

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

June 19, 2020

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

STAFF: Russell Bridges
Caity Hamilton

DOMINION STAFF: Scott Covey

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:26 P.M. by **Tom Mahoney** who gave an Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIR ADDRESS: **Mr. Mahoney** thanked those assembled for appearing at the Zoom meeting and stated that there may be a delay as staff continues to prepare to certify. **Mr. Mahoney** thanked the public for attending as well and spoke about the challenges staff faced in bringing this election to fruition. **Mr. Mahoney** then called a short recess at 6:30 so the Board could review the certification documents sent by staff. The meeting was resumed at 6:38.

MINUTES: **Mr. Bridges** discussed the process of how the State combined the March and May elections and pushed them back to June 9th together, explaining why both the Presidential Preference Primary and the General Election will be certified as one. He also discussed the two versions and how they were merged to create one election. **Mr. Bridges** then presented the election results for the 6/09/2020 Presidential Primary and General Election.

Cumulative total of votes: 61,384

9,591 votes in Version 1

51,793 votes in Version 2

In-poll total: 24,595

Early voting total: 5,503

Absentee total: 31,286

Mr. Bridges commented that this was a huge turnout, considering that the election had been rescheduled three times, was held during a pandemic, and focused on absentee mailing. **Mr. Mahoney** asked if all votes had been tabulated, and **Mr. Bridges** responded that tabulation was complete and the deadline to cure absentee ballots had passed at 5pm. He described the process of curing an absentee ballot: the voter is notified that there is an issue with their ballot and is given the opportunity and time to correct the issue. With about 45,000 absentee ballots issued and 31,286 returned in our county alone, the State saw the need to extend the deadline to 6/19/2020 at 5pm. There were also 256 provisional ballots issued in polls for which voters were given the same opportunity to cure. Some of these were due to voter issues during the day and some were due to certain polls having to stay open past the normal closure time of 7pm. In the case of an extension of hours, any ballots issued in an affected poll must be provisional.

CERTIFICATION: **Mr. Mahoney** asked if a motion could be made to accept and certify the 6/09/2020 Presidential Primary and General Election results. **Mr. Lang** made a motion to certify, and **Ms. Heimes** seconded.

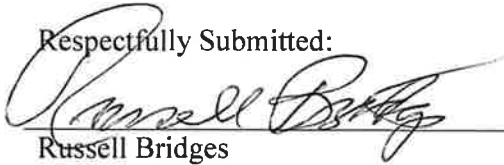
Ms. Rauers asked what the next step in certification is; **Mr. Bridges** stated that the certified results are passed along to the Secretary of State's office. **Ms. Hodge** asked if there was clear direction for how to proceed if challenges or audits were to come from candidates. **Mr. Bridges** responded that there are two cure processes, one being a recount request, which is afforded to a candidate whose results are within .5% of the candidate that leads them, and the other being an election contest when a candidate alleges a systematic issue, which is something that is typically handled in a court case. Outside of these determining factors, a recount would not be automatically granted. **Mr. Bridges** specified that none of these could begin until certification has taken place.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no more discussion, **Mr. Mahoney** called for a vote and asked for a subsequent motion to adjourn. **Mr. Lang, Ms. Hodge, and Ms. Heimes** voted in favor and **Ms. Rauers** dissented. **Mr. Lang** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Ms. Hodge**

The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

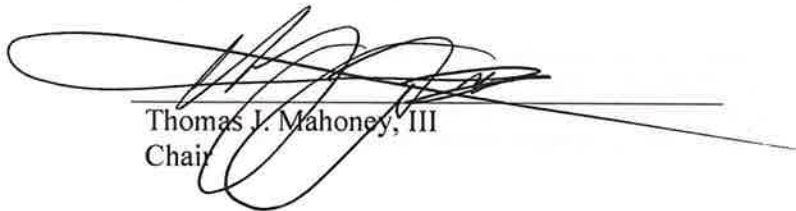


Russell Bridges

Supervisor, Secretary to the Board

7/13/2020

Date Approved



Thomas J. Mahoney, III
Chair

Robert S. Carney

Notary Signature

1/20/20

Date Notarized

ROBERT S. CARNEY
Notary Public, Chatham County GA
My Commission Expires 5/1/23

Official Copy