

Meeting Minutes
Chatham County Board of Registrars
July 28th, 2021

The virtual meeting of the Chatham County Board of Registrars began at 12:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board of Registrars members in attendance were Chairman McRae, Mr. Norse, Ms. Durso, Ms. Geiger, and Ms. Andrews. Staff members in attendance were Ms. German, Mrs. Bostick and Mr. Pflager.

Chairman McRae called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2021 meeting. Mr. Norse moved to approve the minutes as previously circulated to Board members. Ms. Andrews seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business

Redistricting – Chatham County Precinct 7-11:

Ms. German indicated that the process, discussed in prior Board meetings, to split Precinct 7-11 to create two new additional precincts has been completed and that new precinct cards will be mailed to the affected voters. In addition to the newly downsized Precinct 7-11, the two new precincts are named as Precinct 8-17 and Precinct 8-18. Each precinct (the existing 7-11 and the two new precincts) will each have approximately 2,500 registered voters.

No Contact Process:

Ms. German notified the Board that approximately 4,000 individuals in Chatham County received a letter indicating their “no contact” status and asking them to respond to the enclosed confirmation notice. Approximately 1,500 of these letters were returned as undeliverable by the U.S. Post Office. Approximately 100 confirmation notices have been completed by the voter and returned to the office. Staff updates these voters’ information as these completed notices are received back.

Municipal Street List Maintenance:

Ms. German reiterated that 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 were due back from municipalities to the Board of Registrars office by July 2nd, 2021. Ms. German reported that a few changes were made based on this feedback – mostly to add new streets to the voter registration system.

New Business

Election Preparations – November 2021 Municipal Elections:

Ms. German provided an update to the Board on preparations for the November 2021 municipal elections in Chatham County. She reported that Mosquito Control, Islands Library, and Southwest Library have all confirmed availability to host Advance Voting for these elections. Ms. German also stated that the Savannah Civic Center has a conflict with another event but that staff is looking into options including possibly the Bull Street Library as a location that would be closer to the downtown area.

Ms. German also provided turnout figures for selected prior municipal elections. Turnout was approximately 2,000 in 2013 and 8,000 in 2019.

Registration Totals

Ms. German reported 210,499 active, 19,658 inactive, and 152 pending voters on the voter list at this time.

Challenges – Felon, Deceased, Voter Requested

Voter challenges presented were 76 deceased, 32 felons and 8 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.

As a part of discussion on this topic, it was recommended to complete a social media campaign to remind felons who have completed their sentence that they can re-register to vote. Staff will follow up on this recommendation.

Mr. Norse moved to challenge the voters presented. Ms. Andrews seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Announcements

Ms. German provided several announcements to the Board: 1) the Region 11 election officials meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10th, 2021 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Savannah. 2) Qualifying for this fall's municipal elections will run from August 16th – August 20th at the Board of Elections. 3) The GAVREO election official conference is August 29th – September 1st on Jekyll Island.

Executive Session

Mr. Norse made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:20 p.m. to discuss a Board compensation matter. Ms. Andrews seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The public session of the meeting reconvened at 1:39 p.m. and no votes or other action was taken during the Executive Session.

Public Discussion

None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.