

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Zach Livsey, Chairperson  
Sharlene Alexander, Vice Chairperson  
Vacant, Member



## FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Brianna Garrett, Director  
Malcolm Unvala, Registrar  
Vacant, Elections Supervisor

175 Johnson Ave., Suite B  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

## APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

February 24th, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey, to accept the February 24, 2026, Agenda for the Regular Board meeting. Motion carried.*

### 4. BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS:

Chairman Livsey explained that, according to the Board of Elections bylaws, in February of every even-numbered year the Board is required to conduct Board Officer elections.

*Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey that the chair continue to be exact. Motion carried.*

*Motion made by Chairman Livsey, seconded by Vice-Chair Alexander, to appoint Sharlene Alexander as Vice-Chair. Motion carried.*

Chairman Livsey publicized Fayette County's updated website, which, with the assistance of Elections Clerk Weber, is now more user-friendly and includes all Fayette Elections information under "Departments" and then "Elections."

Chairman Livsey highlighted the importance of attending the meetings because being face-to-face with the Board members maximizes responsiveness from them.

### 5. 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 evening, my name is Marilyn Napton, and I live at 705 Grand Teton Circle here in Fayetteville. What is the plan for the ballot drop-off boxes for this coming election in Fayette County?*

*I'm Jack Bernard, and I've been a resident of Peachtree City for eleven years. Frankly, I've been in both parties, and I have held elected office. I was a County Commissioner in another county for a couple of terms. What disturbs me, in terms of the trend in our country, is the trend of lessening participation in voting, and that lessens participation and support in our government. That is especially true with some people now, who are trying to lessen the participation of minorities, the elderly, the infirmed, and so on. Whatever we can do to increase participation, we should do it. I was very disappointed with your predecessors. The last time I did this, years ago, they really weren't open to opening voting on Sundays. This is unnatural to me, why not vote on Sundays. But anything we could be doing to increase voter participation; we should be doing. Anything we can do to make our elections continue to be fair and equitable, we should be doing, including coming up with vote tallies as soon as possible and issuing them publicly. I'm totally for that. We should be doing things in a bipartisan manner. Both parties—I've been in both—should agree on having free and fair elections. Once the elections are done, we should all accept the consequences, positive or negative, of those elections. That's about it, thank you.*

*Good evening, my name is Anna Richards, I live at 290 Virginia Highlands here in Fayetteville. I'm a new resident in Georgia, coming from North Carolina this summer, where I was an elected official. I was a County Commissioner there. So, I am obviously interested in my government, my politics, my community, and understanding Fayette County (which I am just tipping my toe in). First thing I understand is that you're considering whether or not to certify on Friday or Monday. I believe Monday is the statutory requirement, and so I'm hoping that you would go for Friday so that in case something unplanned happens, you're not pushed up against the statutory deadline of Monday. So, I would urge you to certify at the earliest possible date so that we can make sure that every vote is counted, and that everyone gets an opportunity to have a voice. That is the first point. Secondly, I heard the other gentleman talk about Sunday voting. It's my understanding that there currently is Sunday voting and that the consideration is whether or not to continue it. Our objective should be participation. It is always amazing to me when we hear about other countries being able to get 80-90% of their population to vote while we struggle to get half of our registered voters to vote in this country. A lot of people work shifts, and I don't know what your family background is, but initially, here in America, my ancestors were not allowed to vote, women were not allowed to vote, and unless you were a landowner, you weren't able to vote either. Over the course of history we've expanded—as we should—to create this more union and democracy. I would just hope that in Fayette County, where I now live, that our goal is to increase the opportunity to vote and that this goal would include Sunday voting and expanded hours. I don't know if that is something you are considering. I think we should be trying to find ways to include voters, as opposed to excluding them. Thank you very much.*

*Hello, Marilyn Napton again. I was thinking there would be a back-and-forth interaction with my concern about the drop box. I just wanted to say that I feel that the drop box is a very important part of the voting process. I know in the last two elections, the drop box was placed in the office and was only available during office hours. To me, this didn't make much sense. We do have several people in our county that work multiple jobs and are not available during business hours or even Saturday and Sunday. We might have early voting and I just feel that it is really important that we have a drop box available for those absentee ballots. Thank you.*

*Hey, I'm Justin Owens. I'm in Peachtree City and I had a question that you could address when you're addressing all of the comments. Is there anything we can do as a county to expand access to absentee ballots or is that tied up in the state. Thank you.*

Chairman Livsey asserted that the ballot boxes are a state legislative issue to the point where there must be one ballot drop box per quantity of registered voters that has to be in the office or at least under supervision during hours in which ballots would be accepted.

Chairman Livsey promised that the Fayette County Elections Department is committed to keeping the public updated on absentee/ballot drop box developments and complying as best they can with state law while also maximizing voter access and providing a good voting experience.

Chairman Livsey discussed how Fayette County had Sunday voting in the November 2024 election, with about 1300 people taking advantage of it on that day.

Chairman Livsey asserted that, in the election calendar, there is an instance where the Board will undergo Monday certification and that this instance may be used as a test run to determine how election certification will be carried out in the future.

Chairman Livsey states that voting hours were expanded for early voting and that the Board tries to balance taxpayer dollars and the time of the small but committed election staff with providing enough voter convenience and access.

Vice Chair Alexander mentioned that voting hours were extended in the 2024 General Election to 9:00 AM to 7:00AM for every day except Sunday, in which polls were open from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM; she asserted that extending the voting hours was the right thing to do.

Chairman Livsey stated that since the November 2024 election was a presidential election, a high turnout was expected and that the same would occur to a lesser extent since contests for State Constitutional Offices and a Senate seat will be on the ballot.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

### ***A. APPROVAL OF THE 2026 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR***

Director Garrett stated that in the 2026 election calendar, Board of Elections meetings are held every fourth Tuesday of the month except for election certification meetings.

Director Garrett expressed that election certification meetings are typically held on the Friday of the election except for the upcoming 2026 June Runoff Election since the Friday of that election is Juneteenth, and the county is closed on that day.

Director Garrett recommended that the election certification meeting for the June Runoff Election be held on Monday at 1:00 PM since the election must be certified by 5:00 PM on Monday by law.

Attorney Stough asserted that the Board of Elections would still have to meet at 3 PM on Friday for the election records review meetings according to the State Board of Elections, but he stated that he is unsure of how that would work with Juneteenth on that Friday.

Director Garrett stated that she would investigate how the election records review meeting will occur and is certain that Juneteenth being on Friday is acknowledged by the state on their calendar.

Director Garrett mentioned that the election records review meeting is a special called meeting, so it does not have to be present on the 2026 elections calendar.

Chairman Livsey discussed that two hours before the election certification meeting, at 3:00 PM, the Board has another meeting where the members review precinct returns and results before the last group of provisional ballots are included in the count.

Chairman Livsey stated that in 2027, Fayette County Elections will be undertaking multiple tasks, which includes lining up precinct lines with county boundaries to ensure that voters can vote conveniently and elections staff can facilitate elections conveniently.

Director Garrett requested to reschedule the March Board of Elections meeting since it occurs at the same time as the GAVREO Conference, so most election officials in the state will be out of town.

Chairman Livsey suggested moving the March Board of Elections meeting back one week to March 31st.

***Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey to accept the 2026 Election Calendar with one change, March 24, 2026, moved to March 31, 2026. Motion Carried.***

***Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey to amend the meeting schedule of May 27, 2026, moved to May 22, 2026. Motion carried.***

Chairman Livsey asserted that a June runoff is extremely likely since so many candidates are on the ballot for the May 2026 General Primary Election.

## **7. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 26, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

***Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey to approve the January 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes.***

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. ADVANCE VOTING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS**

Director Garrett provided the Board of Elections Members with Fayette County early voting statistics from 2024, which is an election year that is similar to 2026, so they could make an informed decision and see the impact that 2024 voting schedule had on voter turnout.

Director Garrett reported that in May 2024, Fayette County had a 20.9% voter turnout.

Director Garrett asserted that the county did not have extended hours or Sunday voting during May 2024.

Director Garrett stated that it was important to consider when deciding on Sunday voting for the May 2026 General Primary Election that the November 2024 General Election was the first time that Sunday voting occurred.

Director Garrett reported that the turnout for the November 2024 General Election was 82.54% and that approximately 58,000 voters in that election voted early.

Director Garrett reported that on the one Sunday of the November 2024 General Election, 1,349 voters cast a ballot, which was 1.47% of registered voters at the time.

Director Garrett reported that out of the 58,283 voters who voted during Advance Voting in the November 2024 General Election, 2.31% of them voted on Sunday.

