



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday October 6, 2020

The October 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; Taylor Cooper, The Brunswick News

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

The September 8, 2020 Minutes were approved.

Old Business

Finance/Budget Goals

The Board members discussed revisions and additions to the FY21 Budget goals in preparation for the FY22 goals. This discussion included poll worker pay, poll location planning, Election Net database maintenance, and potential Census impacts. The need for additional staff and the urgent need for space was extensively discussed. During the discussion, Ms. Featherstone suggested expanding the examination of space needs to be more holistic to include all precincts and early voting locations.

Additional budgeting discussion included the decision to subcontract technician work to Dominion Voting Systems after the “trial” period of having a free technician expires in January or to hire an in-house staff capable of performing those tasks. There will also be costs for equipment service and ballot printing, similar to those costs of the former ES&S system. The current warranty ends in December 2021. The next Budget team meeting is November 6, 2020. Goals, mission statements, and personnel requests should be finalized in the December Board meeting.

Early Voting Metrics

Mr. Channell presented the Early Voting metrics from the August 11, 2020 runoff. This data aligned with earlier data demonstrating low turnout for extended-hours Monday voting. The data also demonstrated significant growth in turnout at the Ballard site. The Board plans to re-examine advanced voting schedules and locations after the 2020 election cycle is complete.

Poll Worker Pay & Recognition

There was new data available for poll worker pay across Georgia. The Finance Department was able to provide historical data for long-time poll workers. The Board will further examine this topic during budget planning in November and present any revisions as part of the December countywide budget meetings.



New Business

General Election Update

Logic and Accuracy testing is complete for early voting and resumes for the Election Day equipment. Poll worker staffing is complete. All poll worker training will be finished October 28. Several office personnel were able to attend additional Dominion training. The Board agreed to tabulate results early, beginning to open absentee ballot envelopes on October 28 and scan ballots beginning November 2. A recent lawsuit has been overturned and absentee ballots will be due in the office by 7pm on November 3. Currently 3,121 ballots have been returned and accepted. Ms. Redden demonstrated the write-in functionality on the Ballot Marking Devices. Mr. Channell explained why the write-in process will increase the time needed for adjudication. Dominion Voting Systems has pledged to provide Field Service Technicians for every poll in Georgia on election day. The Governor has lifted the 10-person occupancy rule for COVID-19 and there should be no line restrictions on Election Day.

Election Night Assignments will involve delivering any needed equipment or replaces. Board members will check in at their assigned precincts beginning at 6am. Board members will be at each of the drop boxes to lock them and collect ballots at 7pm on Election Night. Mr. Rustin will oversee the absentee tabulation process. Ms. Gibson reminded all Board members to be available by phone that day should there be a need to convene.

Office Report

The current financial data does not include the cost of the drop boxes. The total cost of the drop boxes will likely not be covered by a state grant. The first half of the legal fees regarding SB 509 is reflected in the current financials. It is unknown if the expenses will be incorporated into the county's general costs.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone suggested adding a reach goal to the FY21 Budget Goals to examine ways or methods to capture some of the high voter interest and enthusiasm past the General Election and into 2021/2022. Ideas were discussed on how to maintain the momentum for voter outreach. Ms. Featherstone also inquired about information for nursing homes. Since the September meeting, the State has developed a 2020 Guide for Nursing Home Administrators. It has not yet been distributed countywide.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

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

Patricia Gibson, Chairman

Keith Rustin, Secretary