

Meeting Minutes
Chatham County Board of Registrars
October 28, 2020

The October 28, 2020 conference call meeting of the Chatham County Board of Registrars was called to order by Board Chairman Colin McRae.

Members of the Board in attendance by phone were Ms. Andrews, Chairman McRae, Mr. Norse, Mr. Pannell and Mr. Slay. Staff in attendance by phone included Ms. Sabrina German, Director and Mrs. Inger Bostick, Assistant Director and Mr. Keith Pflager, Absentee Ballot Clerk. Several members of the public also participated.

Board Chairman McRae led the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the meeting.

Approval of September 2020 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Andrews made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 2020 meeting as written. Mr. Slay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant: Ms. German spoke on the Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant that Chatham County Voter Registration has received approval on. The amount of the grant is \$572,264 and the funds can be used for expenses related to the 2020 General Election that were not budgeted such as extra temporary staff currently employed, supplies, services and rental (for Savannah Convention Center) incurred by the end of the year 2020. Ms. German has compiled a list of items that may be eligible expenses and will be submitting expenses towards the grant as needed.

Mr. Slay inquired if the Board of Election had applied for and been awarded this grant as well. Ms. German indicated that the grant is combined between the Board of Registrars and the Board of Elections so both offices will have expenses submitted against the grant.

2020 General Election Advance Voting Update: Ms. German provided an overview of advance in-person voting for the General Election so far. She indicated that while there was a slow down with the ElectionNet computer system at the start of early voting, this has been resolved. So far, 41,887 individuals have voted in person and 55,219 absentee by mail ballots have been requested of which 28,851 have been returned and accepted. 18,999 absentee ballots have been received so far through the ten total ballot drop boxes. The statistics referring to the drop boxes will be posted on the Board website and social media.

Mr. McRae asked about the early voting wait time/line tracker that has been posted on the Board of Elections website. Particularly as to if the tracker could be updated more frequently and moved to the Voter Registration website. Ms. German said she would look into these issues to see what could be done.

Absentee By Mail: Chairman McRae reminded Board members that the Board will need to find time to stamp absentee ballots. Individual Board members are asked to give Chairman McRae or Ms.

German their availability. Additionally, Board members should indicate availability to be a part of a ballot collection team to pick up absentee by mail ballots from the drop boxes.

Finally, staff and the Board are working on a new process to have absentee by mail voters who did not receive their ballot cancel their request by phone or during early voting so they can vote in-person early or on Election Day.

Voter Registration Totals

Ms. German reported 202,592 active and 21,706 inactive voters as well as 393 pending voters.

Voter Challenges

Ms. German indicated 6 request to be removed challenges are up for approval by the Board today. Mr. Norse made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Pannell to approve placing a challenged status on the above mentioned voters.

Public Discussion:

A member of the public asked about political party affiliation for absentee by mail and advance in person voters. Ms. German responded that voters in Georgia do not choose party affiliation when registering. The only time party affiliation is selected by a voter is during a primary and affiliation may change from primary election to primary election.

Additional questions were asked about posting the number of absentee by mail ballots collected at each drop box on the Board's website and social media which will be done. A question related to processing of absentee by mail ballots by the Board of Elections could not be answered since that is not the responsibility of the Board of Registrars.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.