

Meeting Minutes
Chatham County Board of Registrars
October 23, 2019

The meeting began at 12:05 p.m. with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members in attendance were Mr. McRae, Ms. Andrews, Mr. Norse, Mr. Pannell and Mr. Slay. Staff members in attendance were Ms. German, Mrs. Bostick and Mr. Pflager.

Mr. Norse made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pannell and carried unanimously.

Ballot Marking Device Demonstration: Mr. Art Garza from the Chatham County Board of Elections gave a demonstration of the new ballot marking device that will be first employed with the March 24, 2020 Presidential Primary.

Old Business:

2020 Satellite Voting Sites: Staff is in the process of locating an alternative downtown Savannah voting location for Advance Voting for the March 24, 2020 Presidential Primary. The Civic Center will not be available due to St. Patrick's Day festivities. Staff recently tried to contact the Hellenic Center, Blackshear and W.W. Law but have not heard back from any of these locations. Ms. German did report that the West Broad YMCA is a possible location that will be researched further.

New Business:

Challenges to Voter Qualifications: Mr. McRae provided an overview of the process by which an individual elector or municipality can challenge qualifications of an elector.

City of Tybee Island: The City of Tybee Island, represented by Clerk of Council Ms. Jan LeViner, presented 115 challenges to individual voter qualifications based on property record cards and utility bills. The Board methodically worked through each of the challenges. However, the Board determined that since the utility records did not contain forwarding addresses or shut off status that only 99 of the challenges could be considered. Of the 99 challenges, the Board voted unanimously to uphold the challenged status for Mr. and Mrs. Otto and to decline the challenges of 97 other electors as presented. The City of Tybee Island was offered an opportunity to appear again before the Board on November 3, 2019 if the City of Tybee Island sought to bring further evidence to support their challenges.

City of Garden City: The City of Garden City presented 82 voter challenges and provided evidence of no utility service at the residence addresses presented. Mr. Norse made a motion to uphold the challenges of these voters due to the evidence provided and the motion was seconded by Mr. Slay. The motion carried unanimously. Additionally, a representative of the City of Garden City also challenged 14 voters who had registered at commercial buildings. The commercial nature of the buildings was verified by in-person observations from Garden City staff. Mr. Norse made a motion to uphold the challenges to the voters who had registered at a commercial building. Mr. Pannell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

City of Pooler: The City of Pooler presented 352 voter challenges. After accounting for 9 of the voters whose challenges were processed due to information received by staff, Mr. Pannell made a motion to uphold the remaining 343 challenges because the utility records contained shut off status and a forwarding address. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norse and carried unanimously.

Voter Registration Totals: Ms. German reported 197,770 active, 18,925 inactive and 384 pending voters.

Deceased/Felon Challenges/Deletions: Ms. German reported 61 deceased voters and 175 felon voters. A motion was made to approve challenges to these voters and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.