

Meeting Minutes
Chatham County Board of Registrars
August 25, 2021

The WebEx board meeting was called to order promptly at 12:03 p.m. with a quorum, followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Board of Registrars in attendance were Chairman McRae, Ms. Andrews, Ms. Durso, Ms. Geiger and Mr. Norse. Staff members in attendance were Ms. German, Director and Ms. Childers.

Chairman McRae welcomed the new Board members once again and applauded them for having one board meeting under their belt. Afterwards, he called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2021 meeting. Ms. Geiger, moved to approve the minutes of the meeting as provided to the Board members prior to the meeting. Mr. Norse seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Election Prep for the upcoming November 2021 Election:

The election schedule is in flux. There is a possibility of a Special Election due to the passing of State Representative, Mickey Stephens from the 165th House. An election flyer was sent out to every Board Member prior to the meeting.

Ms. German informed the Board that we are under a state mandate to have two Saturdays for voting purposes during the Early Voting period which will be held on the 16th and 23rd of October. The Board was asked to decide if they want to hold a Sunday voting day for this election due to the nature of it being a smaller election than the 2020 election.

The Board of Registrars were able to secure the Civic Center as a satellite site for Early Voting. The room to be used is still unknown at the moment due to the nature of the location being booked initially for election. The exact location of the room will be announced at a later.

Early Voting Locations:

Main Office, Mosquito Control, Civic Center, Islands Library, Southwest Library

Saturday Voting Location:

Main Office

Chairman McRae asked about the possibility of having a Sunday voting day on top of 2 Saturday voting day. Ms. German informed them that due to SB202, the hours would have to be consistent throughout the election. The hours would have to be from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Ms. Andrews was in favor of Sunday voting as to make voting as available as possible. Ms. Durso agreed and voiced that this election would be preparation for next year.

Chairman McRae presented the next question: which Sunday would be the optimal date for Sunday voting? Ms. German provided the date of Sunday, October 24. Everyone was in favor of the Sunday voting. Chairman entertained a vote to make a motion to instruct staff to plan for Sunday, October 24th Sunday voting day. Mr. Norse made a motion to instruct staff to have a Sunday voting day October 24th from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Ms. Geiger seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was put to vote. With a unanimous vote, the motion carries and is passed.

Mention was made that qualifying a Special Election for Mickey Stephens' seat and qualifying goes through the Secretary of State office since it is a state seat. All state representatives qualify through the Secretary of State office. Governor Kemp, has to make an Election Call and it hasn't been made yet, so the date for qualifying has yet to be determined. No questions from the board about election prep before moving on to the next topic on the agenda.

New Business

Office Expansion:

The new Absentee Ballot Processing Room will offer a central location used for processing, and verifying ballots. The County is remodeling the old elections training room. Painting has already been completed in the room. Flooring and computer connections will be added in the upcoming weeks. Security will be updated and cameras will be installed inside each room of the building and doors will be updated with double locks. The projected finished date is the 20th of September.

Registration Totals

As reported by Ms. German, the totals are as follows for Chatham County:

226,626 Registered Voters broken down by categorization:

210,048 Active

16,578 Inactive

144 Pending

Municipalities having Elections:

The following municipalities are scheduled to have an election: Bloomingdale, Garden City, Port Wentworth, Thunderbolt and Tybee Island.

Vernonburg had just enough people to qualify, so their election has been cancelled.

Challenges and Deletions Hearing

Voter challenges presented were 40 felons, 89 deceased, 15 requested for a total of 144 voters challenged. Notification was mailed out in regards to their challenge and how to dispute the challenge to their right to vote.

Chairman McRae asked if any of the people challenged were on the call or in the office. At 12:37 p.m. no one was present or on the call to object to any of the challenges. He entertained a motion to instruct staff to go ahead with deleting the 144 challenged voters. Mr. Norse made a motion to instruct staff to go ahead with deleting the 144 challenged voters. Ms. Andrews seconded the motion. There was no discussion, so a vote was put forth and staff was instructed to move forward in deleting the 144 challenged voters.

Announcements

Staff members Ms. German, Ms. Bostic, and Ms. Childers will be attending GAVREO from August 29-September 1 on Jekyll Island. Ms. Durso will be attending virtually. On next

week the Chairman and Ms. German have been invited to a breakfast with member of the County Commission and School Board will be briefed about redistricting.

Public Discussion

None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.