

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

AGENDA

August 25, 2020

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 July 13, 2020 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

2. Approval of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Brooks for the purpose of conducting the town's 2020 special municipal election and authorization for the Elections Director to attest said agreement.
3. Approval of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Tyrone for the purpose of conducting the town's 2020 special municipal election and authorization for the Elections Director to attest said agreement.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Consideration of staff's request to rescind the motion made on July 13, 2020 to request the municipalities to use county precincts.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Discussion concerning the use and implementation of drop boxes in Fayette County during the November 3, 2020 General Election and subsequent runoff elections.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE

08/25/2020

AGENDA ITEM #

1

PRESENTER(S)

Floyd L. Jones, Director

TYPE OF REQUEST

Minutes

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

Consideration of staff's request to approve the July 13, 2020 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 July 13, 2020 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE

08/25/2020

AGENDA ITEM #

2

PRESENTER(S)

Floyd L. Jones, Director

TYPE OF REQUEST

Consent

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

Approval of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Brooks for the purpose of conducting the town's 2020 special municipal election and authorization for the Elections Director to attest to said agreement.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

The Town of Brooks has one office available for election to fill an unexpired term. Historically, the town enters into Intergovernmental Agreements allowing the Fayette County Board of Elections and the Elections Office to conduct the municipality's elections.

Fayette County shall operate as superintendent of elections and shall perform any and all functions of the city in connection with the conduct of the elections. The city performs the duties pertaining to the qualification of candidates, acts as qualifying officer, and provides notification to the State Elections Commission concerning candidacy compliance. All charges, unless otherwise stated, are the responsibility of the city.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Approval of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Brooks for the purpose of conducting the town's 2020 special municipal election and authorization for the Elections Director to attest to said agreement.

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF FAYETTE

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR CONDUCTING MUNICIPAL
SPECIAL ELECTION**

This Agreement entered into this _____ day of _____ between the TOWN OF BROOKS, a municipal corporation lying wholly or partially within Fayette County, Georgia, hereinafter referred to as “The Town” and Fayette County, Georgia, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia hereinafter referred to as “The County”.

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the Town in the performance of its governmental functions will hold the special election hereinafter described; and,

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Georgia Election Code, particularly O.C.G.A. §21-2-45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the Town may, by ordinance, authorize the County to conduct such election and the Town has heretofore adopted such an ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the County has staff and equipment to conduct such election; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to assist said Town in the conduct of its municipal special election.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the premises contained herein, it is hereby agreed as follows:

1.

This Agreement shall govern the conduct of the Town of Brooks special election to be held on November 3, 2020.

2.

Fayette County through the Fayette County Board of Elections shall operate as superintendent of the aforementioned election and shall perform any and all functions of the Town or any of the Town's officials in connection with the conduct of such election with the exception of duties pertaining to the qualification of candidates and pertaining to the responsibility of acting as the Qualifying Officer and providing notification to the State Elections Commission concerning candidacy compliance.

3.

A Town official shall operate as the Superintendent with respect to qualifications of candidates. Such official shall perform any and all functions of the Town or any of its officials in connection with the qualifications of candidates in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(C)(2). Further, such official shall be responsible for acting as the Qualifying Officer and for notification to the State Elections Commission concerning candidacy compliance.

4.

The County shall supply all of the necessary manpower and transportation to pick up, deliver, set up, store and return to the County all of the voting equipment used in the election along with all ancillary equipment and necessary supplies.

5.

All the voting equipment shall be programmed by the County in conjunction with the office of the Secretary of State.

6.

All absentee ballots shall be ordered, issued, mailed, and accounted for by the County.

7.

Staffing of the polling locations and training of the staff shall be provided by the County.

8.

All expenses and charges incurred in the performance of said election (except for the actual cost of the State-owned voting system and State-owned ancillary equipment) shall be the responsibility of the Town. Said expenses and charges shall include but not be limited to the following: all costs of training and providing personnel for the election, costs of printing, mailing and processing absentee ballots, the costs of expendable supplies and a pro-rated maintenance cost for the voting equipment. An invoice for the costs and expenses of the election shall be submitted to the Town and the Town shall remit payment of the invoice to Fayette County within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

9.

To the extent permitted by law, the Town shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County from any liability and/or litigation expenses to which the County may be subjected as a consequence of or as a result of the election for the Town. The Town will furthermore, to the extent permitted by law, reimburse the County for any and all necessary legal representation, by counsel chosen by the County, in any action arising from the conduct of the Town election. Said reimbursement shall be paid by the Town within thirty days of invoice by the County.

10.

This intergovernmental contract is a full and complete statement of the agreement of the parties as to the subject matter hereof and has been authorized by proper action of the respective parties.

11.

Should any provision of this Agreement or application thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, other than those to which it is held

invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby, and each provision of this Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the full extent permitted by law.

12.

Should it be necessary to comply with any legal requirements, the necessary members of the County's personnel may be temporarily sworn in as officers and employees of the Town.

[SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

By: _____
Randy Ognio, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Attest:

TOWN OF BROOKS

By: _____
Daniel C. Langford, Mayor

Attest:

FAYETTE COUNTY ELECTIONS &
VOTER REGISTRATION

By: _____
Darryl Hicks, Chairman

Attest:

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE

08/25/2020

AGENDA ITEM #

3

PRESENTER(S)

Floyd L. Jones, Director

TYPE OF REQUEST

Consent

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

Approval of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Tyrone for the purpose of conducting the town's 2020 special municipal election and authorization for the Elections Director to attest said agreement.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

The Town of Tyrone has one office available for election to fill an unexpired term. Historically, the town enters into Intergovernmental Agreements allowing for the Fayette County Board of Elections and the Elections Office to conduct the municipality's elections.

Fayette County shall operate as superintendent of elections and shall perform any and all functions of the city in connection with the conduct of elections. The city performs the duties pertaining to the qualification of candidates, acting as compliance officer, and provides notification to the State Elections Commission concerning candidacy compliance. All charges, unless otherwise stated, are the responsibility of the city.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Approval of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Tyrone for the purpose of conducting the town's 2020 special municipal election and authorization for the Elections Director to attest said agreement.

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF FAYETTE

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR CONDUCTING MUNICIPAL
SPECIAL ELECTION**

This Agreement entered into this _____ day of _____ between the TOWN OF TYRONE, a municipal corporation lying wholly or partially within Fayette County, Georgia, hereinafter referred to as “The Town” and Fayette County, Georgia, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia hereinafter referred to as “The County”.

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the Town in the performance of its governmental functions will hold the special election hereinafter described; and,

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Georgia Election Code, particularly O.C.G.A. §21-2-45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the Town may, by ordinance, authorize the County to conduct such election and the Town has heretofore adopted such an ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the County has staff and equipment to conduct such election; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to assist said Town in the conduct of its municipal special election.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the premises contained herein, it is hereby agreed as follows:

1.

This Agreement shall govern the conduct of the Town of Tyrone special election to be held on November 3, 2020.

2.

Fayette County through the Fayette County Board of Elections shall operate as superintendent of the aforementioned election and shall perform any and all functions of the Town or any of the Town's officials in connection with the conduct of such election with the exception of duties pertaining to the qualification of candidates and pertaining to the responsibility of acting as the Qualifying Officer and providing notification to the State Elections Commission concerning candidacy compliance.

3.

A Town official shall operate as the Superintendent with respect to qualifications of candidates. Such official shall perform any and all functions of the Town or any of its officials in connection with the qualifications of candidates in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(C)(2). Further, such official shall be responsible for acting as the Qualifying Officer and for notification to the State Elections Commission concerning candidacy compliance.

4.

The County shall supply all of the necessary manpower and transportation to pick up, deliver, set up, store and return to the County all of the voting equipment used in the election along with all ancillary equipment and necessary supplies.

5.

All the voting equipment shall be programmed by the County in conjunction with the office of the Secretary of State.

6.

All absentee ballots shall be ordered, issued, mailed, and accounted for by the County.

7.

Staffing of the polling locations and training of the staff shall be provided by the County.

8.

All expenses and charges incurred in the performance of said election (except for the actual cost of the State-owned voting system and State-owned ancillary equipment) shall be the responsibility of the Town. Said expenses and charges shall include but not be limited to the following: all costs of training and providing personnel for the election, costs of printing, mailing and processing absentee ballots, the costs of expendable supplies and a pro-rated maintenance cost for the voting equipment. An invoice for the costs and expenses of the election shall be submitted to the Town and the Town shall remit payment of the invoice to Fayette County within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

9.

To the extent permitted by law, the Town shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County from any liability and/or litigation expenses to which the County may be subjected as a consequence of or as a result of the election for the Town. The Town will furthermore, to the extent permitted by law, reimburse the County for any and all necessary legal representation, by counsel chosen by the County, in any action arising from the conduct of the Town election. Said reimbursement shall be paid by the Town within thirty days of invoice by the County.

10.

This intergovernmental contract is a full and complete statement of the agreement of the parties as to the subject matter hereof and has been authorized by proper action of the respective parties.

11.

Should any provision of this Agreement or application thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, other than those to which it is held

invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby, and each provision of this Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the full extent permitted by law.

