

## **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**

November 9, 2018  
5:00 p.m.

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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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

### **Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order**

Chairman Lester called the November 9, 2018 Board of Elections meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Two members of the public were present. None spoke when given the opportunity.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

#### **1. Certification of the November 6, 2018 General Election and Special Election Results.**

County Registrar Brian Hill provided the Board with recommendations on either approving or not approving provisional ballots cast for the November 6, 2018 General Election.

Mr. Hicks moved to accept the recommendations as provided by County Registrar Brian Hill. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Hill and staff left the meeting to process the accepted provisional ballots.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **2. Consideration of staff's request to approve the September 25, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the September 25, 2018 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**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.**

Mr. Hicks 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 3-0.

**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 felons.**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

There were no item on Consent Agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There were no items for Old Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**5. Consideration of staff's recommendation to adopt the Calendar Year 2019 Board of Elections' Meeting Schedule.**

Director Jones confirmed that the recommended dates are the last dates Tuesdays of each month with the exception of the November meeting. He also added that there could be adjustments to the meeting schedule as 2019 progresses.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Calendar Year 2019 Board of Elections' Meeting Schedule. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Security in the Elections Office:** Director Jones stated that the Elections Office had been provided security. He mentioned that April and Brian had set it off already a couple of times and the police responded each time.

**November 2018 General Election:** Director Jones stated that the November 2018 General Election was just over 3,000 votes shy of matching the November 2016 Presidential Election. He added that this election was enhanced since it was a dual election, and it was all done on a mid-term budget and with mid-term staffing. He stated about 80,000 ballots were cast in total.

**Brooks Precinct:** Director Jones stated there were issues at the Brooks Precinct. He said he received about seven complaints from residents as well as from the Mayor Pro Tem. He added that the Mayor Pro Tem said he would send a letter to Mr. Jones and the Board of Commissioners. The chief complaints were the lines, the number of machines, and the organization in the church which caused confusion. Discussion was held about the requirements to bring another machine to the Brooks precinct during a real time election. Mr. Jones replied that in order to do so would require having two people transport additional machines to Brooks, and he did not have two additional people to pull off-line. Chairman Lester stated that people in the Brooks precinct do not like to vote early. It was considered opening a new early voting site and it was suggested that perhaps the Brooks Library could be used. Discussion followed. Mr. Wright was happy there was such a turnout, but he was unhappy that they came after elections staff. He stated that the

Board will need to have staff's back on this. The Board agreed. Mr. Jones stated there was someone who is claiming voter suppression at Brooks. He completely rejected that accusation saying that the voters in Brooks had the same opportunities to vote early. Mr. Hicks stated there was a lady at Liberty Baptist Church who had to vote provisional and she was upset. The poll worker stated it was a mistake on behalf of the county, but there was no reason given regarding what the mistake was. Mr. Jones stated this was the first he had heard of that problem at Liberty Baptist Church, so he was unsure how to best address it. Mr. Jones then provided some quick numbers for the 2016 election. Mr. Jones added that Fayette County had the 7<sup>th</sup> highest voter participation, by percentage of voter turnout, in Georgia, placing the county in top 4% of all counties in Georgia. Still, Fayette County has more active voters and more voter turnout than the top six counties in aggregate.

**Runoff Election:** Director Jones discussed how the December 4 runoff and how planning for it is itself tricky since there is uncertainty about voter turnout during the runoff could be massive or could be minimal. Discussion followed on methods on how to best staff and machine the precincts. Discussion also followed about the challenges for preparing and holding early voting given the compressed timeframe in getting to the December 4 Election and given the uncertainty with court challenges. It was expressed that there are many questions about many days can be given for early elections. The Board also agreed that the early voting, when it begins, should be open from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. This was agreed upon for consistency sake. The Board agreed to let Mr. Jones build the schedule. There was a question on whether there is budget for this runoff election. The Board agreed that the Commissioners were put on notice that additional funding might be needed if a runoff took place. This notice was expressly given at the 2018 Commissioners Retreat. Further, the Board agreed that even if there is an "issue" with the budget it would not be a legal issue since the election has to be funded.

**Stacy Abrams Notice of Potential Litigation:** Director Jones provided each Board member with a notice of potential litigation from the Stacy Abrams campaign. It is not targeted to Fayette County, specifically, but went to all Georgia counties. He asked the Board to read the notice and to follow its prescriptions.

#### **ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

There was no Attorney's Report.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

**Chairman Lester:** Chairman Lester apologized to Mr. Hicks and to Mr. Wright from the standpoint that when he talked to each Board member it left a different impression on how he and Director Jones would work with County Administrator Steve Rapson. He said it was different phone conversations and opened different understandings. He said that in the future communication would be done by email. Mr. Wright stated it was on all three members to communicate with each other. Chairman Lester stated that ever since the controversy with the letter, Mr. Rapson has been very complimentary of staff and how they are handling this election. He added that Mr. Rapson has reached out to meet as soon as possible to talk about future space and he wants County Attorney Dennis Davenport to be a part of the discussion. Director Jones added that the discussion would focus on both short-term and long-term solutions. Mr. Hicks added that having the election upstairs highlighted the issues of being upstairs so it was a silver-lining. Chairman Lester stated that Fire Station #4 would not support the voter turnout as given this election.

The Board recessed the November 9, 2018 Board of Elections Meeting in order to allow time for staff to continue certifying the results.

The Board went into recess at 6:33 p.m. and returned to session at 7:10 p.m

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Lester moved to accept the final results and certify the November 6, 2018 election results for Fayette County. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board certified the Election results.

Chairman Lester moved to adjourn the November 9, 2018 Board of Elections meeting. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board of Elections adjourned the November 9, 2018 Board of Elections meeting at 7:11 p.m.

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Floyd L. Jones, Director