

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Zach Livsey, Chairperson
Sharlene Alexander, Vice Chairperson
Morris Kelly, Member



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Brianna Garrett, Director
Malcolm Unvala, Registrar
Margaret Johnson, Elections Supervisor

175 Johnson Ave., Suite B
Fayetteville, GA 30214

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2026
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.

1. CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander, to accept the January 27, 2026 Agenda for the Regular Board meeting. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Speakers will be given a five (5) minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Elections about various topics, issues, and concerns. Speakers must direct comments to the Board. Responses are reserved at the direction of the Board.

Good afternoon, my name is Michael Shane and I am here representing Southern Crescent Indivisible. We are 360 members strong organization, and we're located out of Fayetteville. We actually service nine counties south of Atlanta, making sure that we can promote and maintain our democracy. I have some questions today, and I know that this is not an interactive thing, but maybe you can respond on a different date or different time.

The first one is regarding the polling place changes, and I understand that I'm lucky since mine has been the same for forever, but when you make a change like that because of an unavailable facility, I wonder how you would advertise that. I know that you have a couple of them listed on your website, two of the four that you're talking about today are on there but, I don't know what you do to make the extra effort to make sure people don't show up at the wrong place which they've been going to for years. So, how you communicate that will be of interest.

There is another issue and that is Sunday voting. It is a strong recommendation from our organization, and what we want to do is make sure people have the opportunity to vote, many are not available during working times and not available on Saturday vote. So, I encourage you to do Sunday voting. Last I checked, last week, you still have not made that decision. So, I'm really hoping that you will continue to have at least one of those two Sundays for Sunday voting.

The last issue I will talk about is voter identification cards. It seems an issue that is very important for people who don't have the typical information to vote. As you know, one of the places that people go to is their local

elections board, but your machine has been broken for a very long time, and at this point, from what we heard from the staff, there is no plan to fix it at this point. So, people have to go to the DDS to get their voter card, which is the other space that is available. We just want to make sure that the voter identification machine that you have is working, so that people know, when they look at the website from the state, that you and the DDS are the two places they can get their card. We have conducted a survey in six of our counties in this area, and they all have their machines working. Here in Fayette is an example of a county, maybe that has changed in the last week or so, but I do not know. We encourage you to take action on that. Thank you for your time, I appreciate it.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business.

6. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES:

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander to approve the November 7, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander to approve the November 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of the 2026 Board Meeting Calendar

Director Garrett stated that because Board members did not receive a paper copy of the calendar, it may be preferable to finalize the calendar at a future meeting, as there is still sufficient time to do so.

Director Garrett further explained that while it is already established in writing that Board meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday of each month, it is beneficial to establish the time and date of Election Certification meetings at the beginning of the year.

Vice Chair Alexander commented that many larger counties certify on Monday, which allows additional time for Board members to review materials. She noted that the volume of information provided to the Board may increase in the future.

Chairman Livsey stated that the Board has until 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following Election Day to certify results but expressed concern that waiting until Monday presents risks, including potential weather events, power outages, or technical issues that could prevent the Board from meeting the deadline. He recalled an instance in 2025 when the county lost power and a Board meeting had to be rescheduled.

Director Garrett confirmed that there has not been a need for additional time in the past and explained that certification is typically scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Friday because that coincides with the provisional ballot deadline.

Director Garrett agreed that certification meetings should remain on Friday unless additional time is required to review documentation or address an error.

Vice Chair Alexander stated that power outages and technical issues have been relatively infrequent compared to the number of elections the Board has certified. She further explained that counties certifying on Monday often receive materials at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Friday and review them over the weekend.

Director Garrett emphasized that the Fayette County Elections Office prioritizes providing staff with adequate time to gather requested documents and ensure their accuracy before presenting them to the Board.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Board Member Kelly to table the discussion of the 2026 Board Meeting Calendar until the February Board meeting. Motion carried.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Public Hearing to Remove Registered Fayette County Voters from the Electors List (AS NEEDED)

Director Garrett reported that since the November meeting, 167 voters have been removed from the voter registration list, including 131 deceased voters, 5 felons, and 31 cancellations.

A. Polling Location Proposal No. 2026-01 – Morning Creek

Director Garrett summarized the proposal to move the Morning Creek polling location from New Hope Baptist Church to Fayette Friendship Community Church, which currently serves as the Oak Ridge polling location.

Director Garrett explained that in October, the church notified the office that it was closed, resulting in an emergency co-location. Since the church remains in the same status, she stated that the best course of action is to formally designate Morning Creek's polling location as Fayette Friendship Community Church, consistent with the November 2025 Election.

Director Garrett noted that, with a new registrar and the current workload of the office, merging precincts would be extremely complex and would require moving voters, reviewing boundary lines, and adjusting ballot combination codes to ensure voters receive the correct ballots.

Director Garrett stated that maintaining co-located precincts in 2026 is the most efficient option and clarified that Morning Creek is being co-located, not merged.