12.

Should it be necessary to comply with any legal requirements, the necessary members of the County's personnel may be temporarily sworn in as officers and employees of the Town.

[SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

By: _____
Randy Ognio, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Attest:

TOWN OF TYRONE

By: _____
Eric Dial, Mayor

Attest:

FAYETTE COUNTY ELECTIONS &
VOTER REGISTRATION

By: _____
Darryl Hicks, Chairman

Attest:

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE

08/25/2020

AGENDA ITEM #

4

PRESENTER(S)

Floyd L. Jones, Director

TYPE OF REQUEST

New Business

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

Approval of staff's recommendation to rescind the motion made on July 13, 2020 asking the counties to consider utilizing county precincts for municipal elections.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

On July 13, 2020, the Board of Elections met to consider how to meet county and municipal election needs based on the new Elections laws and equipment. Per guidance provided by the state, the Board voted to ask the cities to utilize county precincts when conducting municipal elections.

Following the vote, the state provided legal guidance that prohibits the county and municipalities from using county precincts for municipal elections. Based on that guidance, staff requests the Board resend its motion made on July 13.

Additional consideration needs to be made on how to conduct future county / municipal elections.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Approval of staff's recommendation to rescind the motion made on July 13, 2020 asking the counties to consider utilizing county precincts for municipal elections.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE	<input type="text" value="08/25/2020"/>	AGENDA ITEM #	<input type="text" value="5"/>
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 the use and implementation of drop boxes in Fayette County during the November 3, 2020 General Election and subsequent runoff elections.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

The State Elections Board adopted Rule 183-1-14-0.6-14- Secure Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes as an Emergency Rule that allowed the voters to drop off their Absentee by Mail (ABM) ballots at specified locations that are secure and have video surveillance. At the April 28, 2020 Board of Elections Meeting, the Board unanimously voted against providing drop boxes.

The State Elections Board has now extended the order allowing for drop boxes to be utilized for the November 3, 2020 Election and subsequent runoff elections.

This item is to discuss the use of said drop boxes and how to implement if desired.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Staff needs direction on how to proceed with the matter of utilizing drop boxes in Fayette County for the November 3, 2020 General Election and subsequent runoff elections.

**RULES
OF
STATE ELECTION BOARD**

**CHAPTER 183-1
GEORGIA ELECTION CODE**

**SUBJECT 183-1-14
ABSENTEE VOTING**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

183-1-14-0.8-.14 Secure Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes

RULE 183-1-14-0.8-.14 Secure Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes

(1) County registrars are authorized to establish one or more drop box locations as a means for absentee by mail electors to deliver their ballots to the county registrars. Placing a voted absentee ballot into the drop box shall be deemed delivery pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385 and is subject to the limitations on who may deliver a ballot on behalf of an elector.

(2) A drop box shall only be located on county or municipal government property generally accessible to the public.

(3) Drop box locations may open beginning 49 days before Election Day and shall close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. On Election Day, every drop box shall be closed and ballots collected at 7:00 p.m. Prior to opening a drop box for a new election, the registrar shall ensure that the drop box is empty. Any person acting on behalf of the registrar who opens a drop box prior to an election must have sworn an oath in the same form as the oath for poll officers set forth in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-95 prior to opening the drop box and shall sign a form indicating that the drop box was empty and secure at the time of opening. Counties shall provide notice of the location of each drop box by posting such information on the home page of the county election website no later than the day the drop boxes are placed in a location.

(4) Drop box locations must have adequate lighting and use a video recording device to monitor each drop box location. The video recording device must either continuously record the drop box location or use motion detection that records one frame, or more, per minute until detection of motion triggers continuous recording.

(5) Video recordings of the drop box locations must be retained by the county registrars for 30 days after the final certification of the election, or until conclusion of any contest involving an election on the ballot in the county jurisdiction, whichever is later, and shall be made available to Secretary of State investigators upon request.

(6) A drop box shall be constructed of durable material able to withstand vandalism and inclement weather. The opening slot of a drop box shall not allow ballots to be tampered with or

removed and shall be designed to minimize the ability for liquid to be poured into the drop box or rain water to seep in.

(7) A drop box shall be securely fastened to the ground or an immovable fixture.

(8) If the drop box utilizes a drop-slot into a building, the ballots must drop into a locked container, and both the drop-slot and the container must be monitored by video recording devices.

(9) A drop box shall be clearly labeled "OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP BOX". Each drop box location shall clearly display signage developed by the Secretary of State regarding Georgia law related to absentee ballot harvesting and destroying, defacing, or delaying delivery of ballots.

