

Chatham County Board of Registrars  
Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2020

The July 22, 2020 meeting of the Chatham County Board of Registrars held via teleconference was called to order at 12:01 p.m.

Board members attending were Chairman McRae, Ms. Wanda Andrews, Mr. Jon Pannell, Mr. Billy Norse and Mr. Randy Slay. Staff members attending were Ms. Sabrina German, Director; Mrs. Inger Bostick, Assistant Director; and Mr. Keith Pflager; Absentee Ballot Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman McRae and recited by all.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 Meeting. Mr. Norse seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Old Business:

**Budget:** Ms. German provided an update to the Board that Chatham County has approved the Department's budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Ms. German mentioned some slight changes made by the County's budget approvers to increase budget for staffing in light of the November 2020 Presidential Election. A reduction was made in the training and continuing education line item of the budget which was expected given COVID-19 and the County's overall budget picture.

**June 9, 2020 Election Recap:** For the June 9, 2020 General Primary Election, Ms. German reported 5,505 total in person early votes with 4,052 being Democratic, 1,405 Republican and 48 Non-Partisan. For absentee by mail ballots, there were a total of 31,029 votes cast – 19,780 Democratic, 10,375 Republican and 874 Non-Partisan.

**Absentee Ballots for August 11 Runoff and General Election:** Ms. German confirmed that the Secretary of State has no plans to send absentee ballot applications to all voters for the August 11 runoff election or the November 3 General Election. Instead, a web portal is being built for voters to use to request ballots for the November 3 election. Expected implementation of the portal is late August or early September 2020.

New Business:

**August 11 Runoff Election:** Ms. German provided an update on the August 11, 2020 Democratic Runoff. Early voting is already underway for this election and 261 voters have voted early in person through July 21, 2020. Ms. German also indicated that there were approximately 9,000 rollover list voters who have had their absentee by mail ballots sent to them by the Secretary of State's vendor, Runbeck, for this election.

**November 3 Presidential Election:** Ms. German indicated that preparations are ongoing for the November 3, 2020 election. Early voting for this election will be from October 12 – October 30. Early voting sites are still being confirmed but it is expected at this time that all satellite locations will be open for all three weeks of early voting in addition to the main office.

**Weekend Voting – November 3 Election:** The Board considered a request to add an additional day of weekend voting for the November 3 election. Ms. Andrews made a motion, seconded by Mr. Slay, to approve addition of Sunday, October 18 as an additional early voting date. Additional details to be provided to the Board and the public through the flyer that is normally produced for each election that lists early voting dates, times and locations.

Public Input – Democratic Party and Voter Empowerment Coalition – Chatham County:

The Board has received written input from the Democratic Party of Georgia and the Voter Empowerment Coalition – Chatham County on additional measures that could improve the voting experience – both in-person and absentee by mail. The Board discussed some of these measures, such as additional absentee ballot drop boxes and additional early voting locations in low-income neighborhoods, with a representative of the Democratic Party on the teleconference. The Board explained some of the constraints in implementing some of these suggestions but will take the matter under advisement.

Voter Registration Totals:

Ms. German reported 191,666 active, 26,694 inactive and 355 pending voters to the Board.

Voter Challenges:

Ms. German presented information for 59 felon voters to be challenged as well as 10 voters who requested to be removed from the voting rolls. At 1:05 p.m., Mr. Norse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Slay, to approve placing a challenge to the voter registration status of these 69 total voters.

Public Discussion:

Ms. Carry Smith encouraged continued use of the Savannah Civic Center in downtown Savannah as an early voting location for the November 3 election. Ms. Smith mentioned that the facility is a good option for low-income voters that live near the downtown area as well as individuals who may be working in the downtown area.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.