

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Dorothy Hall, Vice-Chairman Patricia Pullar, Secretary Ruth Ash, Board Member Harry Osborne, Board Member George Sligh, Director Shauna Dozier and Clerk Allison Ruotolo. GUEST: Reginald McClendon, Staff Attorney.

1. Chairman Hall called the meeting to order.
2. Moment of silence observed.
3. Motion by Board Member Sligh, second by Secretary Ash, to adopt the agenda for the October 18, 2016 Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration. Vote unanimous.
4. Motion by Board Member Sligh, second by Secretary Ash, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2016 Regular Business Meeting. Vote unanimous.
5. Old Business:
  - A. Recent Actions for Previously Unverified Voter Registration Applications.
  - B. Board Involvement in Personnel Matters.
  - C. Board Policy on Distribution of Voter Registration Applications.

A. Director Dozier stated that Mr. McClendon would explain the litigation side regarding previously unverified voter registration applications and that she would also address the question by Board Member Osborne involving the same matter.

Staff Attorney McClendon explained this litigation was initiated by the Georgia NAACP, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda in which they sued the Georgia Secretary of State regarding the cancellation of voters in previous pending status.

Mr. McClendon further explained the outcome of the litigation was that both parties agreed the cancelled voters in question previously in pending status would be eligible to vote in the November 8, 2016 General/Special Election and would be allowed to submit requested verification within one year.

Director Dozier explained there were 1,205 voters impacted in Clayton County. Letters generated by the Secretary of State's Office have been sent out to all impacted voters and our office is already in receipt of responses. Also, the letter indicates the voter has one year from the date of the letter to respond and have their voter registration corrected.

B. Chairman Hall stated being a Board member is an honor and she is sure all Board members would agree. However, it appears Board members are too concerned with managing and that line between Board function and management is constantly being violated. Much of the confusion about Board responsibilities is confusion between what the Board should do as a group and what individual Board members should do. Board members have individual view points and positions, but they alone cannot cause action. As a Board member two primary functions we should focus on are support and working with a strategic plan of the Board. The hardest part of the job is determining where the Board responsibility ends and the Director's work begins. When those of us are unsure, then some may attempt to control every operational detail. Board

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

members who attempt to over-manage the Director's office typically hurt the organization's ability to move ahead while it does not enable the Director to do the job she was hired to do. We must release this common tendency to control. When Board members are able to do this then hopefully the office will continue to thrive in this new millennium way of change and not remain in the past administrative pattern which served its purpose for that time. We must engage each other.

C. Director Dozier stated the Board policy on distribution of voter registration applications was placed on the agenda for the Board to reconsider the amount of voter registration applications distributed in the office.

Chairman Hall stated because of articles published in the Atlanta Journal Constitution regarding the business meeting when the Board voted on a twenty-five voter registration application limit it appeared articles and the opinions of the public stated the Board was attempting to suppress voter registration. Chairman Hall further stated during the time of the vote it was clearly stated when deputized registrars came in to get the applications they could have a packet of twenty-five which can be copied as often and frequent as necessary. It was noted that there seemed to be a problem with that. Ms. Dozier indicated according to a statistical report during that discussion the number of applications given out were not readily returned. This is a cause for concern when you can register online, make copies of applications, and go to the Secretary of State's office for additional applications.

Chairman Hall continues as it was not previously a Board policy, it was an office policy to limit the number of applications that were given out. When you register with a deputy registrar, you are submitting private information to be processed, but what happens when that information is not submitted for process. Also, the need for ample supply of voter registration applications in the office for the public was the rationale for the decision.

Ms. Dozier stated there was a previous limit of fifty applications, but it was not an established Board policy.

Motion by Secretary Ash, no second, to amend the Board policy on distribution of voter registration applications to be a number of fifty. Motion fails.

Vice-Chairman Pullar stated in the discussion when the policy was adopted there was a discussion of a packet of voter registration applications. Ms. Pullar stated she does not believe there should be a restriction on the number of voter registration applications given to the public. Vice-Chairman Pullar stated there has not been a limit in the past on voter registration applications that was ever mentioned and if you can go down to the Secretary of State's office to get voter registration applications then we should be able to order as many as we need. That is what our tax dollars pay for. That is why there has been a pushback on the policy because it seems it was adopted just before the major push for voter registration. We want to be on the right side of what the public wants and what our tax dollars pay for and what the Clayton County residents really appreciate in terms of the services we provide. In stating that, Vice-Chairman Pullar does not think a limit should be put in place and revisit the matter if one or two hundred applications are requested and only two are being returned. It has not been demonstrated in Clayton County even though it has been mentioned in Fulton County, but we cannot compare ourselves to Fulton County.

