

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Zach Livsey, Acting Chairman
Sharlene Alexander, Member
Morris Kelly, Member

**FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

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

175 Johnson Ave., Suite B
Fayetteville, GA 30214

APPROVED SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2025
3:00 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.

1. CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA****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.

Hi, my name is Jamie Harmon, and I am a resident of Fayette County. I do live in the woods here at Fayette County, but I'm standing at the mic today. If I may speak on something that I found interesting, the precinct in Tyrone, we cannot have employees working under those conditions. I went over there at the start of the early voting, the 1st day, it was extremely hot. It was sweltering; it was very hot. If there's any way that we can use the public library in Tyrone, that would be more efficient. I think it is a better place for people to vote. Everything's contained in one area; these are the same comments I shall also present to the Board of Commissioners. We must allow our voting to happen in the public buildings that are adequate and not endangering our employees here in Fayette County. The next thing I need to know and hopefully will be addressed today: what precincts will be a look open for the runoff. Will we allow ease of access to the ballot for all the residents of the counties because I believe that voting is a right, a democracy. Even though represented a democracy, we must all vote, and stay engaged within our government, and that's how we do this through voting. So every vote must be counted. One final thing, I'm thankful that we did observe Juneteenth here at Fayette County. Because Fayette County is 25% black and Juneteenth, or sometimes what we call it Jubilee, it's one of those things to celebrate the fact that although there was communications available in the 1800s. The fact that the Emancipation Proclamation being signed in 1863 did not reach all areas of the south and the last to reach was in Galveston, Texas in 1865. So imagine you have freedom, but you are still enslaved for 2 additional years; and you don't know what life is like until you are free-ish or you have no freedoms. That's why voting matters here in the United States, because it's the one nation where we and people actually control our fate. I thank you very much

4. NEW BUSINESS:**A. Review of Precinct Returns**

Board Member Kelly inquired about the difference between times cast and total votes in the Statement of Votes Cast report. Chair Livsey clarified that times cast refers to the total number of voters who checked in and cast a ballot, while total votes refer to the number of actual votes recorded in specific races. He noted that discrepancies can occur when voters leave races blank such as in the District 3 Democratic Primary, where a disqualified candidate led to a higher number of undervotes. Director Garrett confirmed the explanation was accurate.

Vice-Chair Alexander further clarified the earlier point by noting that even when time cast totals match expectations, discrepancies can still be seen in total votes due to undervotes. Board Member Kelly acknowledged not noticing this initially and expressed confusion over the concept of undervotes. Chair Livsey explained that undervotes are less common in high-turnout elections and typically occur when voters skip races on the ballot.

Chair Livsey clarified that undervotes are race-specific and occur when voters skip contests on the ballot, often due to lack of interest or knowledge of the candidates. Attorney Stough confirmed that while voters may write in names, only qualified write-in candidates count toward official vote totals noting that none were qualified in this election.

Chair Livsey noted an unusually high number of undervotes in this election, attributing it to unfamiliarity with the Public Service Commission race and the disqualification of a candidate.

Vice-Chair Alexander raised a concern regarding the accuracy of Registered Voter figures reported by the Secretary of State, explaining that the numbers should include both active and inactive voters, which inflates totals and can impact calculations for audits and runoffs. Director Garrett confirmed that Fayette County had approximately 103,400 active voters as of May. Chair Livsey added that correcting the issue would require software changes at the state level, which may not be prioritized.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION (as necessary for litigation and personnel)

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Livsey formally welcomed Mr. Morris Kelly to the Board, expressing appreciation for his willingness to serve in a critical role supporting the democratic process. He emphasized the importance of maintaining efficiency, transparency, and voter trust. Mr. Kelly thanked the Board for their support and noted his intention to ask questions in order to fully understand procedures and responsibilities.

Brianna Garrett, Director

Zachary Livsey, Chairmam

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County Georgia, held on the 18th day of July 2025.