

**THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF CHATHAM COUNTY
MINUTES**

November, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS: Thomas J. Mahoney - Chairman
Malinda Hodge – Vice Chair
Marianne Heimes
Antwan Lang
Debbie Rauers

STAFF: Russell Bridges
Billy Wooten
Caity Hamilton

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 3:32 P.M. by **Tom Mahoney** who gave an Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIR ADDRESS **Mr. Mahoney** thanked all staff who worked the election in the polls, office, Annex, and the warehouse for their long hours and dedication, and congratulated them all and **Mr. Bridges** on a successful election.

MINUTES **November 2020**
Motion by Ms. Heimes, seconded by Mr. Lang, that the Minutes of the November 9 meeting be approved. **Ms. Hodge voted in favor, Ms. Rauers dissented** saying she did not receive minutes. **Mr. Mahoney** confirmed that the minutes were attached in the email sent to all Board members. Motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT **November 2020**
November Treasurer’s report was not complete at time of meeting, no action taken. **Mr. Bridges** stated he would complete and distribute before the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS **Nov 3 General Election**
Turnout
Mr. Bridges stated that this election had the largest turnout of voters to date, due to a higher number of registered voters; the turnout percentage was lower than in past presidential elections at 67% of registered voters. Approximate numbers included: 37,475 Election Day voters; 41,810 by-mail voters; 55,000 early voters; and 280 provisional ballots.
Major Issues
Mr. Bridges reported that all issues experienced on Election Day were typical of any election. Two scanners were switched at Tybee, resulting in both polling places using emergency ballots until a swap could be made, at which point the emergency ballots were scanned into their designated scanner and counted. The scanner at the Salvation Army poll malfunctioned and was quickly replaced with a new one; during the wait, emergency ballots were used and then scanned into the working scanner and counted. Staff addressed many rumors in the press and public. Overall troubleshooting was successful and the phone service used in the Registrar’s office and the Elections office was effective.
Ms. Heimes stated that she felt the public relations team did a great job of informing the public throughout the election, but made a motion that more information be made available surrounding the absentee process. **Ms. Hodge** seconded the motion, which passed.
Certification
Mr. Bridges stated the goal for certification would be Thursday or midday Friday of that week as Friday is the deadline to certify. Staff is currently making last minutes adjustments to clean up the election. **Mr. Mahoney** asked to have staff post notice for both Thursday and Friday to cover both potential days for certification.

NEW BUSINESS RLA
Mr. Bridges announced that the Risk Limiting Audit would be taking place at the Annex; the ballots are

catalogued and staff is in the process of building a ballot manifest to upload to the State. The RLA generates a randomized list of ballots to pull; hand counting is a part of the process. The RLA results will be used in certifying the election results at the State level. **Mr. Bridges** stated that he is requesting more information from the State as to some of the details.

Ms. Rauers asked several questions clarifying the process and structure of the audit. **Mr. Bridges** explained that Ms. Trabue was overseeing the process and Savannah Martin was the point person in the organizing structure.

Recount

The State has to certify the election results before a recount can be called for.

December 1 Runoff Election (Local/State)

January Runoff Election (Federal)

Ms. Heimes requested an outline of coming events, dates, and deadlines to keep the Board apprised. **Mr. Bridges** responded that a calendar of events received from the State had just been distributed to the Board.

Ms. Hodge stated that she had prepared communication about the committee and would like it to be reviewed before it is distributed.

Mr. Lang lost his connection to the Zoom meeting and called in via phone. He asked when training would take place for the runoffs; **Mr. Bridges** stated that it would take place after the December runoff, as there is not enough time to bring poll workers in during November. **Mr. Lang** also asked several questions about food at the polls, requested another meeting with updates, and asked to revisit bylaws regarding agenda and minutes.

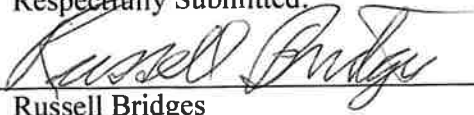
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Ms. Heimes, seconded by Mr. Lang, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL APPROVED.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Russell Bridges
Supervisor, Secretary to the Board

12/14/2020
Date Approved



Thomas J. Mahoney, III
Chair



Notary Signature

2/2/21
Date Notarized