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

Secretary Ash stated before you could go into the office and ask for “some” applications and you were given a packet.

Board Member Sligh stated the policy was not designed to suppress anybody from applying. There are certainly many ways you can apply as they said online, or make as many copies of the voter registration application you want.

Director Dozier stated the policy was not designed to suppress voters. It was a way to establish a uniform policy in the office to distribute applications. Ms. Dozier stated her recommendation was based off of her experience, but has been open to what the Board will establish. Since the Board’s establishment of the policy, Ms. Dozier has been maintaining a log of the voter registration applications being given out versus the applications being returned and she can provide that information at the next Board meeting.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Pullar, second by Secretary Ash, not to establish a number of voter registration applications distributed. Motion fails 2-3. Chairman Hall, Board Member Osborne, and Board Member Sligh opposed.

Board Member Osborne asked for more discussion and stated it is important to note and Ms. Dozier has said it twice that this was based on some practical experience in the Voter Registration Office of Fulton County. This was not a number picked out of the air, or a number that just was arbitrarily or capriciously arrived at; and frankly, when it came to the recommendation from our Elections Director, he thought it was the appropriate thing to do to approve the recommendation and Mr. Osborne still does.

Secretary Ash asked if there is a lot of people coming in for voter registration applications.

Ms. Dozier responded, no since the establishment of the Board policy she has a two page log of people coming in requesting applications. Additionally, Ms. Dozier wanted to note when we request applications from the Secretary of State’s office, because we do not have an inventory in our office, we do have to justify our inventory to the Secretary of State’s office. They do not give us an unlimited amount of applications. Ms. Dozier further stated she has submitted a request for applications to the Secretary of State’s Office weeks ago and is still waiting for it to be fulfilled; however, they have more applications than we do in our office.

6. New Business:

- A. Director’s Report.
- B. List of Managers and Assistant Managers for the November 8, 2016 General/Special Election.
- B. Hearing to Remove Felons from Electors’ List.

7. Director Dozier stated Advance Voting started yesterday.

8. Director Dozier stated part of Logic and Accuracy testing has been completed from the last Board meeting through October.

9. Director Dozier highlighted we are conducting the Special Elections for the City of College Park and the City of Jonesboro. We have sent out the mail outs and the updated precinct

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

cards to demonstrate they are involved in a special municipal election in conjunction with the November 8, 2016 General Election. The 8 ½ X 11 notice went out with the updated precinct card in an envelope stamped Clayton County Special Notice in red to ensure the voters we are doing everything we can to notify them of the Special Election. The notice also included information about the Advance Voting locations and times. The information can also be found on our website.

10. Director Dozier stated the City of Riverdale has inquired about their upcoming 2017 elections and the City of Forest Park has inquired about information for them to prepare for an upcoming Special Election they will conduct scheduled in March 2017.

11. Director Dozier stated the number of registered voters as of October 1, 2016 is 169,613.

12. Director Dozier stated the voter registration deadline for the November 8, 2016 General/Special Election was October 11, 2016.

13. Director Dozier explained a Recall petition application was submitted and circulated for Commissioner Michael Edmondson. Once submitted, the circulator has fifteen days to return the petition for verification. The petition was never returned to our office, therefore, there is not a Recall application circulating.

14. Director Dozier highlighted the voter education events over the last month since the last Board meeting. There have been some deputy registrar trainings as well as our office developing a partnership with the Clayton County Unity for Change organization. The organization was present at the last Board meeting and since then there have been deputy registrar trainings and a voter registration drive with them. In addition, our office has conducted other voter registration drives as requested by Clayton State University for National Voter Registration Day, the NAACP which had to be rescheduled due to the rain from the hurricane, and the Homeowner's Association at Lake Ridge.

15. Ms. Dozier stated the City of Forest Park conducted a health fair that our office participated in. Voter registration applications were available and an iPad was used to verify registration and inform voters of their voting locations and districts.

16. Director Dozier stated the office spoke at North Clayton Middle School with the Delta Sigma Theta Academy East Point, College Park Chapter. They have an academy for middle and high school students so we conducted a voter education event with them. Some of the students will come work with the office on Election Day. There are more upcoming events for October.

17. Ms. Dozier stated she participated in a segment of the Phil Williams show in Riverdale, which she understands has 1.5 million listeners. Ms. Dozier was very excited to have provided the listeners with a presentation on Clayton County elections.

18. Director Dozier informed the Board she conducted a presentation to the Board of Commissioners and the public on enhancements of the office, extension of Early Voting, the upcoming voter registration deadline, and some technological advancements to include direct access to our website with the [www.claytonelections.com](http://www.claytonelections.com) link instead of having to search through various departments and provides voter registration and election information. Also, Ms. Dozier

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

explained the Click Clayton app Information Technology has created and the collaboration to allow voters access to their information on a smartphone.

19. Director Dozier informed the Board about a felon on the felon list that will require a discussion before action is taken.

20. Ms. Dozier stated there have been a little over 2,500 voters that voted since the start of Early Voting yesterday. Also, there may have been a forty-five minute wait at peak time in the Elections and Registration simply because voters prefer to vote there, but most locations did not have a wait.

21. Board Member Sligh asked Ms. Dozier who was conducting Logic and Accuracy testing.

Director Dozier stated Mr. Derrick Gilstrap has been contracted to conduct Logic and Accuracy testing.

22. Ms. Dozier stated she located the unofficial numbers from the Advance Voting locations and they are as follows: the heaviest voting location was the Elections and Registration Office with 1,071; Carl Rhodenizer with 607; and South Clayton Recreation Center was 356. So far, the office has processed 2,499 applications for absentee ballot by mail and have received 777 ballots back. This information is found on the front page of our office website and is updated daily for public view.

23. Approval of the recommended List of Managers and Assistant Managers for the November 8, 2016 General/Special Election. Vote unanimous.

24. Director Dozier stated there is a list of 347 felons. Notification has been received from the spouse of Mr. Steven Blanton. There has been no direct contact with Mr. Blanton. The letter was sent regarding the hearing today. The birthdate and last four numbers of the social security number are the same. The spelling of the first name is slightly different, but the middle initial is the same. The family member did imply this has happened before, but from our end the information matches. Ms. Dozier did want to bring it to the attention of the Board so that they may make a recommendation on how to proceed with Mr. Blanton.

Removal of the List of 346 felons from the electors' list, not to include Steven Blanton pending further correspondence. Vote unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. Carl Sanders, Sr. stated he had received a felon notification letter that he believed should have been addressed to his son, Carl Sanders, Jr., and wanted be sure his name was not removed from the electors' list in error.

Board Member Osborne thanked Mr. Sanders for attending the meeting.

2. Annmarie Stewart, (MO3) Elite Scholars Academy Manager, stated that Ms. Dozier herself has said she is not an evening person. Ms. Stewart continued to express her concerns with training, the Board not being present on Election Night at the check-in center to observe, and the

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

lack of Coordinators for the General/Special Election who serve as liaison between Elections Office and poll workers. Ms. Stewart inquired about when Logic and Accuracy testing was done, advertised, and where it was advertised. Ms. Stewart also stated she had consulted with an attorney in the event of repercussion, or if she finds herself without a position at the next election.

3. Karen Hanson, a manager of one of the larger precincts here in Clayton County stated she is concerned about the upcoming election. Ms. Hanson stated the trainer conducting the training had done a much better job than before. She was also concerned with new and seasoned workers not being split up, the detailed training for computerized equipment we have these days, and communication between the managers and the Director since there are no longer Coordinators.

4. Chuck Ware of Riverdale, GA stated he had three questions. Two of the questions he wanted to address to Ms. Dozier. Mr. Ware asked Ms. Dozier how many voters were deleted from this year's election.

Mr. McClendon explained to Mr. Ware the public comment section of the meeting is not the opportunity to hold discussion with county employees or the Board members.

Mr. Ware asked for the number of voters deleted from this year's election, a copy of the letter stating a person was restricted from voting that was sent out, and for the record, the Board Members were here when Ms. Dozier stated why she wanted twenty-five applications passed out. Mr. Ware asked the Board to think carefully, he quoted Ms. Dozier as stating, "When she was working in Fulton County that an organization asked for 5,000 applications and she gave them 5,000 applications; and the reason why she's turning to twenty-five to return in Clayton County is because out of those 5,000 only twenty-five were returned back to her."

5. Archie Emerson, Coordinator, stated she was selected by the Board. Ms. Emerson continued to state that she and Ms. Dozier had exchanged emails, but whether or not there would be Coordinators had not been answered. Ms. Emerson said she had been told that it had been said in training that Ms. Dozier would not be using Coordinators although Ms. Emerson could not verify that information. Ms. Emerson stated that she believed that Ms. Dozier as a Director owed the Coordinators the respect to say that she would not be utilizing them this year. Ms. Emerson stated since the Board hired her that the Board should send her a letter indicating they no longer need her services.

