

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

13 February 2025 at 5:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Myesha Good, Maurice Hurry, Kevin Evans, Bob Proctor, and Chad Word

Staff in attendance: Milton Kidd, Tesha Green, Philbert Smith and Malcolm Unvala

Legal counsel in attendance: Audrey Lewis

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM.

Approval of Agenda

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

Vice-Chairmanship Election

Mrs. Good requested a motion to nominate candidates for Vice-Chair. Mr. Proctor nominated Mr. Word and Mr. Evans nominated Mr. Hurry. Mr. Word expressed his desire to serve as Vice-Chair, noting that he is currently serving his first term. Mr. Hurry thanked the board and office while serving as Vice Chair for the previous few years and would look forward to continue to serve in the role. Mrs. Good requested a motion for Mr. Word as Vice Chair. Mr. Proctor made the motion and Mr. Word seconded. The motion failed by a vote of 2-3 with Mrs. Good, Mr. Hurry and Mr. Evans voting against the motion. Mrs. Good requested a motion for Mr. Hurry as Vice Chair. Mr. Evans made the motion and Mr. Hurry seconded. Mr. Hurry was confirmed as Vice-Chair by a vote of 3-2.

Approval of Minutes from the 9 January 2025 Board Meeting and 21 January 2025 Special Meeting

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the minutes of the 9 January 2025 Board Meeting and 21 January 2025 Special Meeting. Mr. Hurry made the motion and Mr. Proctor seconded. Both minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizen Comment

There were no citizen comments.

Felon Hearings

There were no felon hearings for this meeting.

Office Operations Report

Mr. Kidd announced that the elections office attended a city council meeting in Douglasville last month to discuss the intergovernmental agreement to conduct their elections. This agreement was then presented before the Douglas County Board of Commissioners who have also approved it. Mr. Kidd added that Villa Rica's agreement has been discussed with the Villa Rica City Clerk and that the Board of Commissioners have signed off on that as well.

Mr. Smith offered several updates regarding equipment maintenance activities for the first part of 2025. He explained that 189 Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) require a handle replacement which will be performed by Dominion. This service has been postponed from February to the second week of March. He added that printer and provisional bags have been labeled to better assist poll workers and office staff with delivery and setup of equipment and all Electronic Poll Books (Poll Pads) are being examined for any damage or missing equipment. He ended by noting that fleet vehicles are currently undergoing maintenance by Douglas County.

Mrs. Green announced the following community outreach events; 19 February at the Woodie Fite Senior Center from 11:00AM until 1:30PM and 24 February at the Lithia Springs Senior Center from 10:00AM until 12:00PM. She noted that such events will continue throughout the year and announcements will be made as dates and times are determined.

Old Business

Mr. Unvala announced that the cities of Douglasville and Villa Rica have published their qualifying fees for the municipal elections, and they are as follows; \$387.00 for Douglasville Council Member Ward 1, Ward 2 Post 2, Ward 3 Post 1, Ward 3 Post 2 and \$270 for Villa Rica Council Member Ward 3, Ward 4, and Ward 5. He noted that the municipalities will handle the qualifying of candidates and more information regarding those dates and times can be found on their website.

Mr. Unvala explained that the 2025 Calendar of Scheduled Elections has been posted to the county's website, and it details the Early Voting period, locations, and pertinent deadlines for the currently scheduled elections.

New Business

Mr. Kidd announced that the Elizabeth Baptist Church polling place will need to be relocated to the Douglas County Community Service Board located at 5903 Stewart Pkwy, Douglasville, GA 30135 and presented a copy of the agreement. He advised that this would require a vote by this board to complete the relocation.

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the polling place relocation. Mr. Word made the motion, and Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Kidd explained that on 18 February he will be presenting this agreement before the Board of Commissioners. If the agreement is approved, affected voters will be informed via precinct card and signage at the old and new polling places on Election Day.

Mrs. Good asked for a timeframe regarding the implementation of the polling place change.

Mr. Kidd explained that should the Board of Commissioners approve the change on 18 February, by the close of business on 19 February the Voter Registration System will be updated to reflect the change, and voters should see this change on their My Voter Page.

Mr. Evans asked whether this precinct's polling place will be changed soon again.

Mr. Kidd explained that by choosing a county facility, as in this case, this is a more permanent move compared to the change in 2024 which required a change in relatively short notice for a very large election year.

Mr. Word asked whether this move was within the prescribed 90-day period allowed by Election Law to relocate a polling place.

Mr. Kidd explained that this change would take place further out than the 90 days allowed and allowed by Election Law.

Director's Concerns

There were no Director's concerns.

Board Member Concerns

Mr. Evans extended his Valentine's Day wishes to everyone in attendance.

Mr. Word asked if there was any update on new legislation, particularly regarding SB 189 and the changes to Election law over the past year.

Mr. Kidd explained that he has been in contact with the Secretary of State's office and has been informed that training is intended regarding these updates but has not received any concrete timeframes or details regarding those trainings.

Mr. Proctor sought clarification regarding the voting procedure for the Vice Chair.

Mr. Kidd explained that motions are voted upon and that each nominee had to be presented as a motion, noting that the Douglas County Board of Commissioners votes in similar fashion.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM.

Next Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, 13 March 2025 at 5:00pm