



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Board of Elections Office

The March meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order at 2:00 PM.

Present were Patricia Featherstone, Chairman; Keith Rustin, Vice Chairman; Ward Schaumberg, Secretary; Sandy Dean, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Director; Christina Redden, Assistant Director; Gordon Jackson, *The Brunswick News*; Matthew Permar, *The Islander*; Joyce Kitchens; Penny Hennessey; Virginia Connors; Terry Starry.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting

Mr. Schaumberg requested a revision to the draft minutes. The revised version was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

University of Georgia Survey

Mr. Channell presented a draft version of Glynn County's response to the survey request discussed at the February meeting. Mr. Channell and Ms. Featherstone remarked there were two types of questions within the survey: quantitative questions about election administration and opinion inquiries related to SB202. It was further noted the opinion questions were worded in a manner likely produce certain results. Mr. Rustin suggested only answering the quantitative questions. After discussion and examination of the draft survey, the Board decided to submit Glynn County's response with only the quantitative data and to omit answers to the opinion questions.

Legislative Update

Mr. Channell presented a list of all elections related legislation currently in the State House or Senate. Crossover Day, the day which a bill must pass in one branch to be voted on by the other branch, was March 7. Mr. Channell and Mr. Clark noted many bills would be dramatically changed by their final vote and most would not pass. Mr. Channell remarked some legislation which did not make crossover has or may be added to the current elections omnibus bill, SB221. One topic included in this bill is a revision to the "250 to 1" law which would eliminate the mandate for additional voting equipment purchases. Ms. Featherstone noted Representatives and Senators who have recently spoken in Glynn County did not address their intentions regarding proposed election laws. Mr. Channell noted there had been contact with some legislators before certain actions in committees or on the floor. Ms. Featherstone suggested a meeting with local legislators after the legislative session ends to discuss their goals and the Board's needs going forward.

New Business

Update on Potential New Polling Locations

Mr. Channell noted new polling locations have been toured and should meet the Board's needs. These polling locations give the opportunity to remove voting from all Glynn County schools. Maps for those polling locations will not be complete until lease contracts are signed. Ms. Redden presented current proposed maps of the Marshes (MAR), Brookman (BRK), and Selden (ARCO) precincts. These maps also included an examination of the border between BRK and Sterling precincts in the Highway 99 and Highway 32 areas. Ms. Redden explained the BRK map alleviates the traffic at BRK and provides a shorter drive to the polls for the area's former Sterling Elementary voters. Mr. Clark noted there may be a need to further reduce the size of BRK to help traffic and parking during peak voting times. Ms. Redden also explained the draft ARCO map brings mainland Blythe Island

(BLY) and some Ballard voters to ARCO, a currently underutilized precinct. These maps did not include a voting change to voters living on Blythe Island. Ms. Redden asked members to consider whether the island portion of BLY should remain or be incorporated into MAR. Further map drafts and revisions based on Board and public input will be presented in April.

Election Year 2024 Preparation Topic: Inventory

Mr. Channell reviewed current project to inventory all voting equipment. This is being conducted as the new equipment room is set up. Equipment in need of repairs is being documented so that it can be submitted for warranty work. Ms. Redden stated most warranty work will be conducted onsite but some equipment may need to be sent out for repairs. Mr. Channell remarked on problems with the current inventory software and staff has been evaluating alternative options. Mr. Channell anticipates purchasing additional PollPads with printers for Early Voting and two high speed ballot scanners. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the Budget for these purchases and Mr. Channell plans this for the current budget. Ms. Featherstone also asked about backup equipment. Mr. Channell answered the final number of precincts will determine if current inventory meets those needs or if additional inventory is required.

Office Report

Mr. Channell reviewed the current budget and January through February's voter registration statistics. Mr. Channell provided final costs of the 2022 General Primary and General Primary Runoff. Ms. Featherstone inquired if the numbers are approximate or precise. Mr. Channell answered the amounts are as thorough as he can provide without a full audit of the previous year's financial records. The building project is finalizing, including remaining "punch list" items which are minor in nature and the generator which will be installed that week. Ms. Dean reported a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new office is planned for April 18, 2023 at 4:30 PM. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the status of the Municipal Intergovernmental Agreement. Mr. Channell answered the final document has not been received from the City of Brunswick.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone recognized the efforts of Ms. Dean in organizing and catering the Open House which would begin after the meeting's adjournment.

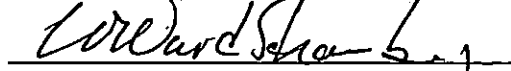
Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

Mr. Clark made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Dean seconded. The motion passed 5-0.


Patricia Featherstone, Chairman


Ward Schaumberg, Secretary