

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

175 Johnson Ave., Suite B
Fayetteville, GA 30214

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 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:

Chairman Livsey announced that changes to the agenda would need to be made to make time for the adjudication of the final provisional ballot before certification occurs.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey, to amend the May 22, 2026, Agenda for the Regular Board meeting so that the Director's Report occurs after Old Business. Motion carried.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey, to accept the May 22, 2026, Agenda for the Regular Board meeting as amended. Motion carried.

Chairman Livsey apologized for the long lines and extended wait times experienced by voters and staff on Election Day, May 19, and reaffirmed the Board's commitment to providing voters with the most convenient and efficient voting experience possible in future elections.

Chairman Livsey emphasized the importance of ensuring that first-time voters are not discouraged by excessive wait times or preventable delays.

Chairman Livsey further stated that approachability, accountability, and adaptability are qualities that distinguish Fayette County's Department of Elections and Voter Registration from many others.

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.

I'm Jame Harmon, I am a resident of Fayette County. My information is on file as a former poll manager and I'm rather shocked that I am the only one making a public comment, but I do have questions. When it comes to L&A Testing, we need to test every piece of equipment that we own in preparation for an election. We do not test according to how many people we think will show up for an election, we test every piece that we own because we never know which piece of equipment is necessary. One of the benefits of using the Dominion System is that

you use specially marked, secure paper. We need to confirm that the scanners themselves are checking to make certain that we are using the secure paper. That is imperative. In 2021, a county had a situation where someone attempted to put regular paper through a scanner and the scanner noted that this happened. There is a switch, as I've been informed, that can be turned on or off. That switch should never be off. If that switch is off, that degrades the integrity of the election system. We need to make certain that we are testing our equipment. That is really all I have to say today, but it is a necessity to test every piece that we have because we know when it must be deployed to a location. Ensure that every location has enough equipment to allow everyone to be able to vote. At the end of the day, God has my back. I want to make certain that everyone has the right to cast their vote, and they're able to cast their vote in a free and fair election. When you limit the access to equipment to vote, that causes a problem, that negates the free and fair election. So please, let's be above Board here and all things. I apologize for my late arrival because you know, as a housewife, I have to do things that housewives do. Thank you very much.

Hello, I am Brenda Wicker, and I live in Fayetteville. I managed the #38 Peachtree City Library early voting and the #9 Rareover at the Tyrone Library on Tuesday. Thank you Mr. Chairman for addressing what I'm going to say right here anyway. I worked many Election Days over the years and feel that we were undersupplied with the equipment on Tuesday. We only had four BMDs for all of the voters who turned out. At times throughout the day, but especially after 5:00 PM until after the polls closed, there was quite a wait after check-in to get an open BMD. We were in quite a large room, so the small number of machines was very noticeable. I know it was a long ballot, which takes extra time by the voter, but why cut back on the equipment on this election when others with a much shorter ballot and an anticipated low turnout had more machines. Was it a money-saving issue? Each primary I've worked for presidential and midterm years, the primaries have been heavy turnout. Fayette County likes to vote. On Tuesday we had a few check-up calls from the office along with times I needed to call into the office throughout the day. I voiced concern about the wait times and voter comments about the lack of equipment, but no offer or solution was given. I hope for the runoff and in the fall, we will have adequate supplies for the voters we serve. We tried to make the voting process as smooth as possible, and I feel this time we did not win the voter's confidence. Late in the day, I saw later there had been a Facebook post on the Fayette Election page about a lack of equipment and lines, but I feel like it was too little too late. There aren't that many people that follow the page compared to the number of voters in our county. I work in elections and I didn't even know there was a page until last year. If a voter was already in line, chances are they wouldn't have even been able to see this post a little before closing since they were probably within a precinct where they can't use a phone. Another area of concern has to do with phones, campaigning, and signs. We have the big board at every precinct for the voter's info. Are the materials on the big board mandated by the state? The tri-board is full of many signs that usually aren't read by voters and several of them have print so small that it is difficult to read them. I wonder if it could be scaled back and simplified in kind of a less is more. During early voting, we had over 5400 voters in 18 days in our precinct. We met voters at the tri-board to remind them of things that were printed on the board and still got pushback about not being able to use their phone even for their notes about candidates that they wanted to select. Perhaps we could have more direct and simplified signage, so a voter knows information such as that it is considered campaigning to speak at a voting booth or share your notes on a sample ballot with someone else, even if it is your long-time spouse. Many people fought back on that and became aggressive with our fellow poll workers. We've been told that we can call the police, but by the time this is happening, the voter is practically out the door so it wouldn't be effective. Lastly, I'm guessing that you will be discussing days and hours for the upcoming runoff early voting. If you decide to make the hours 7-7, would there be any more people to get trained in order to assist in the precinct or at least help in covering the hours for lunch breaks? In order to get everyone in to have their lunch breaks, we do have to overlap somewhat, leaving at least two people short in covering all the positions. We will probably see close to the same 5400 voters but this time it will be in five days. That's a lot of sitting, standing, and counting of each voter certificate each day. Is it possible to have an extra person or two during the mid-part of the day to assist with the line, passing out stickers, or watching the

exit door so we can get through those lunch breaks when we're down two people. A complaint that we, and you, hear a lot is that voting hours of 9-5 for early voting is not beneficial to those who work 9-5. Has there been any thought of adjusting hours in the future to possibly 11-7 for early voting that way people who work until 5 can possibly get to early voting. It's the same number of hours but shifted by two. Thank you.

