



## **GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION**

Meeting, Tuesday, July 11, 2023, Glynn County Board of Elections and Registration

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

Present were Keith Rustin, Chairman; Sandy Dean, Vice Chairman; Ward Schaumberg, Secretary; Sue Lane, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Director; Christina Redden, Assistant Director; Jason Wilbanks, Assistant County Attorney; Allyson Reynolds, *The Brunswick News*; Terry Starry; Penny Hennessey; Joyce Kitchens; and Paula Galland.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Approve the Minutes of the June 13, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Schaumberg seconded. Ms. Dean abstained. The minutes were approved 4-0.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Precinct Polling Locations and Proposed Map***

Mr. Channell discussed the proposed map. The map has been circulating online, in the newspaper, and on social media since the June Board meeting. A recent letter to the editor regarding the map generated an increase in response. Mr. Channell reviewed public comments received which were primarily positive or neutral inquiring about how the impacted voters will be notified. One public comment expressed concern about the size of the new precincts and the impact if early voting trends reverse. Mr. Channell stated line length will always be monitored and reprecincting performed if wait times consistently approach one hour. Mr. Rustin added if legal changes to early voting impact election day turnout there will be enough advanced notice to adapt accordingly. Ms. Dean verified all impacted voters will receive a new precinct card and Mr. Channell noted those will be printed and mailed locally to expedite the process. Mr. Channell and Ms. Redden reviewed advertising options in 2024. Mr. Schaumberg noted the public is becoming aware of the changes as evidenced on social media sites and in public comments. Mr. Clark commended staff for writing the letter to the editor which generated response. Ms. Lane asked for clarification on using the mapping application to determine address changes.

#### ***Brunswick-Glynn Municipal Intergovernmental Agreement***

Mr. Channell presented the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and Mr. Wilbanks answered questions about the document. The document accurately reflects policies currently in place and guarantees use of the Howard Coffin gymnasium for any election. Candidate qualifying and campaign finance procedures will be handled by the Board. Mr. Schaumberg asked Mr. Channell and Mr. Wilbanks if there were any concerns and there were none. Mr. Channell explained once the Board has approved the IGA it will be sent to the County Commissioners for approval. Ms. Dean made a motion to approve the IGA and Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. Rustin will sign on behalf of the Board.

### **New Business**

#### ***Policy Review: Voter Identification Cards***

Mr. Channell reviewed the latest standard operating procedure for approval involving the issuance of voter identifications (voter IDs). Mr. Channell explained the process to obtain a voter ID and that the new policy accurately reflects State law and recommendations. Mr. Rustin asked about the impact of the new procedure and Mr. Channell noted the written procedure requires additional documents beyond voter registration but are

in legal compliance. Mr. Clark inquired about the number of homeless receiving voter IDs and Ms. Redden estimated it is approximately 95% of those issued. Ms. Lane asked about and Mr. Channell explained the procedures for handling homeless residential and mailing addresses. Mr. Clark made a motion to accept the procedure and Ms. Dean seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Office Report**

Mr. Channell presented the current year-end FY23 Budget noting there are some expenses yet to be added but the department will be returning approximately \$316,000. Mr. Clark verified that the portions of the budget regarding salaries and benefits cannot be adjusted by the Board. Mr. Schaumberg noted areas of budget surplus. Mr. Channell explained the policy to budget for a special election and noted the redistricting postage anticipated for FY23 will not occur until FY24. Mr. Channell also showed the FY24 financials which began July 1. Mr. Rustin inquired about training costs and Mr. Channell attributed those to State conference as well as staff election training.

Mr. Channell reviewed the voter registration statistics for June. Ms. Redden noted these numbers should change substantially, statewide, in August and September as the felon challenge clocks expire and the larger counties begin processing their dashboards. Mr. Channell presented upcoming dates and noted the December meeting will need to be rescheduled due to the GAVREO conference. Mr. Channell also noted the December Runoff audit will be scheduled for immediately after the conference.

Mr. Channell presented a letter and sample Deed of Gift regarding a 1918 Primary ballot currently in elections records retentions storage. It has been determined to be the custody of the Board of Commissioners. The letter noted the uniqueness and fragility of the 105 year old document and recommended the Commissioners donate the document to the Georgia Historical Society who will be able to preserve the document and archive it in a manner that historical researchers around the county can access it. Ms. Redden noted a high-quality image of the ballot has been added to the elections website. Mr. Schaumberg made a motion to submit the letter of recommendation, the motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and passed 5-0.

### **Board Member Comments**

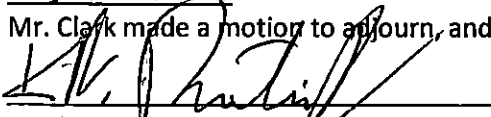
Mr. Clark commented on his recent conversations with Senator Hodges and Representative DeLoach. The two legislators were willing to set aside time to talk to the Board and staff about changes needed before the next legislative session, including the current 250-1 ratio and signature verification. The Board was amenable to this meeting and Mr. Channell requested Representatives Townsend and Sainz also be included.

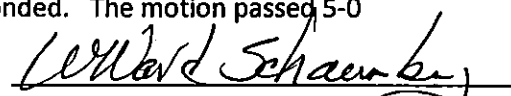
### **Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

### **Adjournment**

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

  
Keith Rustin, Chairman

  
Ward Schaumberg, Secretary