

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*Board members present:* Myesha Good, Maurice Hurry, Michele Crochetiere, Kevin Evans and Chad Word

*Staff present:* Milton Kidd, Tesha Green, Cameron Fairley, Heather James, Philbert Smith, and Malcolm Unvala

*Legal counsel present:* Leslie Suson

*Citizens present:* Janet Swift

### 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. Hurry made the motion and Mrs. Crochetiere seconded. The agenda was approved unopposed.

### Citizen Comment

There were no citizen comments.

### Approval of Minutes for 9 March 2023 Monthly Board Meeting

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the minutes for the 9 March monthly board meeting. Mr. Word made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded. The minutes were approved unopposed.

### Felon Hearings

Mrs. Green informed the board that no felon letters had been transmitted to the office.

### Office Operations report

Mr. Unvala informed the board that the Douglas County Board of Elections held a town hall in March to educate voters on legislative updates and policies affect elections and registration, including an update from Representative Kimberly Alexander from the 66<sup>th</sup> District.

Mr. Smith announced that the Douglas County Board of Elections is preparing voting equipment to present at Douglas County High School along with a voter registration

drive on April 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first of several outreach events this year with Douglas County schools.

Director Kidd introduced Mrs. Janet Swift, an associate of the Douglas County Board of Elections.

Mrs. Swift introduced herself as the chairman of the Advocate of Social Justice Committee of the Sigma Omega Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority serving Douglas County since 1990 and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She informed the board of several events taking place in the upcoming months in coordination with the Douglas County Board of Elections, including: a mock election and demonstration at Douglas County High School on April 19<sup>th</sup>, a voter registration drive and mock election at Chapel Hill High School on May 17<sup>th</sup>, a possible voter registration drive on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Juneteenth celebration, pending confirmation, as well as voter registration drives and demonstrations at Lithia Springs High School and Alexander High School during the Fall with dates pending, and a voter registration drive on September 19<sup>th</sup> for National Voter Registration Day, as well as a poll worker hiring event, date pending.

Mr. Fairley informed the Board that the office has been working with Mt. Carmel Elementary School regarding their Career Day event to present elections and registration activities to future voters, demonstrate office operations, and how to be engaged in the election process going forward.

Mrs. Good asked for the date of this event.

Mr. Fairley informed her that it will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Unvala announced that the office will be participating in the Douglas County Citizen's Academy program on April 20<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to explain the nature of elections work as well as answer any questions from attendees. He explained that it is an event that required advance registration and that applications are no longer being accepted, but interested Douglas County citizens can contact the Intergovernmental & Constituent Services department of Douglas County.

Mr. Smith announced that Douglas County will be hosting a KnowInk training on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Lithia Springs Senior Center. At least 20 counties will be in attendance. The primary purpose of this training is to discuss the implementations and use of ePulse. He explained that ePulse is the operational system that all counties are required to use going forward to manage their electronic pollbooks.

Mrs. Green elaborated to the board that during these periods without an active election, the office makes these efforts to expand its voter outreach activities and engagement with the public to educate about the elections process.

Mr. Kidd announced to the public that moving forward, board meetings will take place in-person in the elections office. He reminded the board and the public that the board meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month.

#### Old Business

Mr. Smith announced that the office was informed by the Secretary of State that all counties will be required to participate in a software update for the Dominion DemocracySuite program. He noted that no date has been determined for this update and the office remains in contact with the Secretary of State's office.

Mrs. Good asked for the date of the ePulse training.

Mr. Smith stated that it will take place on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

Director Kidd offered clarification, noting that the DemocracySuite update and ePulse training are separate events. He explained that the ePulse training concerns the electronic pollbooks used during the check-in process, while the DemocracySuite update will require all pieces of voting equipment to be touched and updated physically. He noted that the board will be informed when a concrete date is determined.

Director Kidd noted to the board that all members have received and reviewed potential policy changes regarding voter and candidate challenges. He explained that this is a matter he envisions emerging in the future, particularly during 2024, and requested the board to vote on its implementation.

There were no questions regarding this policy from the board.

Mrs. Good requested a vote for the policy's implementation. The vote was passed unanimously.

#### New Business

Director Kidd announced that the elections office will be presenting at both the next Board of Commissioners work session as well as the next Board of Commissioners meeting in order to request approval of funding for the relocation of the Board of Elections office. This work session will take place on April 17<sup>th</sup> and the meeting will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Word asked for clarification regarding the work session and meeting.

Director Kidd explained that he will be presenting at both. The work session is an opportunity to outline the request while the meeting will have the matter voted upon.

Mr. Word asked Director Kidd for his expectation regarding the result.

Director Kidd explained that the office has met with senior administrative leadership of the county and he hopes that the process will move forward to better administer the elections process under one location. He is hoping for approval.

Mr. Hurry asked Director Kidd if, in the event funding is not approved, would the office be able to continue operating in its current state during the 2024 election cycle.

Director Kidd explained that the current proposal before the Board of Commissioners would be a full relocation rather than a piecemeal approach.

#### Board Member Concerns

Mr. Word asked for clarification regarding the felon letter process and how it involves the Secretary of State's office

Director Kidd began by explaining that each state determines its own rules in conducting elections and voter registration. He explained that, in Georgia, the Secretary of State's office partners with law enforcement to compare its own voter rolls against their rolls of individuals who may have committed a felony. He explained that the Secretary of State transmits a list of individuals who may have committed a felony to the local elections offices across the state. Once those records are transmitted, any of these potential individuals is issued a letter informing them of this status and the elector is afforded an opportunity to contest the charge within 30 days of issuance. He explained that once a felon has completed his/her sentence, including any fines associated with sentencing, they may register to vote again by submitting a new voter registration application. If the identified voter does not contest the letter, they will be removed from the voting rolls. If they choose to contest this, they may contact the office to schedule a hearing before this board, and it would fall to the board to make the decision regarding the voter's status.

Mrs. Crochetiere asked for the name of the report that identifies these potential voters.

Director Kidd informed her that the report is called a GCIC report and can be obtained from the Douglas County Sheriff's Department.

#### Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm