

# CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Regular Business Meeting  
4:30 PM

May 12, 2020

## *APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES*

PRESENT: Chair Wesley, Vice-Chair Foster Hall, Secretary Johnson, Treasurer Givens, Board Member Pullar, Director Dozier, Supervisor Houston, Attorney Reed, and Elections & Registration Assistant Garrett.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS BOARD MEETING**

1. *Chair called the meeting to order.*

2. *Moment of silence observed.*

3. *Adoption of Agenda:*

**Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.**

4. *Approval of April 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes.*

**Motion made by Treasure Givens, seconded by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall to approve the April 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes with corrections as noted. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.**

5. *PUBLIC COMMENT:* Citizens will be given a three-minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Elections and Registration about various topics, issues, and concerns. Public comments will be limited to thirty (30) minutes. Following thirty minutes of hearing from the public, the Board of Elections and Registration will allow the remainder of citizens who have signed up to be heard at the next regular business meeting.

*In-person Public Comment during of the Clayton County Board of Elections & Registration Regular Business Meeting have been temporarily suspended amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Comments can be submitted online via submission form located at:*

<https://www.claytoncountyga.gov/government/board-of-commissioners/county-boards/elections-and-registration-board/board-of-elections-registration-meeting-public-comment-form>

1. Larry Auerbach submitted an online public comment: On behalf of the Democratic Party of Georgia, we appreciate your efforts to educate voters and to increase voting opportunities. We urge you to make as many drop boxes available for Clayton County voters as possible and to use all feasible means to publicize their locations. We would appreciate information as to the number (if any) of absentee ballot applications yet to be processed and the expected time frame to complete work on these applications.

Secretary Johnson inquired on the office sending out absentee ballot applications to inactive voters from the previous Regular Called Board Meeting comments.

Board Member Pullar reminded the Board of the consensus from the Board Members that they outside of herself would not like for the Elections & Registrations office to incur the cost of sending out the absentee ballot application.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that voters become inactive when that have not voted in two consecutive general elections, signed a petition, or made contact with their local registration's office for up to 10 years.

2. Rose Miller submitted an online comment: What safety precautions will be taken to protect the public and Poll Workers during the elections at the Precincts? Will there be any training for managers prior to the elections?

### 6. Old Business:

#### A. Board Directives, as necessary

Director Dozier informed the Board that there are no Board Directive updates.

#### B. Combined Board Meeting – 2020 June Regular Board Meeting and June Special Called Board Meeting

**Motion made by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Treasurer Givens to combine the 2020 June Regular Board Meeting with the Special Called Board Meeting to certify the June 9, 2020 Election. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.**

### 7. New Business

#### A. Director's Report

Director Dozier informed the Board that on March 13, 2020 the Clayton County Board of Commissioners issued an ordinance to close county operations. The ordinance was extended three times. Clayton County will reconstitute government May 11, 2020 for the employees and reopen to the public on May 13, 2020.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has implemented and followed guidelines as provided by the Center for Disease Control and Clayton County Emergency Services in order to reduce our exposure to COVID-19. In preparation for opening to the public, the office has taken extra measures by placing floor markings to assure social distant practices, wearing face coverings and gloves as well as the usage of a barrier to provide services to the public.

Director Dozier informed the Board that as of May 1, there are 197,789 (184,586 Active; 13,203 Inactive) voters in Clayton County.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Secretary of State Raffensberger, set the new Voter Registration deadline for the June 9, 2020 election for Monday, May 11, 2020. All voter registration applications will be processed by the end of this week.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the new dates for Advance Voting for the Presidential Preference Primary and General Primary has been set by Secretary of State Raffensberger to begin May 18, 2020 and will end June 5, 2020. The second Saturday for Saturday Voting is May 30, 2020 and Sunday Voting date is set for May 31, 2020. The last day of Advance Voting will be



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June 5, 2020. The new dates for Advance Voting for the General Primary Runoff will be July 20, 2020 – August 7, 2020.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Logic and Accuracy Testing commenced April 29, 2020 and will continue until completion.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Poll Worker Training has been scheduled from May 18, 2020 until June 4, 2020.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Victory Point International Ministries, Inc. (FP5) informed us that the church could only accommodate us as an Election Day Polling Location for the June 9, 2020 via email on May 8, 2020. We have corresponded with Revered Gibson regarding her decision with the hope to ensure that we can continue to use the facility in accordance to House Bill 316. Otherwise, we are in jeopardy of changing a polling location in the middle of an election year between the Presidential Preference Primary, General Primary and the General Primary Election, which is scheduled for August 11, 2020. The reasoning for wanting to discontinue serving as a polling location is to begin construction on the facility.

Vice-Chair Foster-Hall inquired on the construction of the building being done on the exact polling site of the building and utilizing a different portion of the building as a polling site.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she inquired about the option to relocate within the site and is awaiting correspondence from Reverend Gibson. Approval from the Secretary of State's office is required before the move of any polling location. The Board will be provided with future updates as discussions unfold.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the State Election Board (SEB) Rule: 183-1-14-0.6-.14 has issued a rule that provided for elections held June 9, 2020. County Registrars are authorized to establish one or more drop box locations as a means for absentee by mail electors to deliver their ballots to the county registrars.

Director Dozier informed the Board that we have ordered a ballot drop box and we are awaiting for its arrival for installation. There will be a further update at the upcoming board meeting.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Absentee Ballot Drop Box will be under surveillance 24-hours as mandated by House Bill and is also mounted in the cement as well as weatherproof.

