

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Gary Rower, Chairman  
Zach Livsey, Vice Chairman  
Sharlene Alexander,

## FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Beverly Daniel, Interim Director  
Margaret Johnson, Elections Supervisor



175 Johnson Ave., Suite B  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

## Minutes

February 27, 2024

5:00 p.m.

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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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

### CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Rower called the Election Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Board Members voted on positions.

Bylaws and charter specify that chairperson and vice chairperson be elected in February of even number years for a two-year term.

Vice Chairman accepted nominations for the position of chairman. Zachary Livsey nominated Gary Rower to serve as Chairmen of the Board of Elections. Motion carries. 3-0

Chairman Rower nominates Zach Livsey as Vice Chairman. Sharlene Alexander, NAY. Motion carried 2-1.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Rower motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Livsey second the motion. Motion carries 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.

Brenda Wicker: Fayetteville. Manager of Tyrone Early Voting Site. Thanked the board for having Beverly Daniel as Interim Director. Thanks for listing to all the input last month about the poll pads printers. Overwhelming response from workers and voters who didn't get to use them during the trial run.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Consideration of staff's request to approve the January 23, 2024, **Amended** Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes. (**Correction of Name: Cynthia Derrico, Chairman Wright**) Motion carried 3-0.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

There was no Consent Agenda.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. 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. **(Deceased list) (Pages 3-5)**  
Mr. Rower motioned to accept the staff's recommendation. Mr. Livsey accepted the staff's recommendation. Ms. Alexander second. Motion carried 3-0
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 felons **(Felon list) (Pages 6-8)**  
Mr. Livsey motioned to accept the staff's recommendation to remove felons.  
Ms. Alexander: Beverly, we have 67 and then the other sheet has four?  
Mrs. Daniel: Yes, ma'am.  
Ms. Alexander: So, are we looking at 71? I'm trying to determine the difference between. Is that a continuation or we have three sheets? So, we have six, seven and eight that are felons.  
Mrs. Daniel: Page six felons are already canceled. Pages seven and eight have a time that they have to respond to a letter that we sent them.  
Ms. Alexander: So, there is a difference in timing?  
Mrs. Daniel: Yes, ma'am.  
Motion carried 3-0.
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 Mentally Incompetent. **(Mentally Incompetent) (Page 9)**  
Mr. Livsey motioned to accept the staff's recommendation. Ms. Alexander second. Motion carried 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 Cancelled. **(Cancelled) (Pages 10-12)**  
Mr. Livsey motioned to accept the staff's recommendation. Ms. Alexander second.  
Ms. Alexander: Beverly, do we have any people who this is coming from the state? Those would be people who responded to the Secretary of State based on the voter cancellation form. Etc. Is that correct?  
Mrs. Daniel: Or they could be from another state that sent us a letter to that they are now registered in their state.  
Ms. Alexander: People can also respond to us, to the county. Is that correct?  
Mrs. Daniel: Yes, ma'am and that would be on page 11. Motion carried 3-0

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Rower: We have a vote that is required by HR to address a pay increase for poll workers for the county. For those of you in the audience it's been more than a dozen years since there's been a CPI adjustment to election day poll worker pay. AIP or early voting is paid out on an hourly rate. Election day is paid as a flat fee. The County Manager along with the former members of the board, had been working on this for the two years that I've been on the board. We were able to finally get that approved through the county manager and he and county staff fully support this pay increase. I would like to accept motion to approve the pay increase for poll workers.

Mr. Livsey moved to approve the pay increase for poll workers. Ms. Alexander seconded. Motioned carried 3-0.

Ms. Alexander: This was under new business, but it wasn't listed on the agenda.

Chairman Rower: It was the agenda you have here. It was actually moved from what you got this afternoon. Because we needed to vote on it.

Vote for new Election Day pay for Poll Workers **(Page 13)**

## **DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Thank you to all poll workers and thank you for working on election day. You are a tremendous help. I appreciate everything you do for us, and I'm glad that you got your printers and your much needed raises.

AIP MARCH 12, 2024 - PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY (PPP) / SPECIAL ELECTION (**Page 14**)

Qualifying week: MARCH 4 - 8, 2024 (**Page 15**)

KNOWiNK poll pad printers (**Printers picked up on February 15, 2024**)

Chairman Rower: We had loaner printers and we had it backed up with software that we paid thousand of dollars a year for a subscription. They make a quicker sign in process. It's overall, a win for the county. It's been a win for the voter. Thank you to the staff and to the Director for finishing up something that we've been looking for, for probably six months to a year.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

There was no Attorney's report.

## **BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Ms. Alexander: This past month it's been a very busy month but nothing leading up to the year that we're going to have. I have been trying to get up to speed. I have been to Roberts Rules of Order meeting, three-hour meeting down in Newnan, sponsored by the Leadership Institute. I have attended a Secretary of State webinar on Risk Limiting Audits, and I want to ask you (Director) some questions about that. I went to the advance polling operation at the Elections Office and to see the new Poll Pad Printers and just to talk to staff, they were so ecstatic about the Poll Pad Printers. I ask since everybody, they were so thankful that you had the Poll Pad Printer that I said, well, if you're that thankful, why don't you send something so that we can thank all of the board?

Ms. Sharlene Alexander

c/o Fayette Board of Elections

The Fayette AIP Elections team enjoyed your visit last week to observe the early voting process using the poll pads with the newly purchased printers. As we discussed, they are working very well and are more efficient than the former check-in using Easy Vote.

We greatly appreciate the Boards' recent support and backing for an additional poll pad for each of the early voting locations. This will enable us to better handle the large number of voters expected this year and help mitigate the long lines experienced in the past. The additional equipment, and faster process will be welcomed by Fayette County voters.

