

Chatham County Board of Registrars  
Meeting Minutes  
May 24, 2020

The May 24, 2020 meeting of the Chatham County Board of Registrars was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Board Chairman Colin McRae via conference call. Other Board members attending were Ms. Wanda Andrews, Mr. Jon Pannell and Mr. Randolph Slay. Mr. Billy Norse was absent. Staff members attending were Ms. Sabrina German, Director of Chatham County Voter Registration, and Mr. Keith Pflager, Absentee Ballot Clerk. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. McRae and recited by all.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Slay made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the April 22, 2020 monthly Board of Registrars meeting. Mr. Pannell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business:

**Drop Box:** Ms. German shared information on the outside drop box that was installed near the front door of the Chatham County Voter Registration. Specifically, while the purchase of the drop box cost a few thousand dollars, most of the cost will be reimbursed through a Secretary of State's office grant. Ms. German also mentioned that rules regarding who may deliver a ballot for a disabled voter (usually only a relative) have been relaxed for the June 9, 2020 election since there is no way to enforce this regulation with a drop box that is accessible to the public twenty four hours per day.

**Satellite Location:** Ms. German confirmed that the Pooler Municipal Court will be the only satellite site for the week of June 1 – June 5, 2020. The Pooler Municipal Court is in the same complex as Pooler City Hall, the usual location for this satellite site. Other satellite sites could not confirm their ability to be open for early voting during this week and/or the amount of staff needed to manage additional site(s) was not going to be available.

New Business:

**Absentee By Mail – June 9, 2020 Election:** Ms. German informed the Board that 43,194 absentee by mail ballots had been mailed as of May 23, 2020. Of those, 14,677 had been completed by a voter and returned thus far. Additionally, on the subject of absentee by mail ballots, Ms. German indicated that staff has assumed the normal duty of the Board members to sign returned ballots. Mr. McRae mentioned that he will still coordinate with Board members to stop in the office on Election Day, June 9, to resolve any disputed ballot signatures that staff feels are of concern. This is part of a broader shift to the signature verification process which will rely more on staff going forward. Training or other resources on signature verification have been researched but have not been found so far. Finally, staff performing absentee by mail ballot duties at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum will transition back to the Main Office by June 8, 2020 due to scheduled Museum events.

**Advance Voting Participation –** Ms. German reported that 1,592 have participated in early in-person (advance) voting so far. Of these, 1,152 have been Democratic voters, 428 were Republican voters and 12 were Nonpartisan voters.

**Registered Voters Report –** Ms. German presented that 198,595 active voters were registered at this time, 17,486 were inactive and 358 were pending.

**Challenge/Deletions:** Ms. German presented 132 deceased voters, 51 felons and 10 individuals who requested to be removed from the voter rolls. Mr. Pannell made a motion at 1:15 p.m. to approve challenging these voters. Mr. Slay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 1:23 p.m.