My name is Tonya but I'm reading a statement that I was just handed from a poll manager named Lori Sims. She states "My first batch of voters were not able to pull up their ballots on the BMDs. They each received the same error message, and as I was about to reissue a new voter card for a voter, I had a voter announce that she was able to get the ballot up after several attempts at inserting the card. As I tried to call the office to figure out what the problem was, I had a voter announce that she couldn't print her ballot. She pressed "print" and the screen returned to the beginning. I pulled her voter card, reinserted it, and the ballot came up. I apologized and asked her to vote again. She did and the same thing happened again. This poor woman tried to vote three times and each time she had the same problem. I finally moved her to another BMD. While I was working with this voter, another voter announced she was having the same printer issue at another BMD. There was no consistency; random things were happening with these BMDs. As I was juggling these issues, a voter had a printer error. It appeared that the paper tray was overstuffed with paper and the ballot jammed. I pulled the tray out to find the jam and then I could not get the tray back in because the plastic piece had fallen off of the tray and it would not slide back in. I had to put the BMD out of service and apologetically ask the voter to vote again on another BMD. I then went around and checked the paper trays; they were all overloaded with paper. Mind you, as all of this was going on, my line of voters kept growing. I finally had a tech arrive to fix the paper tray and get the station working again. I was finally able to call the office about the BMD issues and was told to do a hard reboot on the BMDs. As my morning was starting to settle down, my scanner decided to jam. I called the office and it was determined that we should use the slot on the scanner for the ballots until a tech could get out to my precinct. By the time my tech arrived, we had a hundred ballots in the emergency ballot bin. She fixed the scanner and stayed to help feed ballots into the scanner. As our afternoon went on, our scanner decided to jam a second time. I happened to be on a call with the office when it jammed, they said they would let April know. After about thirty minutes, I called the office asking if the tech was coming to fix the scanners since the polls would be closing in an hour and a half. I was walked through the process of fixing the scanner and got it working again. We had thirty-nine ballots from the emergency bin to scan this time around. In addition to all the hardware issues, our four BMDs were far from enough for such a long ballot. After waiting in line to get the poll pads, my voters had to wait in line for a BMD. I had some voters leave because the line was too long and barely moving. It was ridiculous that we were only given four. This limited number of BMDs was an added annoyance we had to explain to our voters. Then, in a casual conversation, I found out at 5:30 PM, there were extra BMDs and all I had to do was ask for more. Are you kidding me? When did I have time to ask for more? Why wasn't it offered? One other thing; in our trainings, we need discuss how to act when equipment stops working. I had one worker shaking the scanner when it jammed. Then he got his flashlight and announced that he could see the ballot and he would try to coat hanger and try to get it out. This was all going on when I was on the phone with the office. There were other times several workers huddled around me to see what the problem was and give their opinions on how to correct the problem and totally ignored the voters and their stations all while I'm on the phone with the office. I have been working elections for six years; I honestly felt like this was the worst election that I have worked. It was worse than working during COVID.

I'm Philip Thomas, and I was a tabulator observer on election night. I just have a couple of comments here. The first one was there was no seating in the public viewing room. My partner and I were able to get a couple of lawn chairs and just set them up there. Especially for people with disabilities, it might be good to have some seating in there. But also, when I was trying to observe, it was a little difficult trying to look through the window. I was generally able to see what was happening. For transparency purposes, I wouldn't mind if there were easier ways like putting a screen in the room for the computer that would show what's happening on the

computer when you're putting in the SD card, with reasonable restrictions for privacy purposes. I would appreciate, in the future, if there were easier ways to see what was happening when you guys are tabulating.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 28, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey to accept the April 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Garrett reported that as of May 21st, 2026, there are 98,773 registered voters in Fayette County, with 91,790 of those voters being active.

Director Garrett announced that the Risk-Limiting Audit for the May 19th Primary is scheduled for Friday, May 29th at 10:00 AM at the Fayette County Health Department located at Booker Avenue and will happen daily until completion.

Director Garrett stated that Logic and Accuracy Testing for the June Runoff will begin on Thursday, May 28th at 9:00 AM at both 115 McDonough Road and 175 Johnson Avenue and will occur daily until completion.

Director Garrett announced that the new Elections Supervisor will start on Tuesday, May 26th and that although she is not experienced in elections, she brings a variety of relevant work skills like being able to manage complex projects, oversee operational processes, coordinate cross-functional teams, and work in fast-paced environments.

Director Garrett reported that Precinct #13 Starr's Mill at One Church would not be available for the June Runoff due to its summer camps and that Whitewater High School isn't currently available for that precinct either, but she wants the opportunity to discuss with them about being a potential polling location in the future.

Director Garrett mentioned that she asked a church 0.3 miles away from One Church to be the polling location for Precinct #13 and that a decision for that precinct's location will be made by Wednesday, May 27th to ensure that adequate signage is posted at the sites at least seven days prior to the June Runoff, with the worst case scenario being co-location.

Director Garrett mentioned that Precinct #31 Fielding Ridge has stated that they aren't available due to Peachtree City's renovations and summer camps and that she is working with Peachtree City Hall for a solution.

Director Garrett expressed that she would like to explore placing precincts in public buildings and schools in 2027 but that this would require building relationships officials at those buildings.

Chairman Livsey asserted that he is committed to using his relationship with the Fayette County school system to secure facilities that would work as polling locations in future elections.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CERTIFICATION OF THE MAY 19, 2026 GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Director Garrett apologized and took responsibility for equipment issues and the lack of equipment in the May 19th Primary in precincts like Sandy Creek and Europe.

Director Garrett explained that she was pleased to see the turnout in Fayette County on election day because it justifies expansion of election-related resources in the future.

Director Garrett asserted that the problem happened due to oversight instead of carelessness and discussed the measures she took, such as sending out additional equipment to the precincts of Brooks, Starr's Mill, Whitewater, Woolsey, Kedron, and Rising Star the day before Election Day.

Director Garrett mentioned that the precincts of Dogwood, Sandy Creek, Oak Ridge, and Spring Hill received two additional Ballot Marking Devices(BMD) on Election Day while the precinct Europe was given four.

Director Garrett stated that the office tests additional equipment to have on standby for election use, but not all equipment is tested.

Director Garrett requested that more brainstorming be done to figure out how to better promote election information beyond the website and Facebook, citing how a Facebook post on Election Day did not disseminate as planned.

Chairman Livsey explained that the Board didn't expect such a large Election Day turnout due to Advance Voting trends and that more widespread promotion of Advance Voting dates and times and election information as a whole is needed.

Chairman Livsey and Vice-Chair Alexander agreed to relay information from Director Garrett to their parties.

Chairman Livsey suggested that the office should get into contact with local civic groups in order to get information spread.

Director Garrett reported that in the May General Primary Election, Fayette County had a 37.89% turnout with a total of 34,627 ballots cast.

Director Garrett stated that in the previous meeting, she didn't mention the number of Advance Voting provisional ballots, reporting that there were 27 provisional ballots cast, with 21 accepted and 6 rejected.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey to Certify the May 19, 2026 General Primary Election. Motion Carried.

B. ADVANCE VOTING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS FOR THE JUNE 16, 2026 GP RUNOFF

Chairman Livsey explained how the 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM window is very important for voters, especially to ones who work from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

Director Garrett confirmed that there was adequate staff and locations were reserved for Advance Voting for the June 16 General Primary Runoff Election.

Vice-Chair Alexander stated that she was expecting a drop in turnout for the June Runoff.

Chairman Livsey asserted that Advance Voting in November would be expanded similarly to how it was in May and that the long length of the ballot is the reason why so many voters waited until Election Day to vote, ensuring this won't be an issue in November.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Alexander, seconded by Chairman Livsey to accept the recommendation for Advance Voting to be June 8-12 Monday - Friday 9:00 AM- 7:00 PM at four locations: Fayette Elections Office, Fayette Library, Peachtree City Library, and the Tyrone City Hall. Motion Carried.

8. 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 April Board of Elections meeting, 72 voters have been removed: 63 Deceased and 9 Felons.

Chairman Livsey explained that during election season, voters can't be cancelled for reasons other than death or being charged with a felony.

Director Garrett confirmed, in response to one of the public comments, that the signage discussed in a public comment in the previous Board meeting is required by the state to be placed on the tri-fold boards in polling locations.

Director Garrett discussed how the voters must be relied on to read signage and that too much signage can be overbearing.

Director Garrett also applauded Brenda Wicker for her efforts in promoting sample ballots in her Advance Voting precinct.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no attorney report.

10. BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Vice-Chair Alexander thanked the poll workers and election officials for their hard work during such a stressful election and explained that it would be helpful to have more feedback from experienced poll workers since a lot will be considered in future elections.

Chairman Livsey thanked the speakers who gave the public comments for their feedback.

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

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Vice Chair Alexander to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 P.M.

Brieanna 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 22nd day of May 2026.