

Meeting Minutes
Chatham County Board of Registrars
June 23rd, 2021

Due to technical difficulties, the WebEx meeting began at 12:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board of Registrars members in attendance were Chairman McRae, Mr. Pannell, Mr. Norse, and Mr. Slay. Staff members in attendance were Ms. German, Mrs. Bostick and Mr. Pflager.

Chairman McRae called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 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 nominations of new members to the Board of Registrars. Approximately 30 nominated individuals were presented to the Grand Jury for vetting and, of those, 6 were forwarded to the Chief Judge for her consideration and appointment. The Chief Judge must make the appointments by June 30th, 2021.

Redistricting – Chatham County Precinct 7-11:

Ms. German provided an overview for the Board with maps regarding the two different options for 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 and the airport area.

Ms. German noted that staff had studied two proposals: Proposal #1 is to divide the current precinct into three precincts (existing 7-11 and two new precincts). Proposal #2 is to create one additional precinct in addition to 7-11.

Based on staff review, Proposal #1 is recommended and submitted to the Board for its approval. Mr. Billy Wooten, Interim Elections Superintendent at the Chatham County Board of Elections, also was present and indicated his office's preference of Proposal #1 as well.

Mr. Norse moved to approve Proposal #1 as outlined. Mr. Slay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

New Business

No Contact Process:

Ms. German notified the Board that the Secretary of State's office is beginning the "No Contact" process. This process is a statewide activity in odd-numbered years to ensure that the voter list is maintained properly. Individuals who are in inactive status and have had no contact with our office in the last two general election cycles (any contact such as voting, requesting an absentee ballot, updating an address, etc.) are subject to removal from the voter list if they do not respond to a confirmation notice mailed to them to confirm, update or cancel their registration. Ms. German indicated that the confirmation notice mailings have been sent to confirm current registration information for about 4,000 individuals in Chatham County. Staff will process confirmation notices as they are received.

Municipal Street List Maintenance:

Ms. German outlined the process for municipalities to update their street list before the municipal elections in November 2021. A list of all streets within each municipality was sent to each respective municipality on June 14th, 2021 for the municipality to review. Changes and additions to streets are due back from municipalities to the Board of Registrars office by July 2nd, 2021. This will give staff ample time to make the necessary adjustments in the ElectioNet computer system. All streets must be accounted for and listed properly in the system before the election begins.

Registration Totals

Ms. German reported 210,073 active, 19,681 inactive, and 144 pending voters on the voter list at this time.

Challenges – Felon, Deceased, Voter Requested

Voter challenges presented were 87 deceased, 41 felons and 9 voters requested to be removed from the voter registration list. 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 12:55 p.m., Mr. Slay moved to challenge these voters based on deceased or felon status or their request to be removed from the voter rolls. Mr. Norse seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Public Discussion

None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.