

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
Elections Office, Suite 208
Fayetteville, GA 30214

ACTION AGENDA

February 25, 2020
6:00 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 the February 25, 2020 Board of Elections Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

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

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION:

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

Chairman Lester moved to appoint Mr. Darryl Hicks as Chairman of the Fayette County Board of Elections. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Hicks was appointed Chairman of the Fayette County Board of Elections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one spoke during Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Consideration of staff's request to approve the January 21, 2020 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Lester moved to approve the January 21, 2020 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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 deceased.

No one spoke during Public Hearing.

Mr. Lester moved to approve 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 seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

4. 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.

No one spoke during Public Hearing.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda Items.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were no Old Business Items.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The Board did not have any recommendations for amending the Bylaws. The Director suggested that language be added to the Bylaws that provide for a successor, such as a Vice Chairman, to operate as Chairman in the Chairman's absence. Discussion followed. The Board requested that the Director communicate with the County Attorney to add language to the Bylaws and to have the additional wording available for the Board's consideration at the next scheduled meeting.

6. Discussion about the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary, qualifying for local offices, and the General Primary.

Director Jones provided information to the Board regarding the upcoming dates for qualifying for office, the Absentee In Person (Early Voting Hours), and the Election dates. He stated that this request was only to provide information to the Board and that all information was available on the Elections website. The Board did not take action or provide direction on this matter.

7. Discussion about ongoing preparations for the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary.

Director Jones provided information to the Board regarding the preparations for the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary. He told the Board that the state had not provided enough equipment to meet the letter of the law with regard to the number of Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) required to go to each precinct. As a result, he had scaled back the number of machines, as needed, in order to provide every machine possible in an attempt to meet the law as best as able. He further pointed out that the state had not provided all of the needed Uninterrupted Power Supplies (UPSs) and as a result that could further limit how many BMDs could be delivered. It was noted that the state will provide additional equipment after the completion of the Presidential Preference Primary. Director Jones reported that most- not all- of the contractors' reports had been delivered. He stated that all but one indicated that each precinct had adequate security, met ADA requirements, and had enough electrical capability to power the machines. He mentioned that the report for Precinct #30 showed that the church had enough electrical power to run eight Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) even though the state requires thirteen to be deployed to the polling place. He stated that he had inquired if there were other locations in the precinct and found that the only other location that was a church, governmental building, or other appropriate site was the Fayetteville Police Department. He said a new search was underway to see if there was a location outside of the precinct that could handle the state requirement but at this point nothing had been

located. The Board asked Mr. Jones to provide an update as soon as possible if or when a location was discovered. Director Jones mentioned that he had requested additional Poll Pads in order to have the ability to “walk the line” of voters and to ensure they were in the proper precinct and to direct the voter to the appropriate precinct if necessary. The approval for additional Poll Pads are pending. Discussion followed. The Board did not take action on this matter and did not provide direction on this matter.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Status Report: Director Jones reported that Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing had been completed on all machines as possible. The L&A work would continue on Saturday, March 22, 2020 in final preparation for the Election on March 24, 2020. He noted that this testing differed from other Logic and Accuracy work since it involved nine to ten people to complete the work over a course of five days- including a Saturday- where with the discontinued equipment it took approximately five people 1 ½ days to complete the work. When asked if this was going to be the case with future L&A efforts, Director Jones replied it was too early to tell but he thought the process would be streamlined as the work was better understood with the new machinery. Director Jones emphasized that this work would not have been completed on a timely basis if not for the selfless efforts of Mr. Harry Truman and his wife, Mr. Harry Bolton, and several others. Mr. Jones concluded by stating that over the past two months in particular staff has been working extremely hard trying to meet the deadlines and requirements that come with a Presidential Preference Primary and rolling out new elections machinery under differing rules simultaneously. He encouraged anyone, when they have an opportunity, to take time to encourage the staff during this time.

Thank the Board: Director Jones thanked the Board for their work in promoting the new machines. He appreciated that the Board understood the time constraints that staff is under than that if the Board had not taken up the mantle of doing public displays of the equipment then it likely would not have been done.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Sumter County: Mr. Lester mentioned that Sumter County was in a lawsuit regarding the privacy of the machines. He was concerned that the machines may not be private in the small Absentee Voting Room and he said the issue came back to the need to use the large Public Meeting Room for voting. It was understood that the new machines are almost twice as wide as the older machines and, necessarily, require wider security shields to go around the machines. Director Jones replied that the state had provided guidance that the machines could be turned backwards- facing a wall- thus ensuring privacy. He reported that he had staged the room to meet the state recommendation and found that at best four to five machines could be placed in the room. He mentioned that the state's schematic showed only four voting machines in a room, however, he did not have a single precinct that allowed by law only four machines in a precinct. Director Jones concluded that he would do his very best to prevent privacy concerns while meeting state requirements, however, the task would be exceedingly difficult given the state's requirements to add multiple machines- up to 19 in one precinct- in rooms with limited space. Discussion followed. The Board did not take action or give direction on this matter.

Community Meetings: Chairman Hicks reported the community meetings were going well. He thanked Mr. Chris Price of the Secretary of State's Office for coming to the meetings. He said Mr. Price is an outstanding man who has a passion for teaching the community. Chairman Hicks also sent kudos to Brenda Cox and the NAACP for organizing a future community meeting at Flat Rock AME Church.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lester moved to adjourn the February 25, 2020 Board of Elections Meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The February 25, 2020 Board of Elections Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Director