

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Special Called Business Meeting
4:30P.M.

April 2, 2018

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Dorothy Foster Hall, Secretary Ruth Ash, Board Member Carol Wesley, Board Member Patricia Pullar, Director Shauna Dozier, Supervisor Kamardi Carter, and Administrative Assistant Brieanna Garrett

1. *Vice- Chair Dorothy Foster-Hall called the meeting to order.*

2. *Moment of silence observed.*

3. *Adoption of Agenda: Motion made by Board Member Patricia Pullar, seconded by Secretary Ruth Ash. Voting strength of 3; Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.*

4. *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.

There were no comments made by the public.

5. *New Business*

A. 2018 May General Primary and July Primary Runoff Advance Voting Locations, Dates and Hours:

Director Dozier addressed the cost of increasing voting hours during the advanced voting cycle for General Primary in May and the Runoff in July. She gave historical background of Clayton County's voting hours, dates, and locations. The additional financial impact will be a further \$34,170. Further background statistical turnouts show that in May 2014, a like-election, the overall turnout was 15%. Out of that 15%, only 20% voted during advanced voting; 73% voted during the last week of advanced voting, which included the extended hours; 9% voted on the Saturday and Sunday advanced voting days. Overall, for the advanced voting, there is a 20% turnout.

For the 2016 General Primary, which is not a like-election but the numbers are still beneficial, there was a 19% turnout during the May primary election. 33% of that 19% showed up for advanced voting. Out of the 33%, a total of 70% voted that last week of advanced voting hours. 11% voted during the Saturday and Sunday voting times provided for May 2016. Director Dozier's research show that the majority of county voters vote during the last week of advanced voting. However, the overall majority of voters still vote on Election Day, which is 67%.

Director Dozier informed the Board that all six (6) Advance Sites will now open at the beginning of Advance Voting as implemented in 2016. Further the two (2) sites Morrow Municipal and Lee Headquarters Library which historically was not open for Saturday and Sunday Voting will be open.

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Director Dozier further stated that the recommendation of extended hours for the last week is included in the document provided to the Board for review, further discussion and adjustments as approved by the Board.

Vice Foster-Hall stated that it appears that the majority of voters come to the polls during the last week.

Board Member Pullar stated that the reasoning is that the hours are extended during that last week. She stated that people could not vote during the first two weeks due to work, and are able to take advantage of the extended hours during the last week.

Vice-Chair stated that the Board cannot verify this reasoning.

Director Dozier polled advanced voting staff in 2016 to screen for reasoning of coming in during the last week. The majority expressed that most of the political debates had ended, and they were ready to make a decision on the qualified candidate as Election Day approaches.

Director Dozier asked that the board also take into consideration that the financial impact amounts did not include the staff of Elections & Registration Staff's overtime.

Board Member Pullar voiced that it is imperative for Clayton County to be put into the same category as surrounding counties, and sync our voting hours with our county neighbors.

Board Member Pullar stated that promoting the early voting hours will increase advanced voting turnout.

Board Member Pullar further stated that most candidates do not have the money to advertise advanced voting, believes the county is progressing and that we should give the voters a chance to vote early during extended hours for the entire 21 days of advanced voting instead of the last week.

Board Member Pullar further stated that low turnout is advantageous to the incumbents winning verses the other candidates running for a particular race.

Director Dozier expressed that Clayton currently has approximately 175,000, in comparison to Fulton County who has approximately 700,000, and DeKalb County who has approximately 450,000 in comparisons.

Director Dozier is working with CCTV, in which the county has collaborated all of the social media accounts with the websites so that promotions can be advertised countywide on social media platforms.

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Board Member Pullar would like to propose the extended hours to the Board of Commissioners as an option of tentative hours for this cycle and base the next cycle's hours off of the turnout percentage. Director Dozier informed the board that whatever will be voted on in the meeting, would be presented to the Board of Commissioners for the consent agenda on tomorrow.

Vice-Chair Foster-Hall showed concern of The Board of Commissioner's possibly questioning the vast increased amount in the budget for advanced voting.

Board Member Pullar stated that she spoke with her commissioner and Michal Edmondson and Michael Edmondson said that the county has a surplus of 7 million dollars in their budget and recommended proposing it.

Vice-Chair Foster-Hall voiced that these monies are not in the current budget.

Director Dozier informed her that by law, Saturday voting is mandatory, but that the board could decide on voting hours for Sunday. Board Member Pullar stated that a Sunday voting date and hours were already established in 2014 and 2016 and that there was a policy requiring Sunday voting.

Board Member Pullar informed the board that next time around, the legislature may try and attempt to slash voting days down from 21 days to 12 days.

Board Member Pullar expressed that they have attempted to change it last year, and this current year, to 12 days and no Saturday and Sunday voting.

Board Member Pullar stated that advance voting was originally 45 days and it was decreased to 21 days.

Board Member Pullar expressed that we are not sure what will transpire in 2020, especially not knowing who will be the Secretary of State of 2018.

Vice-Chair Hall expressed that the Board's responsibility is to be fiscally savvy with the budget.

Vice-Chair Hall stated the Advance Voting turnout does not reflect the need for extended hours beyond what has already been established, however is open to a Board plan for the budget next year.

Board Member Pullar reiterated that was her reason for saying that if we are going to govern ourselves in terms of the budget, then that is what we need to be cognizant of when we make our decisions or implement our policies.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Dorothy Foster-Hall to accept the suggested recommended locations, dates, and times brought forth at the March 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting. Voting strength of 4; Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

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8. *Executive session:* There was no executive session.

10. *Adjourn:*

Motion made by Board Member Patricia Pullar to adjourn the Special Called Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Board Member Carol Wesley. Motion carried. Vote Unanimous. Motion passed. The Board Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.

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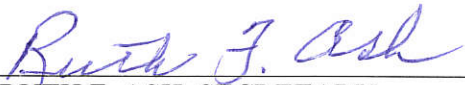
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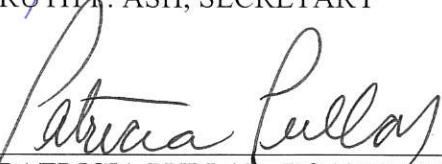
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DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, VICE-CHAIR



RUTH F. ASH, SECRETARY



PATRICIA PULLAR, BOARD MEMBER



CAROL WESLEY, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:



BRIANNA GARRETT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT