

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor
Leigh Combs, Elections Officer
April Crosby, Elections Officer



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

AGENDA
Special Called Meeting
June 13, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Elections. Your participation is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order

Approval of the Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the May 23, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes. **(Pages 1-4)**

PUBLIC HEARING:

CONSENT AGENDA:

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Continued discussion concerning the potential consolidation of precincts in Fayette County. **(Pages 5-13)**

NEW BUSINESS:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE
AGENDA ITEM #

PRESENTER(S)

TYPE OF REQUEST

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

Consideration of staff's request to approve the May 23, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(3)(B) reads: The regular minutes of a meeting subject to this chapter shall be promptly recorded and such records shall be open to public inspection once approved as official by the agency or its committee, but in no case later than immediately following its next regular meeting; provided, however, that nothing contained in this chapter shall prohibit the earlier release of minutes, whether approved by the agency or not. Such minutes shall, at a minimum, include the names of the members present at the meeting, a description of each motion or other proposal made, the identity of the person making and seconding the motion or other proposal, and a record of all votes. The name of each person voting for or against a proposal shall be recorded. It shall be presumed that the action taken was approved by each person in attendance unless the minutes reflect the name of the persons voting against the proposal or abstaining.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Approve the May 23, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Darryl Hicks, Chairman
 Addison Lester
 Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor
 Leigh Combs, Elections Officer
 April Crosby, Elections Officer

**MINUTES**

May 23, 2017
 5:00 p.m.

140 Stonewall Avenue West
 Public Meeting Room
 Fayetteville, GA 30214

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Elections. Your participation is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order

Chairman Hicks called the May 23, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Lester moved to approve the Agenda as published. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one spoke during Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the April 25, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Wright moved to amend the April 25, 2017 Board of Election Meeting Minutes to reflect the proper spelling of Mr. Leonard Presberg's name and then to approve the April 25, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. (**Note:** *The proper spelling of Mr. Presberg's name has been updated on the April 25, 2017 Minutes and Action Agenda.*)

PUBLIC HEARING:**2. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as deceased.**

No one spoke during Public Hearing on this item.

Mr. Lester moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Voter Registration System as deceased. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

3. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as felons.

No one spoke during Public Hearing on this item.

Mr. Lester moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as felons. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Continued discussion concerning the potential consolidation of precincts in Fayette County.

Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Board on the potential use of schools as polling locations in the county as well as updating the Board on revised distances to proposed polling locations should consolidation be adopted. It was noted that this matter involves a compressed timeframe and that staff needed the Board to provide authorization to place a legal advertisement in the paper and to set a Special Called Meeting date. Mr. Jones also provided "pros and cons" concerning consolidation.

Mr. Lester asked if Fayetteville United Methodist Church could be used as a polling place, instead of McDonough Road Baptist Church, in order to keep at least one precinct from dual voting. Mr. Jones replied that using the church may be possible but he would have to research it further.

The Board considered the information provided and replied to the "pros and cons" Mr. Jones gave. Discussion followed.

The Board expressed concern was on the accuracy of the GIS data provided and on staff's ability to conduct the consolidation, if approved. Mr. Jones replied that he is not a GIS person so he has to rely on the accuracy of the data provided to him. Additional discussion followed.

Mr. Wright moved to authorize staff to place an advertisement in the county's legal organ on May 31, 2017 notifying citizens of an upcoming meeting that will decide whether or not to consolidate. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board consented that it would hold a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. so long as it did not interfere with any previously scheduled meeting. Mr. Jones replied that he would look into whether that date would be workable.

The Board further consented to cancel its previously scheduled June 27, 2017 meeting in light of holding a Special Called Meeting on or near June 13, 2017. Copies of the request and the PowerPoint presentation, identified as "Attachment 3," follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

NEW BUSINESS:

There were no New Business items on the Agenda.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

VRAG CONFERENCE: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones reported that the Voter Registration Association of Georgia (VRAG) Conference would be held from Sunday, August 13 through Wednesday, August 16 at the August Marriott. He added that registration for the conference would open in approximately one week.

Minutes
May 23, 2017
Page Number 3

ETHICS REFORM: Election Supervisor Floyd Jones briefed the Board on the need to engage in ethics reform. He stated that the law appeared to hold elections personnel accountable for improper filings from elected officials. He mentioned this matter had been addressed at the Georgia Elections Officers Association (GEOA) Conference recently held in Savannah, that elections' personnel from across the state were not in favor of the current system, that that the concerns needed to be addressed. Mr. Jones asked for the Board's approval to look into ethics reform once the matter of consolidation of precincts was resolved. The Board agreed to the request.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Aaron Wright: Mr. Wright asked how the renovations to the GEMS Server Room were going. Mr. Jones replied that the Board was welcome to come to the office to see the ongoing renovations. He further added that personnel from Kennesaw State University were scheduled to come to the office on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 to install the GEMS Server.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the May 23, 2017 Board of Elections meeting. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The May 23, 2017 Board of Elections Meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

MEETING DATE
AGENDA ITEM #

PRESENTER(S)

TYPE OF REQUEST

WORDING FOR THE AGENDA

Continued discussion concerning the potential consolidation of precincts in Fayette County.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY / DETAILS

On April 25 and on May 23, 2017, Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones presented information pertaining to the possible consolidation of the current thirty-six (36) precincts to potentially nineteen (19) precincts.

Since that time, maps have been produced fine-tuning the information presented at the April 25 meeting. Furthermore, there has been consideration of using the public schools for polling locations.

This item to bring the Board and the public with the latest information and is designed to seek the Board of Election's direction.

SPECIFIC ACTION / DIRECTION SOUGHT

Board vote on whether to consolidate precincts and Board to set a date for a Special Called Meeting establishing polling locations.

Polling Places for the Proposed 19 Precincts Utilizing Schools

Synopsis

Currently, Fayette County utilizes three schools and the Lafayette Educational Building as polling locations. In recent weeks, there has been consideration given to utilizing more schools in a simultaneous effort to reduce from 36 precincts to 19 precincts.

The schools under preliminary consideration are: North Fayette Elementary School, Tyrone Elementary School, Lafayette Educational Center; Cleveland Elementary School (or Bennett's Mill Middle School), Whitewater Middle School, Kedron Elementary School; Crabapple Lane Elementary School, Oak Grove Elementary School and Rising Starr School Auditorium.

Individual members of the Board of Elections have had individual, non-quorum discussions with members of the Board of Education. The initial takeaway from these discussions is that the Board of Education would be favorable to allowing schools to be used for election purposes. Elementary schools have been considered based on the recommendation of one Board member. Bennett's Mill Middle School is also under consideration after Mr. Presberg suggested the middle school should be considered instead of Cleveland Elementary School.

Schools are favorable locations since they meet ADA Compliance, are in many of the proposed 19 consolidated precincts, have adequate parking, and are in general close proximity to the voters. Moreover, many counties throughout the state and in the metropolitan Atlanta area use schools to conduct elections.

Per O.C.G.A. § 21-2-266 (a):

In selecting polling places, the superintendent of a county or the governing authority of a municipality shall select, wherever practicable and consistent with subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-265, schoolhouses, municipal buildings or rooms, or other public buildings for that purpose. In selecting polling places, the superintendent of a county or the governing authority of a municipality shall give consideration to the comfort and convenience those places to be selected will provide to both electors and poll officers. School, county, municipal, or other governmental authorities, upon request of the superintendent of a county or the governing authority of a municipality, shall make arrangements for the use of their property for polling places; provided, however, that such use shall not substantially interfere with the use of such property for the purposes for which it is primarily intended.

Opinion of the Attorney General:

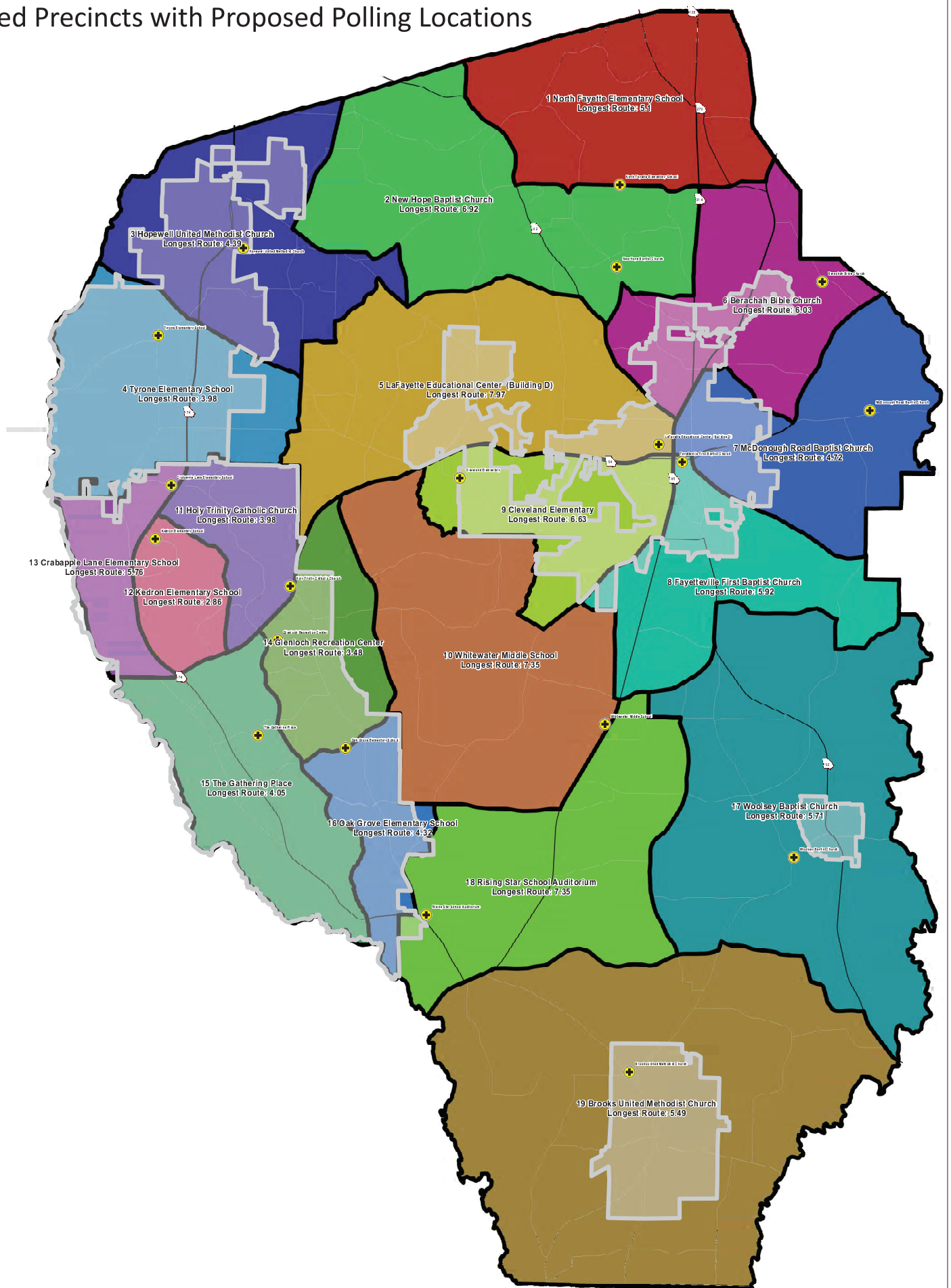
Interference with the primary use of public property.—Whether the use as a polling place will substantially interfere with primary use of public property is a decision which lies within the discretion of the judge of the probate court (now superintendent.) 1965-66 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 65-88.

The Sheriff's Office is required to provide security for polling location. The Sheriff's Office reports that it will be able to provide security at the schools, as needed, however, the Sheriff's Office further reports that it is better for the schools to close during elections in order to provide optimal security.

It is noted that the school systems in Coweta, Clayton, Henry, Fulton, Spalding and Butts Counties close their schools for "major elections."

Elections staff met with Board of Education staff on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 to finalize suggested schools for polling locations. The Education Board staff stated they would consult with the Superintendent. As of publication, no word has been provided on that consultation.

