



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday November 10, 2020

The November 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; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Taylor Cooper, The Brunswick News, Penny Hennesey. Tommy Clark, Member- on medical leave.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

The October 6, 2020 Minutes were discussed. Ms. Featherstone requested corrections regarding the FY21 Budget Goals discussion. The minutes were approved with those corrections.

Old Business

Finance/Budget Goals

The Glynn County budget meeting will be December 8. Finalized goals and objectives are due December 11. Mr. Channell will finalize the goals and objectives for Board approval.

New Business

General Election Recap

Ms. Gibson and Ms. Dean expressed gratitude for poll workers, office staff, fellow Board members, and all of the individuals or organizations which assisted in the planning and execution of a successful election. Ms. Gibson commented the early voting teams went above and beyond their expectations and will all hopefully return for the anticipated runoff. Mr. Channell also wished to thank the Juvenile Court team who provided the space necessary for early tabulation.

68% of Glynn County voters turned out for the General Election. Election Day turnout was lower than expected. Early voting turnout was substantial with 6,177 BOE voters, 8,292 SSI voters, and 10,328 Ballard voters.

Ms. Featherstone observed precincts on election day and commented on the impressive performance of poll managers and poll workers. Poll managers expressed they felt their teams were better prepared for this election. The increase of student poll workers was a positive addition to poll teams. Ms. Featherstone also drafted floorplans of precincts which can be digitized for future elections.

Mr. Channell noted the performance of the Ballot Adjudication module which provided more efficient absentee tabulation. This would also be beneficial for auditing and recounts. The current system is on loan from the State. The Board agreed two adjudication systems are needed, one for immediate use and a second to be purchased in the coming year. The cost is \$1700 each. Ms. Featherstone inquired about budget availability for the second purchase and Mr. Channell confirmed those funds would be reserved in the FY22 budget. Ms. Dean made the motion to



purchase one module immediately and purchase a second module in the next budget year, Mr. Rustin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit, Recount, and Preparation for Two Runoff Elections

The risk-limiting audit will begin in the next week. Each team will be comprised of one member of each party. Board members and staff will oversee the process. There has not yet been an official notice of a recount for any offices on the November ballot.

There will be a state runoff for Public Service Commissioner scheduled for December 1. There will also be a state runoff for both US Senate seats on January 5, the registration deadline is December 7. Early voting will run for the three weeks before each election, but be closed on county holidays. There are concerns about people temporarily relocating to Glynn County to vote in the Senate runoff. Mr. Channell stated the State is planning to investigate these issues and pass any fraud cases to the State Attorney General's office.

Ms. Dean commented the turnout data does not support offering extended voting hours. The Board agreed, there will be no extended voting hours in either runoff. Every effort will be made to publicize the dates and hours of early voting.

Office Report

The county has made inquiries about a SPLOST election in March. A March election would impact the deadline to make any 2021 precinct changes. The two runoffs will deplete the poll worker budget before March and an absentee ballot clerk is needed for back-to-back elections.

Ms. Featherstone inquired about current office staff and filling a recently vacated position. Mr. Channell explained the position, and most election office workers, are financed through the poll worker budget as seasonal staff. The Board agreed there is a substantial need for additional permanent staff. Mr. Rustin expressed concern about replacing the Dominion Technician's responsibilities once the January election is over. Ms. Gibson stated these topics must be addressed in upcoming budget meetings, instead of the planned February meeting to address personnel. Mr. Channell will compile requested information for decision making in the December Board meeting.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone commented on the need to increase voter outreach with regard to two runoffs being held almost simultaneously with two different ballots and early voting times. Possible solutions are recording Public Service Announcements for local broadcast, purchasing social media ads, and using the Fendig Daily for advertisement.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn and approved 4-0.