Director Garrett asserted that the weekend turnouts were not very high, reporting that Saturday voting averaged a 2.62% voter turnout for the November 2024 General Election.

Director Garrett reported that out of the 75,495 Fayette County citizens who voted in the November 2024 General Election, each Saturday had, on average, 3.18% of that population.

Director Garrett reviewed the May 2026 Advance Voting dates: Monday, April 27th through Saturday, May 1st from 9 AM to 5 PM; Sunday, May 3rd from 12 PM to 4 PM; Monday, May 4th through Saturday, May 9th from 9 AM to 5 PM; and Monday, May 11th through Friday, May 15th from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Director Garrett expressed that she would not like to ask her staff to work on May 10th as it is Mother's Day.

Director Garrett explained that the Elections Intern, Moussa, extracted the daily totals from some of the Advance Voting days to put a proposal together for Sunday voting.

Vice Chair Alexander discussed that there has consistently been strong turnout on Saturdays, though not as high as during the week, and that Sunday turnout was lower than expected, which may have been due to a lack of promotion.

Director Garrett explained that she supported the county pushing for voting on the weekends if voters come out and vote to ensure that taxpayer money is not wasted and that staff's time is used efficiently.

Director Garrett stated that the office is actively working to promote weekend voting and that difficulty in promotion was initially a goal of hers when she started working as the Fayette County Elections Director.

Chairman Livsey supported the proposals, stating that they balance the lessons learned from the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary and General Election and consider the trend of early voting being preferred over Election Day voting.

Director Garrett suggested that, if decided, Sunday voting will only occur at the Fayette County Elections Office and either the Peachtree City Library or Tyrone Town Hall to relieve elections staff by targeting dense voting areas.

Chairman Livsey mentioned the potential for voter confusion as the Fayette County Library has been used as an Advanced Voting location for a while but also believed it would be reasonable to direct voters to the Election Office since both locations are so close in distance.

Chairman Livsey suggested including the Tyrone Town Hall as one of the Sunday voting locations.

Vice Chair Alexander stated that although she wants as many people to vote as possible, the Tyrone location has undergone several changes in facilities, so the Town of Tyrone may not even need an Advance Voting location since the Tyrone Town Hall is not the best voting location.

Vice Chair Alexander supported having only two Advance Voting locations opened on Sunday.

Chairman Livsey asserted that although May's primary election will have increased turnout, keeping Sunday voting reserved to two locations (Peachtree City Library and the Fayette County Elections Office) would still maintain a balance between voter access and taxpayer money/comfort of election staff.

Chairman Livsey calculated that in the previous Sunday voting session, there were 350 voters per location, coming out to just under a voter a minute, and noted that the Peachtree City Library and Fayette County Elections Office are both located in Fayette County's population centers.

*Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey, to approve the advance voting schedule. Voting will be held Monday through Saturday at four locations: the Fayette County Election Office, Fayette County Library, Tyrone Library, and Peachtree City Library. Sunday voting will be conducted at two locations: the Fayette County Election Office and Peachtree City Library. The schedule will run from Monday, April 27, 2026, through Friday, May 15, 2026, and will include two Saturdays and one Sunday (May 3, 2026). Voting hours will be 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday and 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Sunday. Motion carried.*

## **9. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**Public Hearing of staff's challenges to remove Fayette County voters from the Electors List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as Deceased, Mentally Incompetent, Cancelled or Felon as well as precinct and/or polling location changes. (As Needed)**

Director Garrett reported that since the January Board of Elections meeting, 466 voters have been removed: 409 Deceased, 47 Cancellations, 10 Felons.

Director Garrett reported that the Elections Office has been doing a voter review, in which the state gave the office over a thousand voters to check for businesses and commercial addresses.

Director Garrett declared that shortly after the new Registrar Unvala started, the State of Georgia released Elections Office approximately 300 deceased voters to review and recognized Elections Clerk Weber for leading the project and working through the list of voters.

### **A. POLLING LOCATION PROPOSAL NO. 2026-06 Flint**

Director Garrett reported that McDonough Road Baptist Church, the previous location of the Flint precinct, reached out to the Elections Office and informed them that they would like to continue serving as a polling location and apologized for the misunderstanding.

Director Garrett stated that McDonough Road Baptist Church completed the polling reservation form, turned it in, and has new leadership, so the previous proposal that assigned Flint a new polling location must be reversed with a new proposal.