(10) Prior to the second Monday before Election Day, the county registrars must arrange for collection of the ballots from each drop box at least once every 72 hours. Beginning on the second Monday before Election Day and up until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, the county registrars must arrange for collection of the ballots from each drop box location at least once every 24 hours. On Election Day, every drop box shall be closed and ballots collected at 7:00 p.m. Collection of ballots from a drop box must be made by a team of at least two people. Any person collecting ballots from a drop box must have sworn an oath in the same form as the oath for poll officers set forth in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-95. The collection team shall complete and sign a ballot transfer form upon removing the ballots from the drop box, which shall include the date, time, location and number of ballots. After emptying the drop box on 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, the collection team shall close the drop box and indicate on the ballot transfer form that the drop box was emptied and closed. The ballots from the drop box shall be immediately transported to the county registrar and processed and stored in the same manner as absentee ballots returned by mail are processed and stored. The county registrar or a designee thereof shall sign the ballot transfer form upon receipt of the ballots from the collection team.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-31, 21-2-386

Drop Boxes



Description and Features

Description: Interior / Exterior security cabinet made with a low-maintenance Brushed stainless steel material, used to protect the cabinet from harsh elements. Includes a slot closer for quick attachment at poll closing. ADA compliant- offers One-hand delivery at ADA height.

Average Capacity: 1,642 Ballots

Low-maintenance, brushed stainless steel material makes it easy to remove graffiti and other harsh elements.

ADA Compliant to fit the needs of all the communities

Heavy duty, all weather construction

Easy installation

Ships fully assembled

19"x20"47" high- custom color graphics

Double lock access (3) brass locks

Double bitted keys

Lock covers

Anti-tamper protection



State Election Board Rules

- Only located on county or municipal government property generally accessible to the public.
- Opened 49 days before Election Day and close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- Must have adequate lighting
- Must use a video recording device to monitor each drop box location
- Video recording device must either continuously record the drop box location or use motion detection that records one frame, per minute, until detection of motion triggers continuous recording.
- Video recordings must be retained by the county registrar for 30 days after final certification or until conclusion of the contest, whichever is later, and made available to Secretary of State inspectors upon request.
- Fastened to the ground or immovable fixture.
- Must be labeled “OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP BOX”. Displays clear signage developed by the Secretary of State regarding Georgia law related to absentee ballot harvesting and destroying, defacing, or delaying delivery of ballots.

State Election Board Rule Differences

- **Older Rules**

- Applied only to June 9 Election
- Ballot box is emptied every 24 hours.

- **Newer Rules**

- No date limitations
- Ballot box is emptied every 72 hours. Beginning on the second Monday prior to the Election, the ballot box is emptied at least once every 24 hours.
- After emptying the drop box at 7 p.m. on Election Day, the collection team shall close the drop box and indicate on the ballot transfer form that the drop box was emptied and closed.

Considerations in Favor of Drop Boxes

- Many counties, but not all, have decided to have drop boxes available to their voters.
- Provides relief to those voters who are concerned that the postal service is not delivering mail in a timely manner.
- Enables voters to drop off ballots without having to come to the Elections Office- particularly in high-stressed times- to drop off ballots.
- Rules are relaxed for several weeks allowing for ballots to be picked up at least once every 72 hours instead of every 24 hours.
- Fayette Elections Office is receiving many phone calls from citizens inquiring when ballot boxes will be provided, how many will be provided, and where they will be located.
- State is providing a grant in the amount of \$3,000 maximum to reimburse counties for the purchase and installation of ballot boxes. Grant expires mid-September.

County Board of Election Concerns

- Emergency Rule ended on June 9, 2020
- No designated budget for ballot boxes
- Uncertainty about locations and security
- No designated staff to empty the ballot boxes
- Nothing prevents the voter from using the standard mail delivery service
- Drop Boxes are not a state requirement
- Does not add convenience
- Little convenience, security, or safety.
- If something happens to the ballots, despite meeting the requirements, the county will be held liable.

Remaining Considerations

- **Questions remain about where to place the ballot boxes.** Ideas include county parks, fire stations, libraries, or government buildings
- **Fayette County cameras do not meet the requirement established by the State Elections Board.**
 - Purchase small cameras and place them on the inside of a building with the camera recording the box on the outside of the building (Richmond County)
 - Install a high-tech security system at the building to meet the need (Pickens County)
 - Utilize deer cameras (several counties)
- **Record Retention**
 - Film needs to be retained by the County Registrar. If using a municipal system, then will the record retention be able to be accessed by the County Registrar.
- **What Then?** All necessary steps are taken and the ballots are still taken, destroyed, or defaced, what then?