

*FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION  
Regularly Scheduled JANUARY 2012 Monthly Meeting*

*January 24, 2012*

The regularly scheduled January meeting of the Fayette County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Addison Lester at 6:00 P.M. Also present were Members Darryl Hicks and David Studdard. Also present was Marilyn Watts, the newly appointed member of the Fayette County Board of Elections from the Republican Party whose term is to begin February 1, 2012.

A. HEARINGS

1. DECEASED AND FELON ELECTORS

Supervisor Sawyer presented a list of voters that the Elections office has deleted based upon a report of death certificates issued by the Fayette Probate Judge. Election Officer Crosby researched the Probate Judge's report of death certificates and the SSVRZ 561 (R1 to R8) list maintenance reports from the Secretary of State's office to include the names of Fayette County voters that we have deleted and are included on the Deceased hearing log. It is our recommendation to the Board of Elections that our actions be approved.. Member Darryl Hicks made a motion to approve the Deceased Hearing Log as presented by staff of Elections & Voter Registration Department. Member David Studdard seconded this motion. Chairman Lester called for the vote by members present- the motion passed 3 – 0. Chairman Lester presented the Felons List which staff has deleted and was recommending to the Board to approve staff's actions. Member Darryl Hicks made a motion to approve staff's action in deleting the Felons list. Member David Studdard seconded the motion. Chairman Lester called for the vote and it passed 3 – 0.

B,. OLD BUSINESS

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Chairman Lester asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the minutes as e-mailed to board members. Member David Studdard made a motion that the December 27, 2011 minutes be approved as e-mailed to the members. Member Darryl Hicks seconded the motion. Chairman Lester called for a vote which was approved 3 – 0.

C. NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Sawyer said that the following items were being presented for information to the Board of Elections

3. REDISTRICTING MAPS

Supervisor Sawyer briefly described the new maps that we had received from Reapportionment for the new State House and Senate Districts as well as the new U.S. Congressional map. A portion of north Fayette County has been made a part of U. S. Congressional District 13. Supervisor Sawyer pointed out the new State

House 63 that was going to include a portion of Fayette County and a small section of North Peachtree City was going to become a part of State House 71 with Billy Horn from Coweta County.

4. LAWSUIT

Supervisor Sawyer reported that he had been in touch with Bryan Tyson of the law firm representing Fayette County in the law suit brought by the NAACP against the Fayette County Board of Commissioners and the Fayette County Board of Elections. Staff has been working on a report of all persons who have run for County Commissioner since 1980 by party. This is discovery on the part of the NAACP. Supervisor Sawyer reported that the new chairman of the Fayette County Board of Education, Leonard Presberg came by to talk about the goings on in the Board of Education. Supervisor Sawyer reported that we had not received either copies of the new school board district maps or copies of the CONCENT DECREE that the Board of Education signed based on the lawsuit against them from the NAACP.

6. 2012 CONFERENCES

Supervisor Sawyer gave a budget update on the two remaining conferences to be held in FY 2012 indicating that with four persons attending and staying at the conference hotels, we would enough budget funds with \$500 left over. GEOA registration will open up on March 15<sup>th</sup> so we may wish to make a decision who will be attending. There will be a lot of good topics covered at the GEOA conference. Supervisor Sawyer reported that he was going to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of VRAG and would eventually move into the President's position. Both of these groups are working to possible combine the two conferences in 2014.

7. VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE TRAINING

Supervisor Sawyer and Election Officer Crosby went and did a training session with the Democratic Party on Saturday, January 14, 2012. They had expressed an interest to handle their voter registration activity as 3<sup>rd</sup> Party rather than as Deputy Registrars. Also Mr. Gainey with the Republican Party had come by the office to get information on conducting Voter Registration Drives. We made information available to Mr. Gainey and have also offered to come and do training if they wish us to. If groups wish to conduct their voter registration drives as Deputy Registrars, they are required to get preclearance from the Department of Justice as well as those participating must remain non-partisan in all their activities and have the locations, dates and times for their drives approved by the Fayette County Elections Board. These Deputy Registrars are actually an extension of this office. We must also post the dates and times in the local newspapers prior to the actual dates of the drives. If you are sworn in as a deputy registrar, you also cannot go door – to – door to conduct voter registration drives in order to get citizens registered to vote.

8. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

The elections office received a letter from Mr. Bill Camper yesterday requesting permission to conduct a two-day voter registration drive at each of the Fayette County high school as well as Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High school during April. They

have conducted these drives over the last six or seven years and have also made request to the Fayette County School Superintendents office to do so again this year. This groups wishes to become Deputy Registrars and we will attempt to train and swear them in next month. The Board of Education approved the following dates for the Knights of Columbus to conduct their voter registration drives in April at the following schools.

Fayette County High School	April 9 – 10
Sandy Creek High School	April 12 - 13
McIntosh High School	April 16 – 17
Starrs Mill High School	April 19 – 20
Whitewater High School	April 23 – 24

In additional, the Knights wishes to conduct voter registration at Our Lady of Mercy at a date after the April 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### 9. PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

Sample ballots were presented to the Board of Elections for the Democratic and Republican Parties. We have not received official notification from the Georgia Republican Party via the Secretary of State's Election Division of the withdrawal of Michele Bachman, Rick Perry and Jon Huntsman. Voter Registration will end February 6, 2012 for the March 6<sup>th</sup> Presidential Preference Primary Election. We will begin EARLY / ADVANCED VOTING Monday February 13, 2012. The advanced voting time has been reduced to 21 days from 45 days and each of the 159 counties in Georgia will conduct voting on Saturday February 25, 2012. We will be voting only here in the election office here at Stonewall from 9:00am until 4:00pm on that Saturday. Member Hicks asked what would be the ability of being able to open up the Commissioner Chambers if voting turnout was so massive on this one date. Supervisor Sawyer said that we should have a good feeling of the need prior to that date. Member Hicks recommended that we should have standby equipment and staff ready as a contingency.

E. OTHER BUSINESS - The voting location in Tyrone will be moved from the Tyrone First Baptist Church to the Tyrone Public Library. Also, Supervisor Sawyer reported that the Secretary of State had notified him that they were planning on going ahead with the case against the Tyrone First Baptist Church regarding the no campaigning within 150 ' of the church building. Chairman Lester asked if the Secretary of State would take action against the polling location or against Fayette County Election Office. Member Studdard said that since we had addressed this issue with the church on election day and had not turned a blind eye, he didn't see that there would be any recourse against the county by the Secretary of State. An earlier case caused the person who had the complaint filed against them were issued a letter of instruction or reprimand or a cease and desist order.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

G. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION – NONE

Chairman Lester stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed working with Member David Studdard and while the members were representing different political parties, it seemed to him that the different hats were removed when we had come into these meetings. Member Studdard said that he also had enjoyed working on the board and that Chairman Lester was not the two-headed monster that he had been represented to be. Member Studdard said that he also thanked Darryl for his participation on the Board and that it also had been a pleasure working with him. Member Hicks said that it also had been a pleasure working with David.

H. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business at 6:35PM, Member David Studdard moved that the meeting be adjourned. Member Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.