

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

ACTION AGENDA

August 28, 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 August 28, 2018 Board of Elections meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and he thanked those in the audience for attending.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Lester stated that the audience was likely in attendance for one matter and that Director Jones had information in relation to that matter. He recommended that Director Reports be moved ahead of Public Comments in order for the Director's Report to be given, and once given the Agenda would follow in published order immediately with Public Comments. Discussion followed.

Mr. Wright moved to move the Director's Report immediately before Public Comments. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Report on Extending Early Voting Hours in Fayette County: Director Jones reviewed the information provided to the Board in March 2018 as reason for not extending voting hours in Fayette County. He further provided findings from the *Brennan Center for Justice- Early Voting: What Works?* and he also provided the conclusion from The Washington Post entitled: "*Why don't American's vote? We're too busy*" authored by Scott Clement. Copies of the cited reports, identified as "Attachment 1," follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Board Member Aaron Wright read an email into the record from Fayetteville City Councilman Paul Oddo who did not support extending voting hours. A copy of the email, identified as "Attachment 2," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

Seventeen citizens spoke in person regarding their position on whether or not to extend early voting hours. Of those who spoke, nine (9) supported extending voting hours and eight (8) were in favor of maintaining the hours.

Director Jones answered some questions posed by the public. Board discussion followed.

The Board directed Mr. Jones to provide the cost analysis for potential changes and to present them at the September meeting.

Commissioner Rousseau Request: Director Jones stated he had been asked to give a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners concerning elections security. He stated that the matter should be limited to what Fayette County does and not broadened into state security matters, especially since the state is in current litigation. Mr. Hicks stated the conversation should be on county processes.

Educational Purposes: Mr. Wright added that there had been some discussion about upcoming legislative changes at a coming meeting. Director Jones stated that the county is moving toward a Governors Election and, given the other tasks at hand, he asked the Board's indulgence to bring some of the items introduced at the July meeting up at a future date, potentially even in January since there is no Board meeting in December. The Board agreed to the request.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the July 27, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the July 17, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2. 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.

Mr. Wright 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 deceased. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

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 felons.

Mr. Wright 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. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda items.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Director to provide an update on the Elections Trailer and potential use of Fire Station #4. This matter was last discussed at the July 27, 2018 Board of Elections meeting.

Director Jones briefed the Board on the current status of the Elections trailer and of the possibility of getting Old Fire Station #4 as a permanent place to house elections machinery. Discussion followed.

The Board did not take action or provide direction on this matter. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 5," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Review and discussion concerning the November 6, 2018 Dual Election to be held in Fayette County.

Director Jones stated there will be two different elections occurring simultaneously. He said the first election includes federal, state, and county questions. The second will involve city questions for only those residents of the City of Fayetteville and the City of Peachtree City. He explained the reason that drives dual voting.

Mr. Jones also spoke about the need to enter into Intergovernmental Agreements and about a few methodologies available on how to charge the cities. He recommended that the cities be charged based on their number of citizens who chose to vote for city matters. He explained how he came to his conclusion to recommend the third billing option.

Chairman Lester asked if the cities had been made aware of potential costs. Mr. Jones replied that he had informed Peachtree City Clerk Betsy Tyler and City of Fayetteville Clerk Anne Barksdale of potential costs, but he could not say if the clerks had informed their cities' leadership.

The Board agreed to bill the cities with Method Number 3 as presented.

6. Consideration of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Fayetteville for the purpose of conducting the municipality's 2018 Special Called Election(s), and authorization for the Chairman and Elections Director to sign said agreement.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Fayetteville. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

7. Consideration of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peachtree City for the purpose of conducting the municipality's 2018 Special Called Election(s), and authorization for the Chairman and Elections Director to sign said agreement.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peachtree City. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

8. Consideration of staff's request to allow Fayette County residents who desire to serve as volunteers with the Elections Office to work as unpaid volunteers under staff supervision.

Director Jones stated that there is a poll manager who wants to be a part of the county under Election Supervisor April Crosby's supervision so that she can come and fill her hands with something to do. He stated that earlier in the day, a second person has asked to work as a volunteer as well. He stated there was a potential history where a similar request was made and turned down. He said the Human Resources Department did not have a problem with volunteers working for the Elections Office and even provided a form that the Library uses for its volunteers.

Mr. Wright stated his concern was not Human Resources related but confidentiality related since they will have sensitive voter data. He also did not know what the administrative step would be to have someone like that be a volunteer around sensitive voter information.

Assistant County Attorney Patrick Stough asked the Board for some time to research this matter from a legal perspective. The Board agreed to Mr. Stough's request.

9. Discussion concerning security in the Fayette County Election's Office.

Mr. Wright mentioned that he has been on the Board since 2016 and has had a chance to network with other Election's officials. He stated that because the county election staff deals with the general public, sensitive information, and felons in their capacity as felons, it can cause very heated exchanges. He said it has resulted in heated exchanges and general security concerns. He said he wanted to explore the option about how county personnel can take care of themselves. He said he wanted to make sure anyone who comes into contact with felons will have security. He said there have been discussions with the some commissioners and with the Sheriff's Office about security concerns and then he asked Director Jones to provide an update on where the matter currently stands.

Mr. Jones discussed the current security status with the Board. Extensive Board discussion followed.

Chairman Lester decided that the best course is to allow the already approved security measures to be implemented, to determine what other security should be added, and then discussion may occur about other needs for security. The Board agreed to Chairman Lester's recommendation.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Mr. Wright: Mr. Wright stated it was good to see such good participation at the meeting. He also encouraged everyone to pay attention to the upcoming meeting and changes at the legislature and for everyone to have their voices heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Lester moved to adjourn the August 28, 2018 Board of Elections Meeting. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board of Elections meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Director