Director Garrett reported that a combined total of 5,102 registered voters would be assigned to vote at the co-located polling location. She further reported that turnout at both Morning Creek and Oak Ridge precincts during the November 2025 Election was under 22 percent. She explained that due to the increasing popularity of Advance Voting, particularly with the implementation of new printers that have improved efficiency, the location should be able to accommodate the combined voter volume.

Director Garrett reiterated that the lower turnout reflects the growing use of Advance Voting.

Director Garrett stated that Fayette Friendship Community Church is adequately sized and, because the precincts are being moved rather than merged, there is no concern regarding the registered voter per precinct.

Attorney Stough noted that because the Morning Creek polling location is being moved outside of its precinct boundaries, the Board must make a decision at least 90 days prior to the election, requiring action at this meeting.

Chairman Livsey commented that co-locating the Morning Creek and Oak Ridge precincts is the most practical and convenient option for voters, noting that the new location is less than four minutes from the previous Morning Creek polling site.

Public Comment:

I'm Michael Shane and I'm with Southern Crescent Indivisible. I'm not going to do this at each of your hearings, but in case there is a separation between the public comment for this particular issue and my public comment at the beginning of this meeting, I just wanted to really encourage you to promote this change. The worst thing to happen is for somebody to show up at their old polling place, find out it has moved even four minutes, and end up deciding it isn't worth voting. So, the fact that you only have a couple of these locations on your website, and somehow carrying forward these changes in a very public way, and I know you probably can't contact the voters, but even a yard sign at the front of the old polling place or something to make sure that people know in advance that there is a change in the location would be helpful. Thank you.

Chairman Livsey stated that the issue raised by Michael Shane is of significant importance to the Board and recalled personally posting signage in cold weather to inform voters of precinct changes.

Chairman Livsey emphasized that maintaining voter convenience and maximizing public outreach through social media and the county's newly updated website are priorities for the Board.

Director Garrett acknowledged that the office is still becoming familiar with the updated website and explained that the four public notices were posted online but required users to click "See Notices" to view all of them.

Director Garrett further stated that the office will make additional efforts to place signage at former polling locations and apologized for limited signage during the previous election, noting that the size of the facility made adequate posting challenging.

Director Garrett affirmed that the office will continue to send notifications to affected voters and provide updates through the Fayette County website and social media platforms.

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander to approve Polling Location Proposal No. 2026-01. Motion carried.

B. Polling Location Proposal No. 2026-02 – Braelinn

Director Garrett explained that the Braelinn precinct is currently co-located with the Oak Grove precinct. The merging of the precincts at this time would be highly complex and operationally burdensome considering staff shortage and the timeline, and therefore it would be preferable not to proceed with a merger between Braelinn and Oak Grove.

Chairman Livsey noted that one of the primary logistical challenges associated with merging precincts involves revising district combination codes, which determine a voter's district assignments and ballot style

Chairman Livsey stated that maintaining the current co-location arrangement between Braelinn and Oak Grove would be the most practical course of action.

Vice Chair Alexander commented that there have been no significant issues with the co-location of the two precincts.

Director Garrett clarified that two separate teams of staff members operate at the shared location and direct voters to the appropriate area serving their respective precinct.

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander to reject Polling Location Proposal No. 2026-02. Motion carried.

C. Polling Location Proposal No. 2026-03 – Starrsmill

Director Garrett explained that the Starrsmill precinct is currently located at One Church. Due to concerns regarding the church's inconsistent availability, she stated that it would be preferable to identify a more reliable location.

Director Garrett noted that the office has worked diligently to reserve polling locations and emphasized that she does not want voters directed to different locations each election.

Director Garrett stated that the proposal included relocating the precinct from One Church to Lisbon Baptist Church; however, Lisbon Baptist Church is unavailable for the upcoming election.

Director Garrett reported that the office is awaiting a response from New Providence Church regarding availability. She noted that this location is within the precinct boundaries, and because polling location changes within precinct lines must occur at least 60 days prior to an election, there remains time to consider that option.

Director Garrett clarified that One Church is available for the May Election but not for a potential June Runoff. She also stated that although Whitewater High School has previously been used as a polling location, it is not available.

Attorney Stough advised that the proposal must be denied rather than postponed, as Lisbon Baptist Church is no longer a viable option.

Chairman Livsey stated that the Board's primary objective with all proposals is to achieve consistency and minimize voter confusion.

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander to reject Polling Location Proposal No. 2026-03. Motion carried.

D. Polling Location Proposal No. 2026-04 – Flint

Director Garrett stated that McDonough Road Baptist Church, the current polling location for the Flint precinct, is undergoing internal staff changes and currently lacks leadership, preventing completion of the Polling Reservation Form.

Director Garrett requested that the Board approve the proposal to co-locate the Flint precinct with the Banks precinct at Berachah Bible Church, noting that the facility is ADA compliant and capable of accommodating two precincts simultaneously.

Vice Chair Alexander expressed concern that the voting space previously used at Berachah Bible Church was small and might not provide sufficient space for two precincts.

Director Garrett responded that the Elections Supervisor surveyed the facility and met with church representatives to ensure that the church auditorium, which offers significantly more space, would be used.

Board Member Kelly confirmed that Berachah Bible Church is located within Fayette County, making it an appropriate polling location.