I also went to Tyrone, Rover, the early advanced voting because that's where I do that. They were enjoying the printers as well. The other thing that I would like to ask is... I had sent to Gary, a list of items that I had questions about. I believe you said that we could bring it up in members' reports, at this meeting. I would like to know, since we have two of us that are brand new. I have gone back and read the minutes back to 2012. I have also reviewed a number of minutes, and there are a number of items that I think are just general onboarding that would make it a lot easier for any member of the board to get up to speed pretty quickly. According to our bylaws, one of the things that I would like to ask is that we consider a special session to review the bylaws. Particularly four as it relates to the organization of the board. It refers to procedural rules, adopt bylaws, specify functions and duties of employees, otherwise take such actions as are appropriate. I would like to develop a set of, let's call them procedural rules and regulations that would help us to be fast. Who do we talk to get our email address? Who do we go to get business cards? For us to consider a whole review of

especially Article four as it relates to who does what. And specifically, it talks about the board shall, which as I understand legally means, must be authorized to appoint an Election Superintendent and to employ any other employees deemed appropriate to manage the matters of the Elections and Voter Registration. Have we had any update on that? In what progress? On, of what progress on authorization or trying to interview, a new Election Superintendent, which I believe that term has now changed from Election Superintendent to Director. I don't know when that changed.

Attorney Stough: I believe the term is Director of Elections. If the Board would like for us to look at the bylaws, we can bring some revisions or you can send some proposed revision to us and we can, Beverly and I can have a look and put something together for your next meeting, if that's what the board wishes to do.

Chairman Rower: I know that we do need to make some changes including the address or the location of where these meetings are held because the current bylaws state that they'll be held at the office, which obviously they're not. I don't think we need a motion to vote.

Attorney Stough: I can get directions for the general comments.

Ms. Alexander: Can we send you items that we would like for you to look at?

Attorney Stough: I can put something together and the Board can decide what it want at the March meeting. Are we having a March meeting.

Chairman Rower: Friday after the Election. I believe it is the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Alexander: I have been looking at all the rules now coming out of EAC for what we need to review for certification. It's quite lengthy. I had requested that we look at the certification date, I believe one meeting before that questing was asked. You state that the deadline for certification was 5:00 pm on Monday. I still request that we move our certification to Monday to make sure that we have review everything that is reported. We're supposed to review every single report that is turned in to the State.

Chairman Rower: Literally the deadline is 5:00 pm. What you are suggesting is an extra day.

Ms. Alexander: Yes, extra day.

Chairman Rower: That's a state decision, not a county decision.

Ms. Alexander: Excuse me, it's in the law, in the code that we can go to Monday at 5:00 pm.

Chairman Rower: We can't meet at 5:00 pm. We would have to meet before that at some point on Monday. We have to get the votes to the Secretary of State at 5.

Ms. Alexander: I'm just saying we need the extra time.

Attorney Stough: If the board wants to move its meeting that's the board's decision.

Chairman Rower: Do you have any comments?

Mr. Livsey: It's been Friday for a longtime now, and I see no reason to change it. I think we've all built up our processes around that. I understand your concerns about potential, reports of certain thing or whatever regarding our elections, but we have specific state statues on when recounts are called for and when they are ineligible to occur. I would not see it as a necessary change to make to move it to Monday.

Chairman Rower: The other problem with moving it to Monday is, any type of malfunction, any power outage, which we've seen recently, as a matter of fact, two meeting or three meeting ago, that we actually had to postpone the meeting for two hours because of a downtown power outage. So, if any issues comes up, whether it's a system or anything else, we don't have any backup time for staff

to upload any approved, the provisional ballots that we're actually doing. People have work schedules. Midday on a Monday doesn't leave us any backup time for staff to take care of things they need to do as we hold the meeting to update those. I'm not in favor of moving it to Monday. Legally we can't hold business meeting on the weekend.

Ms. Alexander: I totally disagree, but I'm on the record.

Mrs. Livsey: My name is Zach Livsey. I've been appointed here as the Democratic rep on the Board of Elections. I am very happy to be here, very proud to be here. I know we're going to be going through a lot of hard work in this next year. I'm ready for that and just want everybody in the public space to know that I'm here. I'm your ombudsman, and I want to serve you. My phone number is on our website. Feel free to call me anytime. If I don't pick up, leave a voicemail, please. I'll call you back as soon as I can. My email address is also there on that website. I'm here to help. I'm here to serve. I'm looking forward to working with the board going forward. So, thank you all.

Chairman Rower: I want to take a couple of minutes to talk about what the Elections Department does. With two new members on the board and a lot of the public really doesn't understand, that like me, before I joined the board, I registered to vote. I went in, handed over my driver's license. I voted and I left. Then I read the results. There's just a tad bit more that goes into running an election, and candidates bring in their information, then that information has to go to the Secretary of State. They produce a sample ballot. It comes back to the staff. Staff verifies and, I could really go down a rabbit hole here. Staff verifies that everything from nicknames to spellings are correct and positions are correct on the ballot. Then it goes back to the Secretary of State. We have literally hundreds of poll workers and dozens of poll managers, with 36 precincts plus AIP, early voting. Everyone has to be trained. Everyone has to be paid. All of that has to be before election day. Managing the database of 90,000 voters and combos. 65,000 plus or minus that actually get out and vote. Thank you to the staff. It's an ongoing, everyday battle to maintain a great system that works for the voters of Fayette County.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no Executive Session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Livsey motion to adjourn the Election Board meeting. Ms. Alexander Second the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Election Board meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm.

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Beverly Daniel, Interim Director

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Gary Rower, Vice Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County, Georgia,  
held on the 27th day of February 2024.

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