

MINUTES

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION BOARD MEETING

30 July 2024 at 5:00 PM

Board members in attendance: Myesha Good, Michele Crochetiere, Kevin Evans, and Chad Word

Staff in attendance: Milton Kidd, Tesha Green, Ann Bolen, Cameron Fairley, Philbert Smith, and Malcolm Unvala

Legal counsel in attendance: L'erin Wiggins

Call to Order

Mrs. Good called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. Mr. Evans made the motion and Mr. Word seconded. The agenda was approved unopposed.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the minutes from the 22 June monthly board meeting. Mr. Word made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded. The minutes were approved unopposed.

Citizen Comment

There were no citizen comments.

Felon Hearings

Mrs. Green explained that there were no felon hearings for this meeting.

Office Operations Report

Mr. Smith began by explaining that there would need to be a polling place location for Bright Star Methodist Church, noting that several locations were contacted, including Crossroads Church and Cowan Mill Church. Because these locations were not suitable locations or did not wish to participate, the office began exploring options outside of the precinct's geographic boundaries. He announced that Elizabeth Baptist Church, which is marginally outside of the borders has informed the office that they are willing to serve as the new polling place. He announced that for the November 5 General Election, Elizabeth Baptist Church will serve as the polling place for precinct 734.

Mr. Kidd explained that notice will be sent to the State Election Board who must approve any polling places located outside of geographic boundaries outside of its precinct and all voters will be informed via mail as well as through all communication avenues offered by the county.

Mr. Evans asked for clarification of the church's name.

Mr. Kidd explained that it was named Elizabeth Baptist Church.

Mr. Word asked if this relocation would be compliant with election law regarding timeframes.

Mr. Kidd explained that this move will be completed within the timeline provided by election law.

Mrs. Crochetiere asked if Kingdom Hall was within the boundaries of precinct 734.

Mr. Smith explained that Kingdom Hall is a Jehovah's Witness church, and therefore did not wish to be a polling place.

Mr. Kidd recommended that the Board take a vote to approve this relocation.

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the polling place relocation from First Baptist Church to Elizabeth Baptist Church. Mr. Word made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded. The motion was approved unopposed.

Mr. Kidd explained that most contracts span four years, from presidential election to presidential election, noting that for this case, it is his recommendation that the first contract with this facility only concerns this November election.

Mrs. Green offered some dates to the public and the board of elections, explaining that the first day to accept absentee ballot applications will be August 19th. She announced the registration deadline will be October 7th. She explained that poll worker interviews will begin the first week of August with training beginning September 30th.

Mr. Evans asked for an explanation regarding the new processes of how voters can cancel their voter registrations.

Mr. Kidd explained that it was announced that voters can now provide information via a new web portal to inform the Georgia Secretary of State's office that they have either moved out of Georgia or wish to cancel their voter registration.

Mr. Kidd explained that the office will be presenting before County Administration on August 1st. This conference will include office operations conducted during the first half of the year as well as activities for the rest of the year.

Mr. Unvala explained that office staff will be attending a conference in Gwinnett County on August 5th and 6th. The purpose of this conference is to meet and discuss with other elections offices in the region best practices and procedures moving forward to the November General Election. Douglas County will present concerning absentee ballot processes and logic and accuracy testing.

Mr. Unvala explained that the office has been conducting street maintenance activities, noting that there have been no major changes but rather general data cleanup.

Mrs. Green announced further voter list activities, noting that the office has received notices of potential out of state voters from Alabama and Virginia.

Mrs. Green further explained that the office has completed the signature verification process for presidential candidates Claudia de la Cruz, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Cornell West, noting that the office reviewed over 400 pages of signatures.

Old Business

There was no old business to report.

New Business

Mr. Kidd announced that the Board of Education has formally requested the Board of Elections to conduct an ESPLOST election in conjunction with November's election.