Motion made by Board Member Kelly, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander to approve Polling Location Proposal No. 2026-04. Motion carried.

10. DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Garrett reported that as of January 23, 2026, Fayette County has 98,604 registered voters.

Director Garrett reported that the office audited more than 1,000 voter records and mailed letters to voters flagged in the system or required further research. She also met with Planning and Zoning staff regarding certain voter records and noted that Code Enforcement officials within Fayette County's municipalities were supportive during the process. She recognized Deputy Registrar Jenny for her support during the vacancy in the Registrar position.

Director Garrett announced that the office will host three targeted poll worker workshops on provisional ballots, voting equipment, and election paperwork, totaling nine sessions from April through May. Each topic will be offered in morning, afternoon, and evening sessions to maximize participation in preparation for the May 19 Election. Training dates have been established.

Director Garrett reported that renovations in Suite A continue to progress, with major construction largely complete, including painting, installation of the internal door frame connecting the two suites, and placement of doors. An additional request was submitted to relocate the sink currently near the server room to the breakroom, or to remove it if plumbing limitations prevent relocation. She noted that the sink is located near the future EMS Room and is not necessary in its current location. Removal would allow additional ballot storage space and create a larger area for both the absentee and EMS rooms.

Director Garrett expressed appreciation for Election Supervisor Johnson's service and dedication, noting that she will resign effective January 28, 2026.

Director Garrett announced that Malcolm Unvala began serving as Fayette County's Registrar on January 26, 2026, bringing five years of experience from Douglas County Elections. She stated that he has integrated well with staff and expressed confidence in his contributions to the county.

Director Garrett reported that the county plans to begin offering voter registration classes and stated that she delayed implementation until the Registrar position was filled. She explained that these classes are intended to educate citizens and combat misinformation around voter registration.

Director Garrett stated that Vice Chair Alexander requested that she explore options for creating a consistent municipal polling location system so that voters can vote at the same location for municipal, county, state, and federal elections. Although certain proposals were dismissed, the issue of establishing permanent precinct locations will need to be revisited. She stated that this work would likely take place in 2027 due to the scope of

the project but agreed with Vice Chair Alexander's position that voters should have a consistent polling location when possible.

Vice Chair Alexander stated that she was informed that the Fayetteville West precinct did not have blank sample ballots available during the incident involving Amelia Cutting. She recalled that, when serving as a poll worker at the Sandy Creek precinct, she encouraged voters to put away their phones and refer to sample ballots if needed.

Director Garrett confirmed that sample ballots are included in the supplies for each precinct and stated that Amelia Cutting was permitted to bring her own sample ballot. She explained that the situation reflected a need for additional poll worker training, particularly regarding de-escalation.

Director Garrett stated that the office has begun strengthening accountability measures for poll workers and improving precinct triage procedures, including coordination between managers and assistant managers, to prevent operational disruptions. She further stated that transparency is important and that it was necessary for the voter to display the document in question to avoid misunderstandings.

Attorney Stough reported that he and Director Garrett attended State Election Board Meeting in December and January. He stated that four cases were discussed in December, several of which involved matters predating the current administration, and two were dismissed.

Director Garrett responded to a public comment regarding a voter identification machine, stating that while she was aware the machine was outdated, she was unaware that it was not functioning properly. She noted that the machine is rarely used and has only been utilized once during her tenure. She stated that the office has discussed ordering updated equipment and will follow up accordingly.

Director Garrett announced that she initially planned to discuss Advance Voting decisions during the March Board meeting but has moved the discussion to the February meeting to provide earlier public notice and allow sufficient preparation for both voters and staff.

11. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no attorney report.

12. BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Board Member Kelly announced his resignation from the Board of Elections effective February 1, 2026, commenting on how the job was an eye-opener for him and how it's been a pleasure to work with both Board of Elections members.

Chairman Livsey thanked Board Member Kelly for his service and mentioned that it was a joy working with and getting to know him.

Vice-Chair Alexander thanked Board Member Kelly for his service and wished him well.

Chairman Livsey highlighted Elections Supervisor Johnson's contribution to the county and wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

Chairman Livsey thanked and recognized Attorney Stough for his efforts in ensuring that Fayette County's State Election Board cases had favorable outcomes.

Chairman Livsey mentioned that he was proud of how the county ensures that voters have as much access to the polls as possible, commenting on how in November 2024, the county offered Sunday voting for the first time in its history. Chairman Livsey commented on how offering convenience to voters while ensuring that staff is not too burdened is top of mind.

Chairman Livsey announced that the Town of Tyrone has advised that renovations for the proposed new voting location have been delayed, so, as a result, elections for advance voting will continue to be conducted at the Tyrone Town Hall.

Chairman Livsey asserted that town officials in Tyrone are aware of the anticipated increase in voter activity for this election cycle and have indicated that appropriate measures will be in place. Renovations are anticipated to be completed in advance of the November 2026 election.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (as necessary for litigation & personnel)

14. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Board Member Kelly to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Brianna Garrett, Director

Zachary Livsey, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County Georgia, held on the 24th day of February 2026.