

Meeting Minutes
Chatham County Board of Registration
April 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. via conference call and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board members on the call were Mr. McRae, Mr. Norse, Mr. Pannell, Ms. Andrews and Mr. Slay. Staff joining the teleconference were Ms. German and Mr. Pflager. Members of the public also joined the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2020 meeting. Mr. Pannell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Presidential Primary Postponement: Ms. German reiterated to the Board that the March 24th Presidential Primary was postponed. The new date is June 9, 2020. This is the same date as the re-scheduled General Primary (formerly to be held on May 19, 2020). Mr. McRae added that he had spoken with Mr. Mahoney, Chairman of the Board of Elections, and that the delay in election date is (for Chatham County and other counties) an opportunity to confirm poll workers will be on hand in addition to safety/sanitation equipment.

New Business:

County Commission Funding: Due to the Secretary of State's issuance of absentee ballot request to all active voters, a much higher volume of absentee requests are expected. A proposal was developed and presented to the Chatham County Commissioners to approve extra funding for temporary staff to work at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum to deal with the increased requests. Mr. McRae and Ms. German attended a recent Commission meeting and the proposal and funding were approved.

Satellite Sites: Ms. German indicated that, so far, Mosquito Control is the only satellite site to indicate availability for the re-scheduled May 18 – June 5, 2020 early voting period. Calls have been placed to the other sites and Ms. German is waiting to hear back. The current plan for early voting is to have one satellite site and the main office in operation. A reduced number of machines will need to be used due to coronavirus health and social distancing guidelines.

Ballot Drop Box: The State Election Board (SEB) has issued a new rule allowing an exterior absentee ballot drop box to be installed (if a county opts to do so). Per the rule, the box must be on government property, notice of availability of the box must be given and the area of the box must have video surveillance. Ms. German mentioned that one drop box is being purchased and will be installed on the outside of the main office under the awning. Several means of communication to advise the public of the availability of the drop box will be used including social media, internet website, newspaper and perhaps a press conference. Mr. Slay made a motion to approve using the drop box. Mr. Norse seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Voter Totals: Ms. German presented the current voter totals of 203,232 active, 12,453 inactive and 286 pending voters.

Voter Challenges: Ms. German offered 222 felon and 16 requests to be removed from the voter rolls. Mr. Norse made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Slay, that passed unanimously.

Public Discussion: None.

The meeting concluded at 12:45 p.m.