

13 October 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Myesha Good, Maurice Hurry, Michele Crochetiere, and Bob Proctor

Staff present: Milton Kidd, Tesha Green, Ann Bolen, Heather James, and Malcolm Unvala

Legal Counsel present: Aaron Watson

Call to Order

Mrs. Good called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comment

Mr. Kidd informed the board that no citizen comments were submitted for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes for 8 September 2022 Monthly Board Meeting

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the minutes from the 8 September 2022 Monthly Board Meeting. Mr. Hurry made the motion and Mr. Proctor seconded. The minutes were approved unopposed.

Felon Hearings

Mrs. Green informed the board that there were no felon letters received in time for this board meeting.

Office Operations report

Ms. James informed the board that the Douglas County Board of Elections has been continuously been processing absentee ballot requests. Tuesday, 11 October was the first day that ballots could be mailed out and over 2300 ballots had been issued as of the meeting.

Mrs. Bolen announced that Early Voting will begin on Monday, 17 October at seven locations at the following locations: the Douglas County Courthouse, the Old Courthouse, Boundary Waters Activity Center, Deer Lick Park, Dog River Library, the Woodie Fite Senior Center and the Lithia Springs Senior Center. She explained that the hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30am until 6:00pm until 4 November and that Saturday Voting is offered on 22 October and 29 October at Dog River, Deer Lick, the Douglas County Courthouse and the Woodie Fite Senior Center. She added that training for Early Voting Poll Workers concluded last week and that all locations are fully staffed. The office is continuing its training for Election Day poll workers.

Mrs. Green informed the board that the office has begun to review the intake process with Poll Workers with the new Human Resources director in order to streamline the process for elections going forward. There will be some changes to the way HR paperwork is processed. She announced a new, automated process where poll workers will be able to submit the information provided through the paper application process themselves.

Mr. Unvala explained to the board that the Douglas County Board of Elections attended three different voter outreach and registration events in September. The office hosted an event for National Voter Registration Day on September 20th as well as attended both September Saturday events.

Mr. Unvala informed the board that the voter registration deadline for the 8 November election was on Tuesday, 11 October. If there are any federal races that require a runoff, any registrations received before 7 November would be processed and they will be able to participate in the 6 December runoff. He encouraged any potential voters to still submit any changes or new registrations.

Mr. Kidd announced that he has asked the board's legal team to begin to draft a policy for review and adoption to formalize the process of challenges to qualified candidates and a formalized process for elector challenges. Once these policies are ready, they will be presented before the Board of Elections.

Mr. Proctor asked for clarification regarding registrations received after the deadline for any federal runoff races.

Mr. Kidd explained that federal law requires a separate registration deadline for federal run off races and that date is 7 November. He reiterated that this only applies to federal contests.

Mrs. Good asked Mr. Kidd to confirm the registration status for those that have registered at 17 ½ years old and whether they can vote in the upcoming election.

Mr. Kidd explained that individuals can register for voting six months before their 18th birthday but they must be 18 years old on Election Day to vote in that election.

Old Business

There was no old business to report,

New Business

Mr. Kidd announced that the office has received the list of certified poll watchers representing both political parties at the county as well as state level. Individuals on this list must present themselves in-person to the elections office along with photo identification. They will be required to sign an observer's oath and will then be given their credentials to serve at one of the early voting locations.

Mr. Kidd announced that 28 October at the close of business is the last day to submit an application for an absentee ballot. The only drop box available to Douglas County voters is located inside the office on the "Election Board" side. He encouraged all individuals to review their sample ballot prior to voting in order to help cut down on any wait times associated with voting. He encouraged all citizens that have any issues with the elections process to contact the office directly in order to deal with any perceived issues.

Mr. Proctor asked for clarification regarding poll watchers and the privileges afforded to them in the polling place.

Mr. Kidd noted that Election Code refers to an "enclosed space" but is not explicit concerning it. Mr. Kidd explained that poll managers typically designate a space for observers and noted that poll watchers are not allowed to interact with voters in any fashion. If poll watchers observe any improper behavior, they are urged to contact the elections office directly.

Board Member Concerns

There were no board member concerns.

Adjournment

Mrs. Good adjourned the meeting at 5:15pm