

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Gary Rower, Chairman
Zach Livsey, Vice Chairman
Sharlene Alexander

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

175 Johnson Ave., Suite B
Fayetteville, GA 30214



APPROVED MINUTES

September 24, 2024

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 Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey, to accept the September 24, 2024, meeting agenda for the Regular Board meeting. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

3. 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.

Walt Hanley: Has a question regarding the new hours. Will the new hours affect the drop box operations? Are there any changes in that? That's it.

Suzanne Brown: When you're doing the meeting minutes now, you're not putting in any of the people who make public comment or what they say. I realize you do not have an obligation to put every word in there that everybody says, but at least just like blurb of what they spoke about would really be helpful for those of us who are not in attendance so that we can, you know, keep that on file for our records. So, if you could do that, that would be really helpful. Thank you.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Voter Challenges Policy Review

Vice-Chair Livsey opened the floor for discussion on the Voter Challenge Policy Review. Director Garret explained that the policy is still being finalized, with a key issue being whether challenges could be posted on the website due to the site being managed by a third party. No motions or directives had been made on updates to the policy, leaving the clarification of documentation requirements for challengers unresolved.

Board Member Alexander suggested that Attorney Stough needed more time to address these issues. Attorney Stough confirmed that the policy was previously tabled due to the website question and

documentation concerns. He noted that posting challenges within three days is not legally required but was adopted from other counties' practices.

The issue of website access was further clarified by Director Garret, indicating that while challenges must be posted, the provision to do so within three days could be problematic due to current limitations.

Vice-Chair Livsey and Attorney Stough discussed removing the website posting requirement from the policy for now, with the option to revisit it later. Attorney Stough emphasized that there was no urgency in adopting the policy until the full Board could vote on it.

Vice-Chair Livsey mentioned a 90-day quiet period under the NVRA, during which the policy then could be developed.

Board Member Alexander and Vice-Chair Livsey also touched on exceptions to voter removal under the NVRA, including scenarios like voter death, felony convictions, or mental incompetence cancellation request.

Board Member Alexander noted that the State Election Board recently added new exceptions related to non-residential addresses and voters registered in other states. Attorney Stough pointed out that the courts will decide on issues regarding voter challenges.

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey, to table the voter challenge policy to next month meeting. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 27, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey, to approve the August 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey, to approve the September 17, 2024, Special Called Meeting Minutes. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. 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 Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to remove the listed electors who are deceased. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

- B. 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. **(Felons List)**

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to remove the listed electors who are felons. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

- C. 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)**

No Mental Incompetent

D. 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 Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to remove the listed electors who are cancelled. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried.

8. DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Garret reported that Fayette County has 101,945 registered voters as of September 23, 2024. Since absentee applications began on August 19, 2024, approximately 2,650 applications have been received, including 248 UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) applications.

The first day to mail absentee ballots is October 7th. Additionally, on September 12th, an open house event was held with around 65-68 attendees, where participants received voter education and had the opportunity to interact with voting machines and different poll pads.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

No Report.

10. BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Board Member Alexander reported hearing about ongoing voter challenge issues at the State Election Board and is awaiting further clarity from them soon.

Vice-Chair Livsey spoke about Chairman Rower, highlighting his integrity and dedication to serving both his country and community. He also expressed his appreciation for working with the Board, staff, and the Fayette County community, and extended thanks to the Election staff and Attorney Stough for their service.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (as necessary for litigation and personnel)

No Executive Session.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Board Member Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chair Livsey to adjourn the meeting. Chair Rower: Absent. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 P.M.

Brianna Garrett, Director

Gary Rower, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County Georgia, held on the 22nd day of October 2024.

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