	10502479
03/21/2018	Cancelled Deceased	WILLIAMS	ASTON		Unknown	MALE	300 BROOKWOOD DR PEACHTREE CITY GA 30269	10495042

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE	<input type="text" value="03/29/2018"/>	AGENDA ITEM #	<input type="text" value="Public Hearing #3"/>
PRESENTER(S)	<input type="text" value="Brian Hill, Registrar"/>		
TYPE OF REQUEST	<input type="text" value="Public Hearing"/>		

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

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 felons.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

O.C.G.A. 21-2-228(d) and 21-2-231 provide instructions pertaining to the removal of registered voters from an Electors List.

The Secretary of State's Office provides monthly reports to county offices detailing registered felons. This request is based the information provided from the Secretary of State's Office. Families are notified by an official letter informing them of the removal of these electors.

Each person in question has been notified of this meeting via first-class mail as required by law.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Conduct Public Hearing on 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 felons.

CANCELLED FELONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Reg#</u>	<u>SSN#</u>	<u>Residence Address</u>
Donnel J. Alves	10635959	9889	145 Hunters LN Fayetteville, GA 30215
Michael L. Graves	00098573	7439	215 Eastin RD Fayetteville, GA 30214
David A. McElroy	11288358	5326	114 Ridgeview CT Peachtree City, GA 30269
Matthew R. Vaughn	07536898	9964	218 Milam RD Fayetteville, GA 30214

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE	<input type="text" value="03/29/2018"/>	AGENDA ITEM #	<input type="text" value="New Business #4"/>
PRESENTER(S)	<input type="text" value="Floyd L. Jones, Director"/>		
TYPE OF REQUEST	<input type="text" value="New Business"/>		

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

Discussion concerning extending voting hours advanced in-person (early voting) voting for primaries, runoffs, and general elections.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

Periodically there are questions and requests to expand voting hours during absentee in-person voting.

This is an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of expanding hours.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Discussion concerning extending voting hours advanced in-person (early voting) voting for primaries, runoffs, and general elections. The Board is asked to make a decision on this matter.

March 23, 2018

To: Fayette County Election Board Members

From: Floyd L. Jones, Director of Elections and Voter Registration

RE: EXTENDING VOTING HOURS FOR PRIMARIES, RUNOFF, and GENERAL ELECTIONS

Toward the beginning of advanced in-person elections for the 2016 General Election, the Board considered extending voting hours. This prompted a study from then County Elections Officer Leigh Combs and County Clerk Floyd Jones about what results would come from extending voting hours. Together, the decision was that extending voting hours was not recommended based on the following findings:

- 1) Citizens are already able to vote 49 days in advance of the election without any reason given. This opportunity comes by absentee-in-person, absentee-by-mail, mandatory Saturday voting for federal and state elections, and voting on Election Day from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.
- 2) The higher profile elections have a greater percentage of voter turnout than lesser profile elections, demonstrating that the voting public will make efforts to vote if so inclined.
- 3) Fayette County has a greater average of voter turnout than nearly any other county in Georgia during elections.
 - a) In the 2016 Presidential Election, for instance, Fayette County had the 12th highest voter turnout (70.78%) of 158 counties.
 - b) Ten of the eleven counties ahead of Fayette have an average of 12,115 voters. The remaining county, Forsyth, came in 9th place with 71.37% turnout. (99,434 out of 139,329 voted.) The county with the highest percentage turnout was Morgan County (74.79%) with 9,587 voting out of 12,818 registered voters.
 - c) The average Georgia county had 63.83% turnout. Henry County had 65.09% turnout and Gwinnett County had 62.86% turnout. Both Henry and Gwinnett Counties have additional hours for early voting.
 - d) If voting was expanded by an hour a day for five days, Fayette County would have to capture 701 voters each additional hour to match to percentage turnout made by Morgan County. If voting was expanded by two hours a day for five days, then it would have to capture 351 voters each extra hour to match the Morgan County- which had the highest percentage turnout in the state during the presidential election. Fayette County's actual average in the General Primary of 2016 was 309 voters per hour. Even if Fayette County met Morgan County's average turnout, there would still be more than 25% of Fayette County's voters who would not take the opportunity to vote.
- 4) The cost to capture additional voters increases per vote for the additional allotted hour.

- a) In the 2016 General Election, the average Absentee-In Person turnout was 2,473 daily on an eight hour day (309 per hour). The average expense per day was \$2,059 meaning the county spent about \$0.83 per vote.
 - b) If an additional hour is given at a cost of \$326.25 (due to overtime) then the cost per vote, at 309 votes an hour, increases to \$1.06 per vote. Any vote less than 309 increases the cost per vote. For instance 200 votes cost \$1.63 each. 100 votes cost \$3.26 each.
- 5) Staggering operating hours, such as Monday, Wednesday, Friday, can and will lead to voter confusion.

Since the recommendation was given in 2016, there has been continual interest in expanding voting hours. This request has come, at various times, from board members, audience members, and a current County Commissioner. While all voices are significant, out of a county of nearly 112,000 people, there are only a handful who have asked for longer voting hours. In 2017, despite four elections including two county-wide elections, the Elections staff received virtually no phone calls or emails from the public asking for extended hours.

If an additional hour for five days is approved, the aggregate cost is approximately \$1,632. There are significant questions about whether extending an additional hour would meet the intended need, however, since driving from Atlanta or other locations- especially depending on traffic- could take more than an hour based on the assumption that the voter leaves on time and makes a direct path from his/her employment to the vote center.

If extending hours is preferred by the Board, the following questions must be answered:

- 1) Are all elections, regardless of size or scope, to be treated the same? If no, then based on what criteria?
- 2) What are the expected results for remaining open longer- especially in view of Fayette County's already higher than average turnout?
- 3) How will it be determined if the extra hour(s) are successful?
- 4) How does staying longer affect the temporary staff who are mostly comprised of older and elderly workers?
- 5) Two of the early voting locations are in Public Meeting Rooms (Fayetteville and Tyrone.) How will expanding voting conflict with other public meetings?
- 6) The last day of early voting includes finalizing and sending information to the State of Georgia in order to prepare the Elector's List for the immediate Saturday in order to complete bulk uploading. Expanded hours on this day will delay getting information to the State and will have unforeseen consequences on getting information back from the state on a timely basis in preparation for Election Day. How does that impact preparing for Election Day?

Conclusion:

Staff does not see the need to expand voting hours and is uncertain what results, if any, are expected if hours are expanded. Fundamentally, Georgia has three weeks of early voting, a mandatory Saturday for federal and state elections, and absentee-by-mail with no excuse voting. Georgia is one of 37 states that allow for these types of accesses to the polls. The remaining 13 states are not as generous. Of the counties in Georgia, Fayette County is in the top 8% for turnout. It is difficult to see how longer hours would, in fact, make a significant difference to voter turnout.

However, if the Board chooses to expand voting hours, given the only reason provided thus far is it would allow those traveling from Atlanta to have a better chance to vote, and provided that traveling from Atlanta may take longer than an hour, then the suggestion is to consider remaining open two additional hours a day for a week during the first week of early voting at a cost of at approximately \$3,300.00 per week.

(It is noted that the current FY2018 budget does not include funding for an additional hour. The proposed FY2109 budget does have funding requested for this possibility.)