

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

April 13, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Darlene Johnson, Vice Chair Diane Givens, Treasurer Carol Wesley, Secretary Dorothy Foster-Hall, Board Member Patricia Pullar, Director Shauna Dozier, Attorney Charles Reed, and Elections & Registration Assistant Brianna Garrett

REGULAR BUSINESS BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order.
2. Moment of Silence.
3. Adoption of Agenda.

Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Secretary Foster-Hall to adopt the agenda for the Virtual Regular Board Meeting on April 13, 2021 as printed. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the March 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Secretary Foster-Hall to accept the March 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment(s)

Della Ashley submitted a comment that reads: "Some have noticed that on the elected officials page of this Election Board website that the term expires dates were not correct for several elected officials. Please correct those dates."

Arlene Charles submitted a comment that reads: "Why is there not a Republican representative on the Board of Elections?"

Faye Culver submitted a comment that reads: "Thanks for giving me the opportunity to make comments. I believe that Governor Brian Kemp has signed an important document: SB 202 Election Integrity Bill that will ensure voter integrity. I agree with this bill. This bill is needed for Georgia. This Bill DOES NOT single out or discriminate against Blacks and other minorities. This is true because EVERY voter is required to have an ID, not just the blacks and minorities. ALL voters. This SB 202 Voter Integrity Bill DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE against blacks. All other entities require an ID: to rent a car; to ride an airplane; to open a bank account, to check on a bank balance, etc. People need to look at the facts! Just jumping on a band wagon is not the approach for something this important!! I know because I am a Black lady!! Thank you."

Anita Powell submitted a comment that reads: "I am a voting resident in Clayton County and I support SB 202 voter integrity law recently passed and signed into law by Governor Kemp. I especially support voter id requirement for drop box, absentee & mail-in ballots. County election boards should represent both political parties unlike the case in Clayton County."

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6. Old Business:

A. Board Directives, as necessary

There were no Board Directives.

7. New Business

A. Director's Report & 2021 Election Updates

Director Dozier informed the Board that as of April 1, 2021, there are 208,198 (198,954 Active; 9,244 Inactive) Voters. Director Dozier informed the Board that there has been a 64% increase in the number of voters over the last five years, from 134,164 voters in 2016 to now 208,198 voters.

Director Dozier informed the Board that those additional voters provided an increase of 74,034 voters since the year of 2016.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Secretary of State Elections office is partnering with the University of Georgia to conduct a statewide review of signature match of the November 2020 General Election. The Secretary of State Elections office has requested that all counties scan and send to liaisons copies of all completed absentee ballot cure forms from the November 2020 General.

Director Dozier informed the Board that once the project begins, researchers with the University of Georgia will request the counties to pull a number of random envelopes (based on calculations of your total number of absentee ballots) for a number of ballot envelopes.

Director Dozier informed the Board that this project requires a court order and we are expected to fulfill the request to the Secretary of State Elections office by Friday, April 16, 2021.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Secretary of State indicated that this is a part of their ongoing effort to promote confidence in elections.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has been preparing for the 2021 Municipal Elections by communicating with the Municipalities about the options they have for conducting elections this year.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the first Municipal Round Table discussion took place on December 29, 2020 and the second discussion is tentatively set for April 20, 2021. In addition to this, a preliminary discussion with Chief Operating Officer Detrick Stanford along with some of the municipalities was conducted last week.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that she advises the municipalities to go through the Secretary of State's Certification Program as well as shares information about requirements and requests during open discussions.

Board Member Pullar inquired about the municipalities' knowledge of conducting Voter Review Panel during Municipal Elections

Director Dozier informed the Board that she will make mention of the Voter Review Panel during the next municipal round table discussion.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is getting prepared for redistricting with the understanding that there may be a special session held in September or October for legislators.

Director Dozier informed the Board that this is the year of List Maintenance. The office is awaiting direction from the Secretary of State regarding List Maintenance activities and more information will be provided as the Secretary of State releases instructions.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Senate Bill 202/ACT 9 was signed into law on March 25, 2021. There are six sections of the 98-page law that became effective upon the Governor's Signature: Sections 21, 23, 25, 27, 28 and 29. The other sections will be effective as of July 2021. The greatest impact of SB 202 will be the increased cost to the County to hold elections due to the increase in overtime pay to comply with various required provisions, hiring new personnel, purchasing new voting equipment, establishing new polling places, changes in drop box security and the purchase of new supplies. This financial impact is then compounded by the County's restriction from receiving grant funds to offset these costs.