Proposed Precincts with Proposed Polling Locations



Legend:

- ⊕ Polling Locations
- ▭ City Limits

1	4	7	10	13	16	19
2	5	8	11	14	17	
3	6	9	12	15	18	

Potential Polling Locations with Nineteen (19) Precincts

- Precinct 1-** North Fayette Elementary School (not currently utilized as a polling place.)
- Precinct 2-** New Hope Baptist Church (currently utilized as a polling place.)
- Precinct 3-** Hopewell United Methodist Church (currently utilized as a polling place. All schools in Precinct 3 are located in the unincorporated portion of the county requiring dual-voting if utilized.)
- Precinct 4-** Tyrone Elementary School. (It is understood that this school is closed for much of the year, but it is utilized for special functions. If needed, this polling location can be returned back to the Tyrone Public Library and / or the Tyrone Town Hall.)
- Precinct 5-** Lafayette Educational Center- Building D (currently utilized as a polling place.)
- Precinct 6-** Berachah Bible Church (currently utilized as a polling place. This location in one of a couple of locations that will require dual-voting for its citizens. Efforts can be made at a future date to locate a polling location within the Fayetteville City limits. No public school is located in this proposed precinct.)
- Precinct 7-** McDonough Road Baptist Church (currently utilized as a polling place. Similar to Precinct 6, this location will require dual-voting for its citizens. Efforts can be made at a future date to locate a polling location within the Fayetteville City limits. No public school is located in this proposed precinct.)
- Precinct 8-** Fayetteville First Baptist Church (currently utilized as a polling place.)
- Precinct 9-** Cleveland Elementary School / Bennett's Mill Middle School. (Neither school is currently used as a polling location. Cleveland Elementary School was first proposed as a polling location based on conversation between an Elections Board member and a member of the Board of Education stating elementary schools should be considered. Bennett's Mill Middle School is also under consideration based on Board of Education member Leonard Presberg who indicated this school may be more suitable to hold elections.)
- Precinct 10-** Whitewater Middle School (not currently used as a polling location. The only public school in the proposed precinct.)
- Precinct 11-** Holy Trinity Catholic Church (currently used as a polling location. McIntosh High School is in close proximity and may be used if needed / recommended.)
- Precinct 12-** Kedron Elementary School (not currently used as a polling location. This school is next to the Kedron Field House which is currently used as a polling location, however, the Field House is further from the main road and may not be as suitable for elections as the school. Elementary school is considered based on feedback from a member of the Board of Education.)
- Precinct 13-** Crabapple Lane Elementary School (not currently used as a polling location. If the school is not utilized, then there is a real possibility that there is not a suitable location in the proposed precinct.)
- Precinct 14-** Glenloch Recreation Center (currently used as a polling location.)
- Precinct 15-** The Gathering Place (currently used as a polling location. Huddleston Elementary School may be utilized as a polling location if need be or recommended.)

- Precinct 16-** Oak Grove Elementary School (currently used as a polling location. Braelinn Elementary, which is also currently used as a polling location, may also be used as a polling location if needed or recommended. If the schools are not able to be used, then there will be no suitable location for elections to be held in this precinct.)
- Precinct 17-** Woolsey Baptist Church (currently used as a polling place. Inman Elementary School is a secondary site if need be or recommended.)
- Precinct 18-** Rising Star School Auditorium (currently used as a polling place. Starrs Mill High School and Peoples Elementary School may be used as alternative locations if recommended. Heritage Christian Church may be utilized as well, if it is determined that the church is in the proposed precinct. However, the church is on the border of the precinct requiring voters to drive further as compared to the schools which are somewhat more centralized to the precinct. All potential locations will require dual voting.)
- Precinct 19-** Brooks United Methodist Church (currently used as a polling place.)

Proposed Precinct Consolidation without the Use of Schools

To consolidate precincts without the use of schools would be troublesome. Logistically, some of the currently utilized polling locations may not be able to handle a greater influx of voters. Some of the churches are smaller meaning they are capable of handling the current division of voters into 36 precincts but will have a harder time accommodating consolidated numbers. Note: This is not a universal concern for all precincts, but for several.

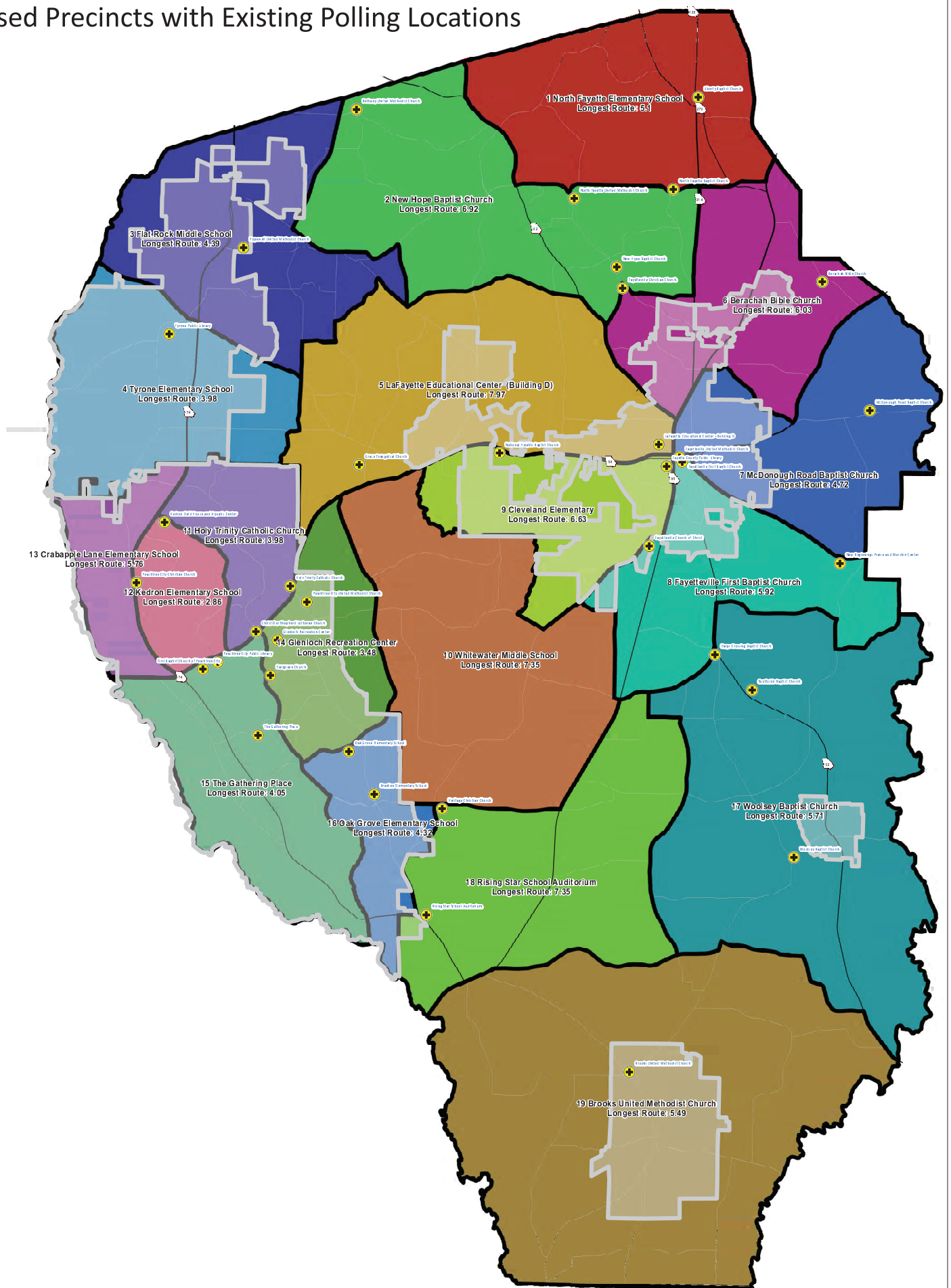
Precinct #13 with 3,663 assigned voters and Precinct #16 with 5,687 assigned voters have no apparent place for voters to vote. These voters would have to be sent to either the Glenloch Recreation Center (Precinct #14) which already has 4,738 voters or to The Gathering Place (Precinct #15.) which already has 5,636 voters. At a minimum, there would be 8,401 voters assigned to one voting precinct.

Dual-voting would continue with Precinct #18 (Rising Starr) with voters going to Heritage Christian Church to vote on county matters and simultaneously to either The Gathering Place (Precinct #15) or Glenloch Recreation Center (Precinct #14).

Currently, there is no established polling location for voters residing in Precinct #10- Whitewater Middle School.

Dual-voting would continue in Precinct #6- Berachah Bible Church and Precinct #7 McDonough Road Baptist Church. Note: This would not change even if schools are able to be used.

Proposed Precincts with Existing Polling Locations



Compressed Timeframe

Tuesday, June 13, 2017- The Board of Elections votes on the question of consolidating precincts.

Wednesday, June 14, 2017- Staff begins initial prep work for consolidating precincts. Entering into the state system cannot be done without a final vote on locations of polling places that will be held on July 5, 2017.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017- Per O.C.G.A. §21-2-265, the polling place shall not change until notice of the proposed change shall have been published for once a week for two consecutive weeks in the legal organ for the county or municipality in which the polling place is located. The *Fayette News* is the county's legal organ. The legal organ publishes on Wednesday and Saturday each week. It is preferred that the legal notice is published in the Wednesday paper since it may have the largest readership. This date is the first of the two consecutive legal notices to be published.

Wednesday, June 28, 2017- This is the second legal notice to be published.

Wednesday, July 5, 2017- Special Called Meeting of the Board of Elections. This meeting must determine where the polling places will be located in the consolidated precincts.

Thursday, July 6- Friday, July 7, 2017- Wait on State to open the "redistricting" process.

Monday, July 10 – Thursday, July 27, 2017- Staff will begin entering consolidated precinct data into the state system. Note: Staff had originally asked for six weeks to accomplish this work. Due to the compressed timeframe, this work is now being scheduled for three weeks. This will almost certainly require working overtime and possibly on weekends. Board approval is requested for this overtime.

Friday, July 28 – Monday, July 31, 2017- Staff waits for the State to close the "redistricting" process.

Tuesday, August 1, 2017- All work for consolidating precincts must have been completed by August 1, 2017 due to state-mandated municipal deadlines and upcoming qualifications for elected office on the November 2017 ballot.

Final Considerations

Nationally, the number of voters assigned to a voting precinct averages 1,800 voters.

Under the proposed consolidation, Fayette County would have 19 precincts with an average of 4,595 voters per precinct. The largest proposed precinct is Precinct #16 with 5,687 voters assigned. The smallest precinct is Precinct #19 with 2,796 voters assigned.

County	Number of Precincts	Average Number of Voters per Precinct	Wait Time
Douglas County	25 Precincts	2,500	Less than one hour
Coweta County	28 Precincts	Unavailable	Unavailable
Clayton County	58 Precincts	2,000 – 3,000	20-30 minutes
Carroll County	30 Precincts	2,000	10-20 minutes
Henry County	37 Precincts	4,500 per precinct	5-10 minutes
Bibb County	32 Precincts	2, 500 Average / Largest has 6,000 voters	Majority of voters vote early. No voter has ever had to wait longer than thirty minutes.

Possible Unintended Consequences

Staff's concern pertains to the number of voters assigned to potential precincts. This concern is amplified if schools are not able to be used. There is potential that additional precincts will have to be created and / or additional staff will have to be hired for conducting elections. This will not be truly known until after an election is held and voter turnout is gauged. This consolidation could be altered based on O.C.G.A. § 21-2-263.

Staff has been consistent with its request to have six weeks to enter all data related to consolidating precincts. Due to legalities, this six week request is reduced to approximately four weeks with an additional four to six days lost due to turnaround at the state. This results in staff working as quickly as possible for three weeks in order to meet the August 1 deadline. The data entry can be done, but it is done with a "squirrely" state program and with little to no time to review accuracy of the entered work. Problems with voter registration may be discovered during an actual election.