

Meeting Minutes
Chatham County Board of Registrars
March 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. by Chairman Colin McRae and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board members present were Ms. Andrews, Mr. McRae, Mr. Norse and Mr. Slay. Staff in attendance were Sabrina German, Inger Bostick and Keith Pflager. Mr. Norse made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Slay and carried by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

House Bill 316: Ms. German indicated that the Bill had passed both houses of the Legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature (the Governor is expected to sign the Bill). The Bill will institute many changes to current procedures; among them will be changes to the timeframe for moving voters to inactive status, changes to the challenge hearings for felons and an easing of restrictions on the facilities that can be used as Early Voting sites. More information on the impact of the Bill will be available after the VRAG Conference being held March 24th – March 27th.

New Business:

Skidaway Island Special Election: Ms. German provided an overview of the voting totals from the election. Out of 8,076 registered voters, there were 2,920 in-person early voters and 148 absentee by mail voters. There were 363 voters at the Early Voting site located at the Chatham County Police Department on Whitefield Avenue. Total turnout, including Election Day polling, was 5,851 voters for a turnout percentage of approximately 72 percent.

Registration Totals:

Ms. German reported 193,698 active, 12,760 inactive and 2,590 pending voters.

Challenges/Deletions:

Ms. German requested permission to delete 15 individuals from the voter rolls who completed paperwork to be removed. Ms. Andrews made a motion to approve this request which was seconded by Mr. Slay and carried by unanimous vote.

Public Discussion:

Mr. John Hayden, a voter from Pooler, spoke to share some of his concerns about the long lines of voters that he observed back in the November 2018 General Election within the precincts in the City of Pooler. These long lines are largely due to the rapid growth of the city and therefore oversized precincts that may need to be divided. Mr. Hayden also suggested utilizing the City Hall in Pooler as an Early Voting site to alleviate some of the crowding and long lines. This topic has been discussed previously by the Board. The Board instructs staff to take this proposal into consideration again and make contact with City staff in Pooler to discuss logistics and to invite City of Pooler staff to a future Board meeting to provide their input on this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.