

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L Jones, Director
April Crosby, Elections Supervisor
Agnes Bridges, County Registrar



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

MINUTES

July 13, 2020

4:00 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 Board of Elections meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Wright moved approve the Agenda and to add an additional public comment after the presentation of New Business #2 in order to give audience members the ability to speak to the matter. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one spoke during the first offer for Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the June 19, 2020 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the June 19, 2020 Minutes. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There was no Consent Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Discussion concerning the need to conduct Municipal Elections during the November General Election.

Director Jones gave a report on the issues surrounding holding a double Election in November and explained the limitations on both the county and the municipalities involving lack of equipment, staffing issues, physical space issues and other matters. He showed that purchasing and maintaining additional voting equipment was prohibitively expensive and thus was likely not an option. He then suggested there were three options to consider:

- a) Status Quo by reapportioning equipment.
- b) Municipalities conduct their own elections
- c) Request municipalities to use county precincts

Director Jones went over the pros and cons of each option.

Assistant County Attorney Patrick Stough spoke of some of his concerns on the matter. Fayetteville Manager Ray Gibson and Fayetteville City Clerk Anne Barksdale also spoke on the provided options- both indicating they favored the third option. Additional discussion followed.

Mr. Wright moved to proceed with the option to request municipalities to use county precincts. Mr. Lester 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.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Drop Boxes: Director Jones reported that the State Elections Board had extended its Emergency Ruling allowing for drop boxes to be deployed for the November. He stated that an Official Elections Bulletin would be provided by the Secretary of State giving additional guidance on the matter and that this issue would be coming to a future meeting.

Early Opening of Absentee by Mail Ballots: Director Jones reported that the State Elections Board had ruled on the early opening of Absentee by Mail (ABM) ballots for November. He understood this would allow the ABM ballots to be opened even earlier than what was permitted for the June Election. He reported that an Official Elections Bulletin would likewise be provided by the Secretary of State giving additional guidance on this ruling and that this issue would likely be coming to a future meeting.

Technicians Needed: Director Jones stated that there was still a need for Technicians for the November Election. He stated that since the beginning of the year, one technician had unfortunately passed away, another was dealing with a sick family member, and two others were staying home due to their concerns about Covid-19. He said the county has two technicians, one who is brand new and the other who does not technically work for the county. Discussion followed. Chairman Hicks stated that he was assured by the County Administrator that technical help would be provided by the Information Technology Department.

Felons: Director Jones spoke of ongoing issues concerning the removal of voters based on felon status. He said he is looking for solutions to the problem of potentially having voters removed from the voting rolls as a felon when, in fact, they may not be felons.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Voting Twice: Assistant County Attorney Patrick Stough reported that during the June meeting it was found that three voters had voted both Absentee by Mail and Absentee in Person, and as a result he was asked to look into the legal steps to be taken in this matter. Mr. Stough explained the potential penalties for voting twice but stated the only solution was for the Board to notify the Secretary of State. He explained this action could start an investigation of the voters, the poll workers, and possibly the Board of Elections.

Mr. Wright moved to notify the Secretary of State of this matter. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

There were no Board Members Reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lester moved to adjourn the July 13, 2020 Board of Elections meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The July 13, 2020 Board of Elections meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Director

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 August 2020. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.

Floyd L. Jones, Director