Mrs. Green read the following announcement:

NOTICE TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND AND SALES AND USE TAX
FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Education of Douglas County (the "Board of Education"), acting for and on behalf of the Douglas County School District (the "School District"), and by the Douglas County Board of Elections and Registration, as Election Superintendent (the "Election Superintendent"), that on November 5, 2024, an election will be held in Douglas County to submit to the qualified voters of the School District the following question:

Shall the Douglas County School District issue general obligation bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$400,000,000 to pay the costs of (i) acquiring, constructing and equipping new school buildings and facilities, including, but not limited to classroom additions, performing arts center, playgrounds and two new high schools; (ii) remodeling, renovating, modifying, adding and equipping existing facilities, including, classrooms, instructional and support space and physical education/athletic facilities; (iii) acquiring property, both real and personal, and any interest therein, for educational or instructional purposes; (iv) acquiring furnishings, equipment and fixtures for new and existing facilities district-wide including, but not limited to, technology equipment, safety and security equipment, textbooks, signage, band instruments, and playgrounds; and (v) financing the costs of issuance of such bonds including capitalized interest, AND shall a one percent sales and use tax for educational purposes be reimposed in Douglas County for a period of time not to exceed 20 consecutive calendar quarters commencing upon the termination of the one percent sales and use tax for educational purposes presently in effect for the raising of not more than \$430,000,000 for the purpose of funding the payment of (a) a portion of the principal and interest on the above described general obligation bonds and (b) a portion of the costs of the above described capital outlay projects not paid for with proceeds from said general obligation bonds?

Mr. Kidd explained that this board should take a vote to authorize himself to sign off on these documents.

Mr. Kidd expressed his displeasure to the School Board because the Board of Elections was not involved in this process and was unaware that this was being considered, noting that in the future, organizations will be required to keep the Board of Elections abreast of any potential ballot questions.

Mr. Word asked for the timeframe regarding questions like this.

Mr. Kidd explained that August 7th would be the deadline for the November election. He noted that the School Board will handle all legal requirements such as issuing notices in the legal organ.

Mrs. Crochetiere asked if this would put two separate SPLOST questions on the ballot.

Mr. Kidd confirmed that she was correct.

Mrs. Good asked for a motion to accept the resolution and to include this ESPLOST on the November Ballot. Mr. Evans made the motion and Mrs. Crochetiere seconded. The motion was approved unopposed.

Mr. Kidd explained that he has been in conversation with County Administration regarding the TSPLOST, noting that the county has not met the legal obligations required to issue the TSPLOST in conjunction with the November election, noting that Attorney Wiggins is currently in the meeting who has been working with the county regarding this TSPLOST.

Mrs. Wiggins noted that Mr. Kidd is correct. She explained that she has been working with the Douglas County Sentinel to ensure that the legal notices will be able to be timely. She noted that there are moving parts causing the delays with the TSPLOST, particularly concerning the involvement of the municipalities in Douglas County.

Mrs. Wiggins continued by explaining that there will be a special called meeting of the Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, August 7th to accept the resolution with the final language.

Director's Concerns

Mr. Kidd announced that precinct cards have been issued and returned to the office as undeliverable, citing Mr. Word's experience. He noted that it was addressed properly and Mr. Word confirmed he still lives at the address. Mr. Kidd explained that advertisements will be run in the Sentinel and communicated through County avenues that voters should check their registration status via the State's My Voter Page. He added that he will have a discussion with the Postmaster responsible for Douglas County's mailings.

Mr. Word noted that inactive status does not keep an elector from being able to vote and asked Mr. Kidd to further explain how voters can correct this.

Mr. Kidd explained that any communication or contact by a voter with their county's election office will move them back to active status, including voting.

Board Member Concerns

Mrs. Crochetiere asked for a follow-up regarding a potential meeting with the Board of Commissioners regarding the physical space of the elections office.

Mr. Kidd explained that the Board of Commissioners finally has a full board for the first time of the year and would like to know of all Board of Elections members' availability for scheduled Board of Commissioner Meetings. He explained that this can be determined after this board meeting.

Mr. Evans requested an update regarding the Douglas GOP's chair's, Mr. Jones, health after the accident.

Mrs. Crochetiere explained that he is out of the hospital and home and they are expecting a long recovery process.

Mr. Evans requested an update regarding the information forwarded to the State Election Board concerning possible electioneering activities during the May Primary.

Mr. Kidd explained that the allegations were forwarded to the State Election Board but have heard nothing from them but he will follow-up with them and relay any information to this board.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40PM.

Next Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, 8 August 2024 at 5:00pm