



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, August 13, 2019

The August meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 10 a.m. Chairman Gibson welcomed the public visitors in attendance.

Present were Patricia Gibson, Chairman; Sandy Dean, Vice Chairman; Keith Rustin, Secretary; Tommy Clark, Member; Patricia Featherstone, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Jason Wilbanks, Glynn County Attorney; Taylor Cooper, The Brunswick News; Paula Galland, Women's Voices of Glynn; Venus Holmes, Black Citizens United; Pam Shierling, The Islander; Lucy Shaw, WWEZ; Lavonia Clark

Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2019 Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Rustin motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Old Business

Options for Extended Advanced Voting Hours

Mr. Channell presented 2018 statistics demonstrating a growing trend in advanced voting. Georgia code requires early voting be open during office hours. He recommends extending early voting by two hours (8am-7pm) one day each week. Monday was determined to be the best option. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the extra cost and Mr. Channell stated he expected it to be minimal.

Mr. Clark made the motion to extend early voting from 8am to 7pm on Mondays beginning in 2020 at all early voting locations, Mr. Rustin seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Update on the New Voting Machines

The Dominion *ImageCast* machines have been selected as the State's new voting system. Machine delivery and pickup of old machines is not yet scheduled. Training will be conducted regionally. Bacon County will receive the new machines for their November election. Chairman Gibson requested the Board schedule a visit there to observe the machines during early voting.

Mr. Channell described the new Okidata ballot printing machine expected for 2020 elections. The current Balotar machine will become obsolete after the Municipal Election. Mr. Channell recommends the machine be sold as soon as possible.

Ms. Dean motioned to begin the process of selling the Balotar with the condition that it is available only after the Municipal Election, Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

New Voting Machine Public Awareness Campaign

Mr. Channell presented a machine demonstration video from Dominion. This video does not meet the Board's public education needs. The Board will produce a presentation once the new machines and procedures are available. A letter has been drafted offering local groups the opportunity to schedule a presentation beginning in January. Additional public awareness strategies include an informative Facebook page and updates to the Board webpage.



New Business

Public Comment Policy

Ms. Featherstone introduced a by-laws amendment to include public comment during meetings and explained the importance of offering this opportunity. The policy allows up to three public commenters per meeting to speak before approval of the minutes. Members of the public will be required to sign-up for commentary ahead of time. Ms. Dean asked for clarification on limits to how often an individual person can comment. It was decided to remove the limit at this time.

Ms. Dean made a motion to adopt the amendment, Ms. Featherstone seconded. The motion was approved 5-0. The press will receive a copy of the approved amendment.

Polling Locations Updates

Mr. Channell presented recommendations for changing some locations based on the priorities of moving from schools, moving into other government buildings, and reducing expenses. The most urgent issue is the Burroughs-Molette location from the temporary, out-of-precinct site. The Roosevelt Harris Senior Center was identified as an alternative. Ms. Dean will pursue this option

Ms. Dean made the motion to move the location to the Roosevelt Harris building if available or back to BME school if it is unavailable, Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Staff were tasked to pursue combining the Satilla Marsh and Marshes of Glynn precincts at Bay Harbour Church which is ideal for both its size and location. There are limited options for moving the Oglethorpe Point precinct. Combining with a neighboring precinct is not viable due to the large turnout at those precincts. Ms. Featherstone tasked staff to contact Golden Isles Presbyterian church as an in-precinct option. Other location changes will be evaluated in the future.

Office Report

Mr. Channell presented the new Campaign Finance tools now available on the website. Qualifying for the Municipal Election will take place August 19-23.

Other office business included a significant Open Records Request encompassing documents from 2011-2019. An estimate of \$847 and three-week timetable has been submitted. The current budget was reviewed. The vacant scanner position has been filled. A meeting with representatives from both parties is scheduled to discuss ballot questions and other issues.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone remarked on the differences between the current active voters versus the number in November 2018 and inquired about auditing of the electors list.

Executive Session

There was no motion for an Executive Session.

Adjournment

Mrs. Dean made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Patricia Gibson, Chairman

Keith Rustin, Secretary