

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Addison Lester, Chairman
Darryl Hicks
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L Jones, Director
April Crosby, Elections Supervisor
Brian Hill, County Registrar



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Elections Office, Suite 208
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES

July 27, 2018
5:00 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

Chairman Lester called the July 27, 2018 Board of Elections Meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Mr. Hicks was not present.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Wright moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Chairman Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Hicks not present for the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one spoke during Public Comments.

CERTIFICATION:

1. Certification of the July 24, 2018 General Primary Runoff Election Results.

County Registrar Brian Hill briefed the Board on five provisional ballots that were cast during the July 24, 2018 Primary Runoff Election. Mr. Hill stated that three of the provisional voters did not show up on the Express Poll even though they voted at their correct precinct. He stated that the reason this occurred was because addresses changed between the primary and the runoff elections, but the Express Poll was not updated from the Primary- thus showing the voter at their old address. Mr. Hill recommended these three ballots be approved by the Board. The remaining two provisional ballots were cast by voters at the wrong precinct, however, since there was no distinction between the ballots from precinct to precinct, Mr. Hill recommended the remaining two ballots also be accepted by the Board.

Chairman Lester moved to accept staff's recommendation to approve all five provisional ballots. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Hicks not being present.

Mr. Hill left the meeting to begin the certification procedures.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Consideration of staff's request to approve the June 26, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the June 26, 2018 Board of Elections Minutes as presented. Chairman Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Hicks not being present.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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

No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to staff's recommendation.

Chairman Lester moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Electors List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as deceased. Minor discussion followed. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Hicks not being present. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

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

No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to staff's recommendation.

Mr. Wright moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Electors List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as deceased. Chairman Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Hicks not present for the vote. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There was no Consent Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were no Old Business Items.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Discussion of a potential Legislative Delegation initiative concerning Ethics Filing / Reporting and Vote Centers.

Director Jones stated that during the 2018 Board of Commissioners Retreat, Commissioner Rousseau asked for the County Commission to work with the Legislative Delegation to move the filing of ethics documentation back to the state. Mr. Jones stated that he has a system in place and the ethics filings are occurring, but staff is limited in what it can do and it is frustrating for everyone. He pointed out that there is an overwhelming majority at GEOA and at VRAG for the state to take over ethics filings. He stated that the Commissioners want it done, and that the State wants it done. The Board agreed to work with the Legislative Delegation for the state to take back the ethics filing responsibility. Mr. Jones stated that the opposition to this effort would come from city officials as another way to shade ethics. He suspected it would strengthen ethics throughout Georgia. Chairman Lester asked if there had been discussion at GMA. Mr. Jones replied that he had been told there was discussion at GMA and that GMA wanted ethics to remain at the local level.

Director Jones stated that for three weeks every county in Georgia is running, essentially, vote centers and they do it well. But at the end of three weeks, they stop, change the system, and on Election Day conduct elections with an essentially different system. He stated that thirteen states are already doing what Georgia should be doing and, for all practical purposes, is doing for the first three weeks. He suggested that opening vote centers could theoretically lower costs, lower the number of sites used, and could potentially allow for an additional day of voting.

Mr. Hicks entered the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Mr. Jones stated that going to a vote center methodology would preclude consolidating precincts. He said that voting centers would reduce the number of provisional ballots.

Mr. Wright suggested that this information could be provided to the Legislative Delegation at an upcoming Board of Elections meeting and then an effort could be made at GEOA and VRAG. Since there is motivation to make a change of some kind, this would work. It was suggested to invite the Legislative Delegation at the August or September Board of Elections Meeting.

The Board recommended a position statement needed to be provided and agreed upon before having the Legislative Delegation come to the meeting.

Mr. Hicks stated this was absolutely something to explore. Mr. Jones agreed saying there was a lot of work to do with this matter.

The Board did not vote or take action on this matter. A copy of this request, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. Elections Trailer / Possible Need to Move from Upstairs Location: Director Jones encouraged each Board member to look at the Elections Trailer. He described the issues with the trailer, and he emphasized that the Election machines are in a trailer that's trying to fall apart. He suggested that this opens the door for a larger discussion to centralize the Elections Office and its operations. He suggested that an opportunity seems to be arising that would move the Health Department out of the Administrative Complex and to another place. He said that could open the opportunity to move the Elections Office downstairs. He suggested another thought was using the City of Fayetteville's City Hall. He suggested that another option was possibility renting out a big box store. He said he saw a lot of possibilities. It was suggested that repairing the trailer would give a quick solution to a bigger problem. Discussion followed. Mr. Jones concluded there is a need and that a change would not take place without asking first.

Mr. Hicks stated that cost and analysis needed to be done. Mr. Jones added that it would be much easier to get this matter accomplished with Board of Elections support and Steve Rapson's support. Mr. Wright stated that he would take the quick fix to the solution so long as the broader question is considered.

Mr. Brian Cook suggested that the Board of Education could be consulted since they had donated trailers to the Road Department in the past.

B. Complaint Received Yesterday from Greg and Kim Clasen: Director Jones briefed the Board on a complaint registered by Greg and Kim Clasen. He stated that the Secretary of State's Office had called and reviewed the case. Later, the Secretary of State's Office discussed its findings with the Clasen's and that it appeared that the Clasen's would not proceed further with an investigation. It was concluded that there was no "there" there to begin with and that there would be no investigation. A chief complaint is that the poll managers did not get out of their chairs to address the problem, but Mr. Jones reminded the Board that at the end of the day it was a "he said she said" matter.

- C. **Comparison to Henry County:** Director Jones stated that on the first day of early voting for the runoff election, someone from Henry County called asking how we do what we do. He said Henry County's Election Office was open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. including on a Saturday. He stated that the state predicted a 5% turnout, the media predicted less than 10% turnout. Fayette County had just over 13% turnout. Henry County, with their longer hours and twice as many questions on the ballot had just over 15% turnout. He stated that given Henry's County's four voting locations and hour open- Henry voters had just about a month longer to vote. Mr. Jones stated that the information was given for consideration along.
- D. **Cost Savings- Runoff Election:** Director Jones stated that by staggering openings for early election sites and by reducing the number of budgeted clerks, the county had saved approximately \$25,000.00. Mr. Wright stated that the savings provided more evidence that the Commissioners should trust the Elections Office when it requests additional space since it does make good use of that with which it is entrusted.

Budgeted Cost:

Managers, Assistant Managers, Clerks	\$33,120.00
Absentee By Mail Clerks	\$ 5,684.00
Absentee In Person Staff	<u>\$32,516.25</u>
Total:	\$71,315.25
Cost per Vote / 11,881:	\$6.00

Actual Cost:

Managers, Assistant Managers, Clerks	\$24,410.00
Absentee by Mail Clerks	\$ 0.00
Absentee In Person Staff	<u>\$21,371.16</u>
Total:	\$45,781.16
Cost per Vote / 11,881:	\$3.85

Cost Savings for July 2018 Runoff Election: \$25,534.09

36% Savings

- E. **Taking August 3, 2018 Off- Family Gathering / Reunion:** Director Jones stated that he would be taking Friday, August 3, 2018 off for a family reunion.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

There was no Board Members Report. The Board members signed the Certification documents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the July 27, 2018 Board of Elections Meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The June 26, 2018 Board of Elections Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Director

Addison Lester, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 28th day of August 2018. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.

Floyd L. Jones, Director