Board Member Pullar expressed that she would like to be the first person to place her absentee ballot in the box.

Secretary Johnson inquired on the amount of absentee ballot boxes that will be placed throughout the county and expressed the concern of accommodating the voters with limited transportation.

Director Dozier informed the Board that one absentee ballot box will be placed at 121 South McDonough Street Jonesboro Ga, 30236 due to the requirement of 24-hour surveillance video as well as to minimize the cost of placing absentee ballot boxes across the county. If the State Election

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Board provides for future elections to allow absentee ballot boxes, then the Board will revisit placing ballot boxes at other locations.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that the stipulations placed on establishing the absentee ballot box makes it challenging to place around the county. The boxes would have to be strategically placed under surveillances in which some places in the county does not have the building necessities to place a camera. There is also shortages of obtaining absentee ballot box with such a high demand as 159 other counties are also looking to purchase absentee ballot boxes within a certain time period.

Secretary Johnson expressed to the Board that for future Elections she would like to advocate for ballot boxes in various places where transportation is limited allowing for voters to cast their ballots in their area. Even with the 24-hour camera surveillance, it would still be ideal to have a strategic polling place in each Clayton district with physical security of the boxes on Election Day by Law Enforcement.

Treasurer Givens inquired on the ballot box being an additional measure for voting and that voters can not only vote in person, but also mail-in their absentee ballots in the case that they are not able to get transportation to the absentee box.

Secretary Johnson expressed that the ballot boxes would decrease the usage of the budget by allowing people to cast ballots at a box instead of sending in absentee ballots through postal service without a stamp which would cause the county to incur the additional cost of postage.

Director Dozier shared with the Board that cost of the ballot boxes with freight charge as well as the camera surveillance pricing.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the surveillance footage is required to be retained for 30 days after the Election however; Elections & Registration will keep the footage past the required time period.

Director Dozier informed the Board that all 58 precincts will be open on Election Day as well as all six advanced voting sites.

Director Dozier informed the Board that a bulletproof shield was requested for the front desk of Elections & Registration. Building and Maintenance provided a moveable barrier that can be placed on a counter where a voter is receiving service. The office was temporarily restructured to accommodate citizens receiving services in the office while practicing safety measures recommended by the CDC.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has spent approximately \$13,000 in PPE. Emergency Services has informed the office that each department will be provided with mask and a thermometer. A health questionnaire is required for employees who are returning to work. Building and Maintenance originally stated that they would provide 205 sneeze guards for the polling locations however, there is a possibility that it may be retracted. A meeting is scheduled



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with Building & Maintenance Director Ben Hopkins and Chalanda Smith, who is the lead of PPE distribution. Updates will be provided to the Board.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she participated in a virtual County Town Hall meeting in which citizens were allowed to ask questions regarding polling locations and PPE.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has not received a sample ballot from the Secretary of State's office and that there is a high probability that the Secretary of State will not provide the counties with a sample ballot. In order to inform the public of methods to view their customized sample ballot, the office has been sending media blast to constituents, social media platforms, and emails to educate the public on how to use the My Voter Page.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has utilized social media to educate voters on how to open their ballots without damaging the material as well as how to look up the status of their absentee ballot application.

Director Dozier commended the Elections and Registrations staff for their hard work and dedication. As of May 11, 2020, the office has received 29,216 absentee ballot applications. 27,578 have been processed so far. In the last like election, the average of 1100 absentee applications for the entire election. The office is currently processing an average of 1400 applications per day. Approximately 4200 absentee ballots has been received in the office as of today.

Chair Wesley applauded the Elections & Registration office on behalf of the Board.

Director Dozier informed the Board that correspondences have been made with Media & Communications regarding the directive of absentee ballot applications being submitted via email. For the sake of the CDC recommendations, the office utilized social media platforms displaying pictures to direct voters on how to submit pictures of the completed absentee ballots. A script has been drafted and video productions will take place at a future date once the County has adjusted to being in the office consistently.

Director Dozier informed the Board that media blast will be released to Clayton constituents as well as social media platforms educating voters on the location and usage of the absentee ballot drop box.

G. Hearing to remove felons from the elector's list.

**There were no felons present for hearing.**

H. Hearing to remove deceased from elector's list.

**Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Secretary Johnson, to remove 73 deceased voters from the electors' list noting Sidney Lewis Pullar Junior as Board Member Pullar's brother. Vote Unanimous. Motion passed.**

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*8. Executive session:*

**Motion made by Secretary Johnson to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Foster Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried. The Board of Elections began the Executive Session at 5:41 P.M.**

**Motion made by Treasurer Givens to adjourn Executive Session, Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Foster Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried. The Board of Elections ended the Executive Session at 6:06 P.M**

*9. Adjourn.*

**Motion made by Board Member Pullar to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 6:10 P.M. Motion seconded by Secretary Johnson. Vote Unanimous. Motion passed.**

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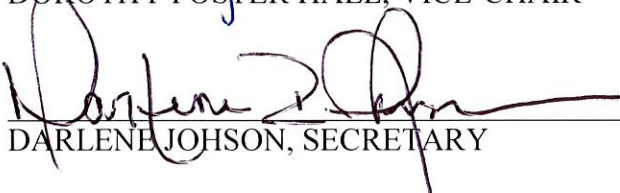
**{SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE}**

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CAROL WESLEY, CHAIR

  
DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, VICE-CHAIR

  
DARLENE JOHNSON, SECRETARY

  
DIANE GIVENS, TREASURER

  
PATRICIA PULLAR, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

  
BRIANNA GARRETT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT