

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Gary Rower, Chairman
Zach Livsey, Vice Chairman
Sharlene Alexander



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Brieanna Garrett, Director
Beverly Daniel, Registrar
Margaret Johnson, Elections Supervisor

175 Johnson Ave., Suite B
Fayetteville, GA 30214

APPROVED MINUTES

May 24, 2024
5:00PM

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.

1. CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to amend the agenda for the Regular Board meeting to remove Item 5. Approval of the April 12, 2024 Minutes. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

Director Garrett reported that there were 18,695 ballots cast in the election. Out of these, there were 18 provisional ballots, with 14 Out of Precinct (OP) ballots accepted and 4 rejected. Additionally, 1 Absentee ballot was cured and counted. The 4 rejected ballots consisted of one registered in another county and three registered after the April 22, 2024 registration deadline. The election had a turnout of 20.9%. Director Garrett recommended accepting the eligible Provisional Ballots.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to the staff's recommendation to accept the provisional ballots for the certification of the May 21, 2024 General Primary and Nonpartisan Election. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

4. 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.

Jamie Harmon from Fayette County expressed concerns about election integrity and urged precautions to avoid errors seen in other Georgia counties, suggesting a new budget for enhanced training, materials, equipment, law enforcement pay, and increased staffing.

Linda Ellis, a Poll Watcher from Peachtree City, praised the teamwork and professionalism at Precinct #3, Rising Star.

Suzanne Brown, also from Peachtree City, commended Poll Managers for collaborating on transporting ballots and suggested thorough ID checks and scanner reviews post-poll closure. She recommended delaying election certification until after the weekend.

Chairman Rower concluded public comments.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

There were no minutes approved.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

There was no consent agenda.

7. 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)**
Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to remove the listed electors who are deceased. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.
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)**
Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to remove the listed electors who are felons. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.
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)**
Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to remove the listed electors who are mentally incompetent. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.
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)**
Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to remove the listed electors who are Cancelled. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

8.DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Garrett provided several updates: Fayette County currently has 100,098 registered voters (89,432 active). New election bills focusing on security and transparency was passed in May 2024. A Runoff Election is scheduled for June 18th as a result of the May 21st General Primary & Nonpartisan Election, featuring contests for US House District #3 and State Senate District #34. Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing is tentatively set for May 30th, along with a Risk Limit Audit scheduled for May 30th-31st at the Fayette County Library.

Chairman Rower raised concerns about personnel for Logic and Accuracy testing, to which Director Garrett informed Chair Rower that she would host a meeting to be sure to address any issues.

9. POLLING PLACE TEMPORARY LOCATION CHANGE:

Director Garrett informed the Board that One Church, our current #13 Starrsmill polling location, has notified the office that they will be unavailable for the upcoming General Primary Runoff Election on June 18. In light of this, Whitewater High School has been secured, which is within the same precinct boundary lines, as a temporary polling location. Upon final motion, the office plans to undertake the following actions to inform and accommodate voters:

1. Submission of a notice in the legal organ.
2. Posting the required signage at the current and new polling locations 7 days prior to the election day.
3. Sending postal mail notifications to voters regarding the temporary location

Board Member Alexander expressed concerns about mailing due to current postal issues, prompting Director Garrett to suggest using the county website for notices and ensuring signs are posted seven days before the election.

Chairman Rower asked if board approval was needed for the precinct change, confirmed by Attorney Stough. ***Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander to approve the temporary precinct change of No. 13: Starrsmill for the June 18, 2024 Runoff Election. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.***

10. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

No report.

11.BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Board Member Alexander inquired if Board Members should review the budget before it is submitted to the County Administrator. The Attorney agreed to investigate whether any provisions exist regarding this process. Concerns were raised by Board Member Alexander about recent precinct adjustments affecting Poll Workers and their overtime. Chairman Rower and Director Garrett assured that the budget allows for necessary adjustments and staffing flexibility.

Board Member Alexander highlighted the need for more signs at precincts with multiple entrances and inquired about the process for updating voter registration when voters move. Director Garrett explained that the DMV notifies the Secretary of State, who then informs Elections and Registrations.

Board Member Alexander also motioned to schedule a discussion on By-Laws changes and sought clarification on the process. The Attorney advised that consensus is needed for any changes, and it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Board Member Alexander and Vice Chairman Livsey praised the efforts of Poll Workers, while Chairman Rower welcomed Director Garrett, thanked Beverly Daniel for her interim role, and expressed gratitude to all Poll Workers for their hard work and professionalism.

12.EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

13.ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Vice-Chair Livsey, seconded by Board Member Alexander adjourn the meeting. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

Brianna Garrett, Director

Gary Rower, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections & Voter Registration of Fayette County Georgia, held on the 21st day of June 2024.