

Meeting Minutes
Chatham County Board of Registrars
May 26th, 2021

The WebEx meeting began at 12:04 p.m. with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Board of Registrars members in attendance were Chairman McRae, Mr. Pannell, Ms. Andrews, and Mr. Slay. Mr. Norse was absent. Staff members in attendance were Ms. German, Mrs. Bostick and Mr. Pflager.

Chairman McRae called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2021 meeting. Mr. Pannell moved to approve the minutes as circulated to Board members. Mr. Slay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business

Board of Registrars Nominations:

Chairman McRae provided an update on the status of soliciting Board nominations. The deadline for the District Attorney's office to receive nominations was extended from May 21st to May 28th.

Mr. McRae plans to attend the next convocation of the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury needs to vet the candidates before the names are submitted to the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge then makes the appointment from the list of names. Per Mr. McRae, the appointments must be made by June 30th as the term of office begins on July 1st for four years.

New Business

Redistricting – Chatham County Precinct 7-11:

Ms. German advised the Board that the Chatham County Board of Elections had submitted a request to study splitting precinct 7-11 into one or more additional precincts. Precinct 7-11 is located roughly northwest of and the immediate vicinity of the Savannah/Hilton Head Airport and contains such communities as The Highlands as well as several apartment communities on Benton Boulevard.

This request is motivated by the fact that the current single precinct is very large (~ 7,500 voters). Under the new Senate Bill 202 (SB 202) legislation passed in March 2021, any precinct larger than 2,000 voters must either be split into additional precincts or have added Election Day voting equipment dedicated to it to decrease wait time for voters. Therefore, along with also adding Election Day equipment, the Board of Elections is also requesting Registrar staff to review as request to add an additional one or two precincts in this area.

Ms. German indicates that staff will study two proposals. Proposal #1 is to divide the current precinct into two precincts. Proposal #2 is to create two additional precincts from Precinct 7-11 for a total of three precincts. Once staff has completed its study of these proposals, a report and recommendation will be made to the Board of Elections for their review and follow-up.

Registration Totals

Ms. German reported 209,850 active, 19,694 inactive and 172 pending voters.

Challenges – Felon, Deceased, Voter Requested

Voter challenges presented were 67 deceased, 41 felons and 17 voters requested. These individuals were sent letters notifying them of today's virtual hearing. No written responses were received from any voter disputing the challenge and no individuals joined the virtual meeting to contest a voter challenge.

At 12:28 p.m., Ms. Andrews moved to challenge these voters based on deceased or felon status or their request to be removed from the voter rolls. Mr. Pannell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Public Discussion

None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.