



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday July 14, 2020

The July 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; Penny Hennessy, Glynn Dems

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Board Member Political Activities

Ms. Gibson and Ms. Dean submitted a proposed list of recommended guidelines for discussion. Each member agreed the priority is to maintain the integrity of the Board of Elections and uphold the public's trust in fair and impartial elections. Board members discussed individual guidelines including signage, party-appointed member responsibilities, general public interactions when not performing Board duties, household family member activities, community events, fundraisers, and donations. Mr. Channell was tasked to coordinate with county legal counsel to draft an official document for consideration at the next meeting. Ms. Featherstone requested the document be in laymen's terms and easily interpreted by all involved. Ms. Gibson recommended the document not become part of the by-laws and instead remain as guidelines which can be revised as needed in the future. Ms. Dean encouraged Board members to reach out to Mr. Channell with potential issues or scenarios which might need to be included within the document.

Early Voting Metrics

There were 26 voters during early voting extended hours. Only two Mondays were open due to Memorial Day. There were 100 voters for Saturday voting. Mr. Channell advised waiting for August and November data before considering schedule adjustments. Ms. Gibson stated the data will be reexamined in January. Ms. Featherstone noted the high turnout on the last day of early voting and asked for consideration to accommodate those voters. Ballard experienced growth since the Presidential Primary.

New Business

August Runoff Preparations

Poll packing is almost complete. Mr. Channell requested Board members accompany each delivery on August 10. There is a need for at least 16 new poll workers and 3 manager promotions. 1 manager vacancy is due to a positive COVID test. Mr. Clark tasked Mr. Channell with ensuring voting times are posted in the newspaper. Board members reviewed election day assignments.



Over 5,600 absentee ballots have been mailed and almost 1,000 returned. Mr. Channell stated absentee requests increased as local COVID cases increased. Ms. Dean commented many voters are unclear about “rollover” ballots. Ms. Featherstone remarked this would be an important topic to cover in local media. Ms. Gibson agreed all efforts should be made to explain the rollover process. July 28 is the last day to notify the public of intent to tabulate early. Board members agreed early tabulation freed those poll workers to assist with opening polls on Election Day.

E-SPLOST

All paperwork has been submitted by the Board of Education. Mr. Channell explained the process for including the Board of Education’s proposed E-Splost on the November ballot.

Office Report

The FY20 Budget will close once June invoices arrive. Regular office staff includes 3 full time employees and 1 part time employee. Supplemental staff includes 5 paid volunteers funded by the poll worker budget. Mr. Channell stated these seasonal workers are essential to completing the 2020 election cycle. The seasonal workers will break in August and begin November preparations in September. Ms. Featherstone expressed concern these seasonal workers may find alternate employment during their time off and not return before November.

There is no clear information from the State regarding additional Dominion techs for the November election. The State has announced they will mail rollover ballots for the November election.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone asked about history for poll worker pay increases. Mr. Channell stated data collection continues but there is little archived data available within the county. Ms. Gibson remarked it has been several years since the last pay increase. Ms. Gibson also commented a desire to re-institute a poll worker recognition event or thank-you gift at the end of an election year.

Ms. Featherstone noted the FY21 budget increase over FY20. Mr. Channell explained much of the increased cost includes State mandated ballot paper and ballot printer toner. Ms. Featherstone warned unforeseen budget cuts are always possible and should be anticipated. Mr. Channell agreed and noted the department has a reputation for conservative spending and increasing county reserves.

Executive Session

There was no motion for an Executive Session.

Adjournment

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

Patricia Gibson, Chairman

Keith Rustin, Secretary