

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

July 23, 2019
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 July 23, 2019 Board of Elections Meeting to Order at 5:00 p.m. All Board Members were present.

Approval of the Agenda

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one spoke during Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the June 25, 2019 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the June 25, 2019 Board of Elections Minutes. Chairman Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Wright abstaining from the vote.

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.

No one spoke under Public Hearing.

Mr. Wright 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. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda items.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were no Old Business Items.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Discussion concerning the September 3, 2019 Special Called Election.

Director Jones provided the Board with information on the September 3, 2019 Special Called Election. He stated this election would only involve two precincts and about half of those voters in those two precincts would be eligible to vote. He summarized that there are approximately 90,000 voters in Fayette but this election pertains to only 4,000 voters. He suggested there would be confused voters not understanding why they are unable to vote. He stated that the packet provide to the Board would be placed on the Elections website and it will show the voters how to determine if they live in District 71. Mr. Jones explained why a vote was necessary. He stated that this election has candidates who qualified by party, but this is not a primary election- meaning every candidate's name will be on the ballot. He stated that a winner has to have 50% plus one vote to win without a runoff. He explained that there are three Republican candidates and one Democratic candidate qualified for the Special Election, thus increasing the chance of a runoff election. Mr. Jones stated that two Absentee Polling Places would be opened and he specified those locations would be at the Fayette Election's Office and at the Peachtree City Library. Mr. Jones informed the Board that there would be no early opening of ballots. He notified the Board that Mr. Wright had been appointed by the Republican Party to observe the opening of Absentee by Mail Ballots, and he stated he has spoken to Ms. Fludd of the Fayette County Democratic Committee for an observer to be appointed. He informed the Board that only the Kedron Precinct and Fielding Ridge Precincts would be opened on September 3, 2019. He stated that the AIP sites would be kept open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the first two weeks of early voting, but that the third week would maintain hours of 7a.m. until 5 p.m. He added there would be a mandatory Saturday vote. He stated that the September 3, 2019 Special Election would cost the county just over \$19,000. He stated that if a runoff is required, then the total cost to the county would be just over \$31,000.

The Board did not take action or provide direction on this matter.

4. Consideration of staff's recommendation to approve Poll Managers, Assistant Poll Managers, and Clerks for the September 3, 2019 Special Called Election and the October 1, 2019 Special Called Runoff Election, as necessary.

Director Jones stated that the provided list had been confirmed by April. He reported that April is now on vacation, and that about two hours ago a poll manager came to the office stating there is a possibility a clerk needs to be replaced. He asked for the Board to approve the list of poll workers with the caveat that staff could replace the clerk if needed.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the Poll Managers, Assistant Poll Managers, and Clerks for the September 3, 2019 Special Called Election and the October 1, 2019 Special Called Runoff Election with the caveat requested by the Director. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

5. Consideration of staff's recommendation to revise the Calendar Year 2019 Board of Elections' Meeting Schedule for the Board to certify the September 3, 2019 Special Called Election and subsequent elections.

Director Jones reminded the Board that when it passed the 2019 Special Called Election in November, he told them the Meeting Schedule could be revised. He said the Special Called Election required a change to the meeting schedule by adding September 6 as Certification for the September 3 Election, by adding October 4 for the potential certification of a runoff election, and Friday, November 8 for certifying the municipal elections. He stated the revised schedule would also cancel the October 22 meeting since that meeting would occur during early voting for the municipalities.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the amended Meeting Schedule for the year. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

6. Discussion concerning the November 5, 2019 Municipal Elections.

Director Jones presented information about the upcoming municipal elections and he said the information would be placed on the website. He said the intention of the information was to allow interested citizens learn how to qualify for municipal positions. He reminded the Board that qualifying for office will occur in August so the actual candidates are unknown until the next meeting.

The Board did not take action or provide direction on this matter.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Update on Early Voting Locations: Director Jones reminded the Board that he and Chairman Lester met with Fayette School in May to learn if there was any school property that could be used as a substitute for the Fayette County Elections Office. This effort was initiated after a he and Chairman Lester had a meeting with two County Commissioners, County Administrator Steve Rapson, and the county attorneys. He stated that so far the school had not been forthcoming with information, probably indicating there is no location. Mr. Jones reported that further review of the law was made a few weeks ago and that the opinion from the county attorney was that early voting would have to be conducted at the Fayette County Administrative Complex irrespective of whether additional sites were utilized at schools or the county library. To use the school or county library would, effectually, be opening a fourth early polling location. He stated that unless the Board directed otherwise, he did not see the need to further pursue the school in this matter since it would not yield the desired result. Chairman Lester stated that matter became clear to him at the last meeting with the need to open the Peachtree City location. The Board agreed that the matter of finding alternative locations not be pursued any further.

Southside Church: Director Jones reported that Southside Church had decided to not be used as a polling location even though a deal was almost in place. He explained that the church declined due to the number of Election days throughout the year. He said that continues to leave Evergreen Church as the polling location for two precincts. He said a search is still ongoing to find a polling location for Precinct #33. He said a contact in Peachtree City mentioned she could talk to the leadership of Peachtree City United Methodist Church to see if they would be interested in hosting elections once again for Precinct #33. Mr. Wright added that the Apostolic Christian Church of Peachtree City was directly across the street from the Methodist church and could be a potential polling location. Mr. Jones replied he would look into it.

Crossing a Milestone: Director Jones stated that in a way it seems Fayette Elections has crossed a milestone. He explained that April has been getting compliments from polling locations- the latest being Peachtree City Library- for scheduling elections well in advance. He said this was a practice that apparently was not done prior to his coming to the Elections Office., but that he changed the old practice, and it is bearing favorable results from the polling locations. He further added that Gwinnett County Elections reached out to County Registrar Brian Hill about Fayette's practices. He explained this was a testimony to Brian and to the county since it seems in times past counties would tend to avoid asking Fayette about best practices. That Fayette is being asked is an indicator that respect for its operation is returning.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

There was no Board Member Report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Lester moved to adjourn the July 23, 2019 Board of Elections meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The July 23, 2019 Board of Elections meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Director

Addison Lester, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 27th day of August 2019. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.

Floyd L. Jones, Director