

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Addison Lester, Chairman
Darryl Hicks
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Elections Office, Suite 208
Fayetteville, GA 30214

ACTION AGENDA

August 27, 2019
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 Lester called August 27, 2019 Board of Elections Meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one spoke during Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the July 23, 2019 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the July 23, 2019 Minutes. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

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.

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 Voter Registration System as deceased. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

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.

It was noted that the list of felons was unusually lengthy due to the backlog from the State.

Chairman Lester moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove 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. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda Items.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Update concerning polling locations for Precinct #33- Camp Creek.

Director Jones updated the Board on the ongoing efforts to find a suitable polling location for Precinct #33- Camp Creek. He reported there were several attempts to contact the Apostolic Church in Peachtree City but the church had not replied to those attempts. He reminded the Board that Southside Church had considered being a polling location but ultimately decided against it. He reported that Carriage Lane Presbyterian Church and Peachtree City United Methodist Church had considered and turned down opportunity due to the number of potential elections and the disruption the elections would have on their ministries.

Mr. Jones pointed out that other locations identified by GPS did not appear to be suitable for election purposes. He asked for the Board's direction while suggesting potential remedies being a potential consolidation of Precincts #20 and 33. He explained that the consolidation would not create a greater impact since currently- the Precinct #20 polling location is already co-hosting Precinct #33's voters. He added that the consolidation would in fact make it easier for everyone voting in Evergreen Church (Precinct #20) since there would only be one or two lines- depending on dual elections- versus the current two to four lines. Mr. Jones added that it may be a good idea to increase the amount of pay to Evergreen Church since they are taking on the additional number of voters. He further pointed out that if Evergreen Church was lost as a polling location then the problems in that area for finding a suitable polling location would be compounded.

After discussion, the Board directed that Mr. Jones approach the assisted living facility at the intersection of Peachtree Parkway and Crosstown Road to see if it would be a suitable polling location. The Board further directed that staff contact the State's Reapportionment Office to see if the two precincts could be consolidated and/or if Precinct #33 could be divided into the surrounding precincts. The Board did not vote on this matter. A copy of this request, identified as "Attachment 3," follow these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Discussion concerning Precinct 17- Oak Grove.

Director Jones informed the Board that the Board of Education is expected to contract for reconstruction at Oak Grove Elementary School (Precinct #17.) The reconstruction is anticipated to begin in the coming weeks and be concluded during the summer of 2020 in time for next year's fall schedule to begin. He said the school contacted the Elections Office regarding the potential lack of parking this construction effort would involve. He said Elections staff met with Board of Education officials along with the principal and vice-principal of Oak Grove Elementary. He said a mutual agreement was made- pending legal approval- for the following measures to take place:

- 1) The Board of Elections and the Board of Education would partner together to encourage the voters assigned to Precinct 17 to vote early- thus reducing the number of voters coming to the school. This public campaign could be fliers printed by the school and sent home with students as well as placing the notice on Facebook and other social media outlets.
- 2) Request a second Deputy Sheriff to help direct traffic.

- 3) Create signs to be placed at areas designated for handicapped parking.
- 4) School Board staff will place temporary markers in the parking lot that will help create additional parking
- 5) A potential of a golf cart being utilized to drive voters from the back of the school to the front of the school. Mr. Jones added he was concerned about the liability of this particular request.

The Election Board agreed that the measures sounded good pending legal agreement. The Board also commended the Board of Education and Oak Grove Elementary for notifying Elections staff as soon as possible. The Board did not provide specific direction and did not vote on this matter.

6. Discussion concerning new statewide voting machines.

Director Jones stated that he was hired to work in Elections based, in part, on his ability to bring needed change to the operations. He further added that he has a track record both in Elections and in other roles of bringing changes. He said he is not opposed to change so long as it makes sense. He said that from his perspective, the state paid \$90 million or more on a system that fundamentally could be accomplished with a paper ballot and a ball point pen.

Mr. Jones then spoke about his concerns of the new voting machines approved by the state. He said his concerns could be alleviated if needed information was provided, however, needful information is being withheld or is very slow in coming. He explained that the new machines will required much more storage than is currently available and that the cost to conduct elections-based on the purchase of paper ballot stock and toner alone (not to mention other needs) will increase dramatically. He added that even the cost of stands to place the machines are will cost significant amounts of money.

Mr. Jones added that what makes this matter even more complicated is the federal court order that requires the state to have all 159 counties in Georgia to be fully equipped, trained, and ready to conduct the Presidential Primary Election in March 2020. He said that if that goal is not reached by the state then the federal order is for the state to enact paper balloting. He said, based on that order, there is a real possibility that the county could spend an incredible amount of money in preparations only to see the work and taxpayers' money wasted.

Mr. Jones emphasized that he might be persuaded to be the biggest fan of the new election system, but that his doubts and concerns are growing with the noticeable lack of available information. Discussion followed.

The Board directed that Mr. Jones write up a worst-case scenario to provide to County Administration, followed by a meeting with the County Administrator, Chairman Lester, and Mr. Jones in an effort to prepare for the coming changes. The Board further stated it wanted more information that might be provided at a voter education conference being held the next week. There was a suggestion that the Fayette Elections Board partner with other Election Boards with similar concerns in order to send a unified message to the Secretary of State's Office- however, that suggestion was sidelined until more information is available. The Board did not vote on this matter.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Special Called Election- District 71: Director Jones reported that 1,514 people have cast ballots through the close of business on August 26. He said 1,406 votes have been cast in Coweta County and 108 in Fayette County. He reminded Peggy Hamm and Aaron Wright that they were appointed by their respective political parties' observers in the Election and that they need to report to the Elections Office at 7:00 p.m.

Election Records: Mr. Jones reported that Election records in storage are in order. Those that are past the retention date will be inspected by the Grand Jury and destroyed per the Grand Jury's order. This is a big deal that has taken some time to accomplish. He mentioned that County Registrar Brian Hill and his team accomplished the work on the hottest day in three years, and that he was grateful for their work.

Municipal Qualifying: Director Jones stated that qualifying week had ended for the 2019 Municipal Elections, and that the names of those who qualified were provided to the Board. He added that one candidate for Peachtree City, Chad Kidwell, had provided a notarized affidavit stating he was removing himself from consideration.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Every Vote Must Count Voter Education Forum: Mr. Wright asked Ms. Brenda Cox to provide information on the Every Vote Must County Voter Education Forum. Ms. Cox stated that the forum will be conducted in partnership with the Fayette County Branch of the NAACP and the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce. She said it will take place at the Lafayette Educational Center- Sam's Auditorium on September 5, 2019 from 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. She said there may or may not be a presentation from Dominion Voting System's Corporation on the new voting equipment. She said State Elections Director Chris Harvey, Fayette County Board of Elections Chairman Addison Lester, and Douglas County's Director of Elections Milton Kidd will be in attendance. It was pointed out that Director Jones was slated to attend on a tentative basis due to family matters. Issues to be discussed at this forum include: voter rights and voting machine integrity, absentee ballots, provisional ballots, and new voting machines... Mr. Wright commended Ms. Cox for her hard work in this effort.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the August 27, 2019 Board of Elections meeting. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The August 27, 2019 Board of Elections meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Director