Director Dozier informed the Board that a portion of Senate Bill 202/ACT 9 that directly impacts the office involves possibly decreasing the number of drop boxes from nine (9) to two (2). The drop boxes will have to be moved inside and the other seven (7) will have to be removed from their locations.

Director Dozier informed the Board that in Senate Bill 202/ACT 9 the State Elections Board now has authority to suspend county or municipal superintendents, make personnel decisions for County staff, appoint a temporary superintendent and require the County to pay for these decisions made by the State out of the County's budget. While the Board of Elections may appeal the decision, they cannot use County funds to do so and must purchase insurance to pay for the appeal.

Director Dozier informed the Board of unlimited challenges by "interested" electors. In the last election, there were several outside groups that used proxy "interested" electors to send spreadsheets of hundreds (if not over 1000) alleged voters who were allegedly ineligible to vote. This occurred shortly before the end of the voting period. None of the "interested" electors had firsthand knowledge of whether these persons were ineligible and admitted they filed the challenge based on information provided to them by a third party. With the change in Senate Bill 202, an "interested" elector can divert hundreds of hours of man-time to chase challenges to voter

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residency and require thousands of people to appear at a hearing solely based on that “interested” elector’s belief that the elector is ineligible to vote.

Director Dozier informed the Board that additional polling locations may be added as there is a portion of Senate Bill 202/ACT 9 that states if there are any polling locations with over 2,000 elector’s and has a wait time of one hour or more during a general election, then that polling location must be split.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is looking into possibly adding up to an additional 57 precincts.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is prepared to write procedures and processes as well as rearrange voter education to accommodate requirements from Senate Bill 202 which prepares voters for both 2021 and 2022.

Director Dozier informed the Board that 12% of the precincts have under 2,000 voters and 57 precincts have 2,000 or more voters. Director Dozier informed the Board that because a large number of voters vote during early voting, the number of voters who vote on Election Day is reduced.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she will be meeting with Chief Operating Officer Stanford on Thursday, April 15, 2021 to discuss the relocation and will be able to provide a better update after the meeting.

Board Member Pullar recommended choosing a location that is no smaller than a gym to accommodate the needs of the high volume of voters during early voting days as well as on Election Day be the criteria.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is exploring additional options for polling locations.

Board Member Pullar gave thanks to Director Dozier for her hard work.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office will continue to perform Deputy Registrar Training for Educators. Supervisor Houston has reached out to Clayton County Schools to schedule an additional Deputy Registrar Training class and is working toward securing a date to conduct the training along with Voter Education classes.

Director Dozier informed the Board that last year Deputy Registrar Training was conducted twice, therefore some Educators are still certified for a year.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Deputy Registrar Training was postponed to ensure proper implementation of Senate Bill 202 into the content and processes of Deputy Registrar Training and Voter Education classes.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that educators can continue to register high school students as they normally would during April and the office will continue to work with them on Voter Registration and High School Voter Registration Month as well as other activities in September.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has partnered with Commissioner Gregory and her "Teen Voter Education Summit" where the office conducts voter registration with teenagers and host mock elections that target teens who are not at least 16 years old.

Director Dozier informed the Board that during Deputy Registrar Training, the office will encourage educators to start working with the 14- year old teens by getting them registered, getting their IDs, and provide them information on getting a free voter ID with the office. The office will work diligently to include all aspects the Board has requested in the Voter Education Program.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Senate Bill 202 impacts early voting by changing the times in which precincts can open and close. Precincts can open as early as 7:00 A.M and close as late as 7:00 P.M. There is a requirement for two (2) Saturday early voting days, however counties can provide two (2) Sunday early voting days if they choose.

Director Dozier reminded the Board that a resolution was passed where there has to be at least one (1) Sunday early voting option when there are Federal or State candidates on the ballot. The selection of having two (2) Sunday early voting days is something the Board can decide on at a later date.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is looking at options to add additional personnel and this will be a part of her discussion with Chief Operating Officer Stanford regarding budget. Director Dozier informed the Board that if additional polling locations have to be added there is going to be a requirement to add additional poll workers to fund and run those additional polling locations. Those things are on the table with regards to how Senate Bill 202 is going to impact the office adding more personnel. The office is looking at all of the options to include additional polling locations and additional personnel.