6. State Representative Sandra G. Scott stated she came here this afternoon because she has concerns. One about the application process. Representative Scott stated this is her first time coming and as she sits here today and heard the Board made the statement the Director recommended twenty-five applications because of something Ms. Dozier stated happened in Fulton County, it really bothers her. Also, to hear the Board state that it is not a process to suppress the vote, that bothers her. Ms. Scott stated it bothers her because anytime and anything you do to try to deny a person the right to register to vote or vote is suppression of the voters and this is sad when 2016 and we have an election officer, Director, and a Board that will go forth to try to suppress the vote; and then the timing of it all is also disturbing in the middle of an election that is going out this world. An election that may be bigger than the election of our first African American President for you all to want to limit applications because she had a problem in Fulton County that's sad. It is sad and it is sad for Clayton County Election Board and Director to try to determine how many people register to vote or how many people can receive an application. It

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

should not be a limit and for you all to sit here this afternoon and say twenty-five applications that is sad. Like you said I was given a hundred. I put them out in my church. People do not take them if they are not going to use them. When people go out and register people to vote, Chuck Ware registers people to vote every day. You say they can make them, but why should they make them when the State provide them to you. He shouldn't have to go out and pay to make copies when the State provide them. Why do you all want to cost him money when they free. This is sad, it is really sad and everything I have heard here this afternoon it bothers me as an elected official. It bothers me that people are here talking about we're not going to have Coordinators this year and you all didn't even take the decency or the respect to send them a letter in the mail to tell them you didn't need their services anymore. Where do we do that at. Where does this happen at. You don't have the right and the decency to tell a person been working for you for over 10 years, 15 years that you no longer need their services. Where in America do we do that to people. This was a person's job if they didn't get paid but \$5 a hour whatever. They were looking to make that little change and for you all not to have the respect and decency and a Director to notify the people that's sad and we need to look at this department.

Chairman Hall thanked Representative Scott and explained there is a time limit.

Representative Scott indicated the first woman spoke fifteen minutes and she is a state official and that she thinks she deserves more than two because this meeting is really we need to go back. We need to go back to history. We need to go back because people have fought, bled, and died for us to have the right to vote and right now today I say Clayton County Elections Board and Director need to all come together for a meeting of the mind thank you.

Chairman Hall explained there is another meeting after ours.

7. Bettina Keith asked for clarification with clerks working in the polls. Not managers or assistant managers and are we going to do away with the clerks because it was mentioned that often that I that we would. If we were not interested in becoming a manager then we could sit back and rethink why we want to work the polls, but this is an honor for me and a privilege. She has been in Clayton County for over 23 years and I have worked the polls. She would like for the issue to be discussed with Ms. Dozier and the Board to get a clarification of the meaning of mentioning the clerks staying remaining a clerk.

8. Della Ashley stated she appreciated the minutes being posted on the website and asked to keep them updated on the website.

9. Sandra W. Norwood stated she has been a Coordinator since 2000 and started in the election process in 1994. She really enjoyed doing what she was doing. A realtor for thirty years she knows customer service. The main thing dealing with the people and having that relationship with them being told a lot of times they would have given up and stopped working, but the Coordinators kept them going. We talk to them, encourage them, and tell them how much we appreciate them. Those kind of things go a long way. You can give direction, but if you're not there with them you have no idea what is going on. I was there working with them, training, everything that was needed forwards and backward. For someone to just come in and say we don't need Coordinators anymore was a slap in the face for me and disrespect because you're going to tell me to email you when I'm coming to the office to talk to you as a woman, but I still

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

do not know. I have not been contacted for this election. I wanted you all to know how things are handled.

**{SIGNATURES NEXT PAGE}**

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

There being no further business, motion by Board Member Sligh, second by Secretary Ash to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 5:27 p.m. Vote unanimous.

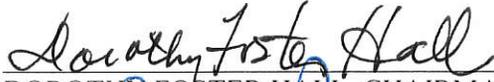
CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting  
4:00 P.M.

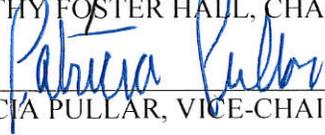
October 18, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

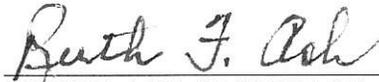
CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION



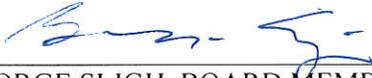
DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, CHAIRMAN



PATRICIA PULLAR, VICE-CHAIRMAN



RUTH F. ASH, SECRETARY



GEORGE SLIGH, BOARD MEMBER



HARRY A. OSBORNE, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:



ALLISON R. RUOTOLO, CLERK