*Good afternoon. My name is Lindsay Coper and I would like to speak on two portions as far as the polling location. I'm happy to hear that the church worked everything out and also thank you all for the work that you are doing. The two issues that I wanted to address were the issue that you all already voted on which was the fact that we would be voting in the elections office. I'm in the community here, I will speak from the standpoint of a mother and how important it is for a mother not to take her child to an elections office next to a jail. And so, that*

*was my first thought when I heard about the Town Hall in Tyrone. I was thinking, where is the elections office? Oh it's over there. It's much more convenient to go to the library, you're over here for a book reading or magic in the library. Then you can just vote next door and bring your child with you so they can experience it. The last time I went to vote, there were plenty of high school students. It was their first time and everybody clapped for them. You just want to create a culture of civic engagement for the children as well. So, being at a library like at Peachtree City would be better than going over to the Elections Office. Also, I did hear that you all will have 9 to 5 voting on those days. I know you already voted on that. However, in the future, just considering 9 to 7 would be a great option. I know that this was just for this particular time. I just want to maybe leave one day for 9 to 7 voting. I don't want anybody to stay in too late, maybe put some young folks in who don't have any kids or anything. Nevertheless, we just want to be considerate of that for those of us who are coming with children and who are coming after hours. That's it. Thank you.*

*My name is Roger Sloan, I'm a resident of Tyrone. I live at 2095 Castl lake Drive. I've been a citizen of Fayette County for 25 years and a citizen of Georgia for 75 years. I just wanted to comment and clear up something in my mind. I have hearing aids in, they're not great. You made a comment about the Monday vs. Friday certification. I wasn't sure what the final word on that was. I don't know if you were recommending Monday or if you were recommending Friday. You didn't get to make the final decision. I majored in American History in college at Georgia State. I taught high school American History for two years in the 1960s, it seems like a long time ago. In those times, I never thought that I'd be speaking in a meeting like this today. I've always voted but I have never been active in politics. I'm moving that way now because personally, I feel like our country is in a very bad spot right now. I think that two things we were discussing in particular today, the voting hours and the voting days, are critical to getting more voters out. I think the two voting places for primaries are fine. I think you should consider having more locations further down the election and in two more years. I never thought when I was in high school teaching as a young man that I would have to worry about this particular topic. My grandchildren both live in Georgia. My two children live in Georgia and I worry about their future in our democracy. We pledge allegiance to our flag. Those words are very important, and I think that sometimes we tend to forget those. So, that's it for my comments.*

*(Anna Richards) Thank you for indulging a second comment. So, I was shocked. So you have no evening hours for voting at all? No? So for the general, are there evening hours? Let me make a statement. I know it's a comment. I would hope that for the general election that there are hours beyond 5 PM. So that was shocking to me. I guess the two Saturdays and the one Sunday hopefully will accommodate schedules during the primary. It was hard to hear, but if I understood right, there's two Saturdays and one Sunday. So I guess I would just say that I would just hope that during the general election, there are evening hours for people to vote past 5:00. Thank you.*

Chairman Charles Livsey stated that balancing the safety of Fayette County's voters and all who accompany them, whether children are present or not, is a significant concern of the Board. He also assured that this meeting only established the hours, dates, and locations for the May 2026 Primary Election, and that there will be another opportunity to set those for the general election in November.

Chairman Livsey asserted that having Sunday voting, expanded locations, and lengthened hours during the early voting period is something that the Board looks to maintain for the general election in which there will be preparation for a massive turnout.

Vice Chair Alexander mentioned that she and Livsey were proud to be the first Fayette County Board of Elections to allow Sunday voting and expanded access.

Vice Chair Alexander stated that expanded Sunday voting and expanded hours will be looked into when the Board feels that they are going to have a bigger turnout for the general election.

Vice Chair Alexander requested that the Fayette County citizens take initiative and motivate the people around them to turn out and vote so that the expanded access to voting is worth it and even greater access can be granted in the future

Chairman Livsey realized that the certification meeting scheduled for May 27th is on a Wednesday, so it would need to be moved to Friday, May 22nd.

Chairman Livsey reiterated that the Flint polling location will go back to being at 352 McDonough Road in Fayetteville, which was its original location.

Chairman Livsey reassured that there was very little impact to the public as far as voter convenience after the Flint change and reversal.

***Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey to accept the polling location proposal No. 2026-6 Flint. Motion carried.***

## **10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Garrett reported that as of February 24th, 2026, there are 98,253 registered voters in Fayette County with 91,352 of them being active voters.

Director Garrett reported that qualifying begins on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM and goes all the way through Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM.

Director Garrett stated that she was able to meet with both parties regarding qualifying to answer any questions they may have and make sure that the Elections Office would be prepared to report each day.

Director Garrett reported that renovations to Suite A are almost complete as the office is waiting on a sink to be demolished and removed before the moving process occurs but remained hopeful that she would be given an update on when the office can start moving within the next two weeks.

Director Garrett reported that the Elections Office is still in search of an Elections Supervisor, additional poll workers, and seasonal technicians.

Director Garrett confirmed that under the O.C.G.A. code, the Elections Office is not allowed to extend the hours of ballot drop boxes and must have the drop box under surveillance and manned by someone in the office during Advance Voting days and times.

Director Garrett declared that there is only one ballot drop box allowed per 100,000 voters, and since Fayette County has just a bit less than 100,000 voters, the county has one in accordance with legislation.

Director Garrett announced that Fayette County will be holding voter registration classes on March 10th and March 18th, with the times and locations being posted on the county website and social media.

Director Garrett clarified that the Fayette County Library was open during all the Advanced Voting dates except for Sunday, and since the library is closed on Sunday, it benefits the library as they do not have to provide staffing to arrive and open the facility.

Director Garrett shared her appreciation for Fayette County's supportive community that continuously offers to host elections and her excitement for 2027 as that is when some permanency in polling location facilities will be established and the trend of having to continuously change polling locations will be resolved.

Director Garrett reported that Fayette Friendship Community Church will be closing its doors and will be unable to be available for the May 19th election or June runoff and noted that because the church was co-locating with another precinct, staff will be looking at co-locating both precincts with other precincts.

Director Garrett explained that the Morning Creek and Oak Ridge precincts hold a combined 6,000 registered voters.

Director Garrett reported that Registrar Unvala has held off on sending precinct cards to limit confusion but asserted that once polling locations are decided for the Morning Creek and Oak Ridge precincts, precinct cards will be sent to the voters in those precincts along with a notification from the Elections Office on a colored sheet of paper to ensure that the voters notice what they have received in the mail.

Director Garrett mentioned that the closure of Fayette Friendship Community Church means that additional signage is needed at both that location and New Hope Baptist Church's location.

## **11. ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Attorney Stough reported that Fayette County was requested to appear before the State Board of Elections regarding two cases in which the County was a respondent, out of five total cases involving Fayette County.

He explained that one case involved ballot paper left in a printer at a polling location, and the other involved an ADA accessibility issue at Holy Trinity Church due to a two-and-a-half-inch rise at the entrance. He noted that the County received letters of instruction for both cases, and that corrective actions have since been taken, including relocating the polling site to another area on the campus to resolve the accessibility concern.

Chairman Livsey affirmed that letters of instruction were very favorable outcomes to the cases and that a lot of the issues that the county is summoned for are self-reported.

Chairman Livsey extended his appreciation for Director Garrett and Attorney Stough for producing favorable outcomes and protecting Fayette County voters by working with the State Election Board.

## **12. BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS:**

Vice Chair Alexander emphasized how challenging it has become to recruit poll workers and encouraged the audience to participate if they had the time or recruit others around them to become poll workers.

Vice Chair Alexander stated that Election Day is a 14-to-15-hour shift and that staff are desperately needed to open the facilities on that day and provide the expanded hours that everyone requests.

Chairman Livsey shared his appreciation for the high turnout at the meeting and all the public comments.

Chairman Livsey emphasized the importance of the Board of Elections being as accessible and approachable as possible and was happy to be able to address some of the public comments.

Chairman Livsey highlighted Elections Intern Moussa for his achievement in becoming Valedictorian of his high school.

Chairman Livsey shared his appreciation for Registrar Malcolm and Deputy Registrar Gray for joining the Fayette County Elections workforce and becoming indispensable.

Vice Chair Alexander asserted that state law made it so that the county could no longer have a lot of ballot drop boxes outside. Vice Chair Alexander encouraged the audience to contact state legislators to prevent them from doing away with ballot drop boxes completely.

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

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.*

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Brianna Garrett, Director

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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 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.