Foster-Hall inquired about the impact that Senate Bill 202 has on voting equipment.

Director Dozier informed the Board that if we have to have additional voting locations than the office would need to purchase additional voting equipment from Dominion Voting, the system that Clayton is currently utilizing.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the grant funding received from the Democracy Grant for Voting Access and Election Administration is solely used for the election administration during the 2020 election year.

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Chair Johnson commented that if there is a need to purchase additional equipment that the State will not supply, then the Board has to go before the Commissioners to ask for more money and increase the budget.

Board Member Pullar commented that the unfunded mandates that are being required are going to be a challenge for the entire State.

Chair Johnson inquired about the Senate Bill 202 mandating the Board to pay for any services regarding lawsuits.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Senate Bill 202 states that the Board cannot use county funds to purchase any insurance to pay for any appeals.

Board Member Pullar inquired about recommendations from the alternative location site visit.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the building looked at was the old Code Enforcement building. Initially the office was going to occupy 1285 Government Circle but the decision was made that Code Enforcement would move into and occupy 1285 Government Circle. A recommendation was made for the office to enter into the old Code Enforcement building.

Director Dozier informed the Board that after looking at the old Code Enforcement building, the preference is to have a warehouse space. The old Code Enforcement building would require major renovations to accommodate the office so that it provides the office with what is needed including warehouse and training spaces.

Board Member Pullar commented that she is not certain whether or not the Commissioners are taking the office's need for the amount of space that is required seriously enough. More importance needs to be put on the Board of Elections and Registration's location due to the fact that highly expensive equipment needs to be housed, the office has the responsibility of conducting this major task every two (2) years, as well as other activities. The physical office of the Board of Elections and Registration is also an early voting site, therefore this needs to be considered to prevent long lines because the space is inadequate. The Board has to make certain that our voice is heard.

Board Member Pullar inquired about the Board writing a letter and attending a Board of Commissioners Meeting to address the issue of securing a building large enough to accommodate all of the activities surrounding Elections and Registration as a whole.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she would provide an update to the Board after her meeting on Thursday with Chief Operating Officer Stanford and that anything the Board can do to help us in this process would be helpful.

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Board Member Pullar commented that each Board Member should speak with their individual Commissioner and express the importance of the office's need to secure a location, this would yield more traction on this issue.

B. Hearing to remove felons from elector's list.

There were no felons to remove.

C. Removal of deceased from elector's list.

Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Treasurer Carol Wesley, to remove the 120 names listed as deceased voters from the Clayton County Elections & Registration Elector's List as printed. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

8. Executive Session: To consider personnel and/or litigation, as necessary.

Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Vice Chair Diane Givens, to go into Executive Session for personnel purposes at 5:19 P.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made by Treasurer Wesley, seconded by Board Member Pullar, to come out of Executive Session at 5:47 P.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made by Treasurer Wesley, seconded by Secretary Foster-Hall to reconvene the Regular Board Meeting at 5:49 P.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

9. Adjourn.

Motion made by Treasurer Wesley to adjourn the Virtual Regular Board Meeting at 5:50 P.M. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Givens. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

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{SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE}

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DARLENE JOHNSON, CHAIR

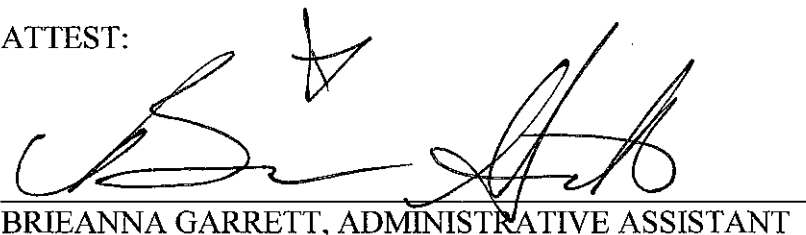

DIANE GIVENS, VICE-CHAIR


DOROTHY FOSTER-HALL, SECRETARY


PATRICIA PULLAR, BOARD MEMBER


CAROL WESLEY, TREASURER

ATTEST:


BRIANNA GARRETT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT