

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Brian Hill, Director
April Crosby, Elections Supervisor
Tina Bass, County Registrar



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

MINUTES

November 5, 2021

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 calls the Election Board Meeting to order at 5:00 PM

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Lester moved to approve the agenda as written. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Speakers will be given a five (5) minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Elections about various topics, issues, and concerns. Speakers must direct comments to the Board. Responses are reserved at the direction of the Board

Public made a comment saying how nice that Fayette County Elections Office was so nice to her on November 2, 2021, election night.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There was no Consent Agenda

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review and consideration of provisional ballots cast for the November 2, 2021, General Municipal Election

County Registrar Review of Provisional Ballots:

Registrar Tina Bass stated that we had 5 Provisionals from Election Day and 2 from Early Voting period. Tina stated that she will start with the Provisionals that were out of precinct. We had 2 on Election Day, 2 voters from Peachtree City limits tried to vote in Tyrone. We advised them that they were in the city limits of Peachtree City but insisted that they wanted to vote in Tyrone. The Poll Manager gave them a Provisional ballot, but they didn't make the Voter Registration deadline to change their address to Tyrone.

Chairman Hicks asked, so they could gone and voted in Peachtree City? Tina answered that they had time to go vote in Peachtree City, but they didn't want to vote in Peachtree City.

Mr. Wright asked, so they did go vote in Peachtree city? Tina answered, they didn't want to vote, they had moved to Tyrone and resided there for a wile but never change their address with voter registration office.

Tina said the other 2 were outside of city limits, they wanted to vote but after research of their tax records from the tax accessors, they were found to be outside the city limits. They were unincorporated.

Tina said that she had 3 that inside the city limits and were eligible to vote in the election. 2 were outside the precinct after 5:00 PM. Per SB 202, if the vote outside the precinct after 5:00 PM, then we can accept their ballot. Tina said 1 voter was at the right street address but was put in wrong in our voter registration database because of a redistricting error. When the Fayette County election clerk did the street search, they picked all instead of even and it took the voter out of the city limits.

Mr. Hicks asked, so does even & all determine if they are in or out of the city? Tina replied yes.

Mr. Hicks asked, so was she inside the city limits? Should it count? Tina replied yes to both of Mr. Hicks questions.

Mr. Lester asked, so do you have 3 Provisionals to count and 4 to reject. Tina replied yes that is correct.

Mr. Wright made a motion to accept the recommendation and proceed accordingly with the County Registrars decision. Mr. Lester replied "So moved" Mr. Hicks said there is a motion on the table to approve the decision of the Provisionals. The motion passed 3-0

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Elections Director Brian hill stated that the Peachtree City Runoff will start on Saturday November 20th, 2021, at 9 am to 5 pm and continue on November 22nd through 24th from 9m a to 5 pm. He also stated that the ABM drop box will closed at the closed of business on November 24th, 2021, at 5 pm.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There were no Attorney's Report

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Aaron Wright asked could we have a friendly discussion about our future Election Board meeting schedule?

Mr. Hicks agreed.

Mr. Wright stated that obviously we can't have regularly schedule November 30th meeting because that is election day for the upcoming runoff, and we have another certification meeting the following Friday of election week on December 3rd, 2021. We also have calendared a Election Board meeting on December 28th 2021, which we would already have met on December 3rd 2021 for certification of the runoff. So perhaps we should remove the December 28th, 2021, meeting from the calander?

Mr. Hicks answered that I am good with that.

Mr. Wright said, if there anything that is pressing; we could call a meeting if there something pressing.

Mr. Hill said that he will move everything to the Agenda on December 3rd, 2021 and postpone the November 30th & December 28th Election Board meetings.

County Attorney asked that the Election Board motion on the decision of the Election Board schedule changes.

Mr. Wright made a motion to adjust our remaining schedule of Election Board meetings on November 30th & December 28th and replace it by meeting on December 3rd for the certification meeting. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0

Mr. Wright also said that he got a lot of feedback from voters & Poll workers that there needs to be a map of the cities in the precincts so that when a poll worker tells them that they are not in the city limits, then the poll manager can point them to the map. That will be helpful. We have Georgia Senate, and Georgia Congress maps to the street level then why couldn't we have the local maps for cities down to the street level to show the voter. Mr. Wright said we could have the maps on our website as well as print the maps for the precincts. That if a voter is not in city limits and strongly feel that they are in the city limits, they could look at the map instead of second guessing the poll worker.

Mr. Hill said the only thing is that the precinct is only for just voting people and not showing voters or researching where a voter is. If we did that, it would hold up lines at the precinct when trying to show a voter a map. As opposed to just calling the elections office.

Mr. Hicks said or directing them to the Fayette website.

Mr. Hill agreed.

Mr. Wright said that if we provided a map, it would essentially ward off some of the calls that the Elections office gets.

County Attorney Patrick Stough said I would caution you using GIS maps. Most of the time their maps are very accurate, but sometimes they are not. I have seen multiple times both here and in other Counties that the maps weren't accurate. So just make sure when you are showing people these maps, let them know that these maps are not completely accurate. What really determines if they are in the city limits, is by their registration.

Mr. Hill agreed.

Mr. Stough said that we are not relying on these GIS maps to tell voters whether or not if they live in city.

Mr. Hill said that the ESRI maps that we do use in Fayette County is not all that up to date. There are also annexations that Peachtree city & Fayetteville do pretty often that is not parallel to the GIS mapping system. These annexations can place a voter in city or even take a voter out of the city limits.

Mr. Hicks asked so if we have maps that are not accurate? Do we want to provide these maps? Do we have any map that is accurate?

Mr. Hill answered No. Going by the ESRI map is the only resource we have to look a voter up to do street research. If an annexation takes place then potentially the GIS mapping system ESRI is not up to date. We are relying on the cities, their Planning & Zoning department to get us the up-to-date annexations. Peachtree city & Fayetteville does a great job of getting us those annexations. We are required once a year by the SOS office to print municipal street list from our election database and to send them to the municipalities to review their street list and to make corrections, additions, subtractions or annexations and send them back to us so we can make the necessary changes in our election database.

Mr. Wright asked so the list that we go off of is whether or not the voter is eligible to vote in one election or another is on the map that GIS provides. So, there is currently not map in existence that exactly matches our current election database?

Mr. Hill answered Yes and No. What I am saying is that we are not concurrent with GIS. When we make changes to our voter registration system, GIS does not make those changes at the same time as us.

Mr. Hicks said that printing inaccurate maps could potentially cause a problem?

Mr. Hill agreed.

Mr. Hicks told Mr. Hill to just post the maps on the website and just direct voters to look at the website.

Mr. Hill said OKAY.

Mr. Wright said if there is a discrepancy, then the voter votes Provisional and the elections office research it later to determine if the voter gets credit or not.

Mr. Hill stated that we want every voter to cast their vote.

Mr. Wright asked so you all are cool with placing the most up to date maps on the website and telling the poll worker to direct the voter to the website?

Mr. Hicks answered yes as long as it is not pulling the poll worker away from their duties at the polling location.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Hicks moved to adjourn the November 5th 2021, Board of Elections Meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Board meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM

Brian W. Hill, 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 5th day of November 2021. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.