



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday August 18, 2020

The August meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 6:30pm.

Present were Patricia Gibson, Chairman; Patricia Featherstone, Vice Chairman; Keith Rustin, Secretary; Sandy Dean, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Mark Johnson, Attorney; Penny Hennessy; Max Hess

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Board Member Political Activities

A finalized list of Board member guidelines for political activities was reviewed. Ms. Gibson emphasized this list will be adaptable guidelines and not a permanent part of official Board by-laws and policies. Ms. Dean made the motion to approve the Board Member Guidelines for Political Activities, Ms. Featherstone seconded. The motion was approved 5 - 0.

Office Space

Ms. Gibson reported on the meeting with County Commissioner O'Quinn regarding the need to expanded office space. Commissioner O'Quinn was receptive to the Board's needs. Mr. Clark stated he would contact the candidates for Commission seats asking for their review of the issue. Mr. Clark will also invite Commissioner Booker to tour the office and discuss space needs. Mr. Channell presented initial data comparing the square footage used in other counties. All Board members agreed this issue must continue to be actively pursued, especially before FY22 budgeting.

Early Voting Metrics

Mr. Channell explained Monday evening voter turnout was low again. Mr. Rustin stated the need to reevaluate early voting schedule after the conclusion of the 2020 election cycle. Mr. Channell noted the turnout at St. Simons and how it may become necessary to find an alternative, larger space. Early voting must occur in a government building which limits options on the island.

New Business

August Runoff

The 2020 General Primary Runoff was certified earlier this day. 11 Provisional ballots were tabulated and the results are now official and complete. 19 of 20 precincts opted to set up the night before election day and the results were positive. Ms. Gibson and Ms. Featherstone stated the precincts each visited that day seemed better prepared and were generally well-functioning teams. Ms. Featherstone reported that poll managers and workers found the July teams training very beneficial and should be repeated before November. The Ballard poll manager requested better organization between the transition from early voting to election day.



Ms. Gibson expressed concern over social distancing occupancy limits in the precinct. Mr. Channell explained those limits were according to the Governor's executive order. The Board will follow any social distancing rules in November. St. William will only allow 10 voters in the building at a time no matter which State social distancing rules are in place.

Office Report

Mr. Channell reported the FY20 Budget has not yet closed and the FY21 Budget is on track. Budget goals for FY22 should be discussed in September. Poll worker pay data collection continues. Mr. Rustin stated office permanent and seasonal staffing should be addressed in the FY22 budget. Mr. Channell noted the full time Dominion technician position will end in January and plans should be made to fill those duties in-house and through a service contract with Dominion. Mr. Clark plans to discuss these needs with the Commissioners.

In additional office business, the petition for the Keith Higgins, Independent Candidate for District Attorney, has arrived. There are approximately 6700 Glynn County signatures to be verified and the State has asked for verification of at least 3500 by August 24. Mr. Channell also presented a summary of Magnolia Manor's voter assistance procedures to be considered in the development of a pamphlet for facilities countywide.

The State has selected Glynn County to partake in a pilot audit program to determine the quickest and most accurate way to verify results. The Runoff ballots will be audited. Poll workers will be called in to assist. The State will video the event for statewide training and the press will be invited.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone commented on her contacted county HR and Finance and found it difficult to get historical data for poll worker pay. The decision was made to track the previous payroll of a longtime poll worker to look for pay increases in the past.

Executive Session

Mr. Clark made a motion to go into Executive Session to consult with the attorney, Ms. Featherstone seconded the motion. Ms. Gibson informed the public no action would be taken in Executive Session. The motion passed 5 - 0.

The Board came out of Executive Session. Ms. Dean made the motion to follow the advice of counsel as presented in Executive Session. Ms. Featherstone seconded this motion, the motion passed 5 - 0. Mr. Johnson stated he will draft a letter to the Attorney General and Secretary of State's office. Mr. Rustin will create a press statement regarding the letter. Ms. Gibson requested the Board and office staff have no comment on the legal advice until the letter is delivered.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn and approved 5-0.

Patricia Gibson, Chairman

Keith Rustin, Secretary