



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday January 12, 2021

The January meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 6:35pm.

Present were Patricia Gibson, Chairman; Patricia Featherstone, Vice Chairman; Keith Rustin, Secretary; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Penny Hennessey; Heath Holdsworth. Absent were Tommy Clark, Member; Sandy Dean, Member.

Public Comment

Ms. Hennessey thanked the Board for allowing herself and other members of the public to participate in the 2020 Election Cycle. She commended the Board for providing transparency throughout the process.

Approval of Minutes

The December 8, 2020 Minutes were approved as read.

Old Business

January 5, 2021 Election Recap

Mr. Channell presented a summary of the January runoff. Provisional processing and election certification had occurred earlier in the day. The election overall ran smoothly. There were some issues during early voting involving EasyVote hardware and staffing. Mr. Channell recommended rebuilding some of the early vote teams in 2021 to prepare for 2022.

Ms. Gibson and Ms. Featherstone commented on the need to improve machine delivery by creating a point person to oversee logistics. Organizing the volume of items needing delivery and split floor storage increased an already lengthy day. This also delayed when poll teams could begin precinct setup. Ms. Featherstone commended poll workers who took ownership in caring for their precinct's equipment.

Poll Worker Salaries

Poll Worker salary discussion included consideration for the FY22 budget. Any salary increases will be part of the budget submission, but the county will have the final say in granting the request. Mr. Channell noted poll workers who participated in Monday setup were paid for a half day even though most precincts needed less than two hours. This had the effect of increasing current poll worker pay. It was not included in the original FY21 budget and has caused an overage. The Board discussed whether just poll management should have increases or the entire team. Ms. Gibson commented clerks do much of the physical work and endure many of the same challenges as management. Mr. Rustin agreed and supported team pay raises. The Board tasked Mr. Channell with running new budget numbers including an increase for clerks.

Budget Request FY22

Budget submissions are due immediately. Upcoming budget teams meetings will be held virtually. Postage and general supplies budget may be decreased for FY22. However, these will need to be re-increased in FY23 for the 2022 Gubernatorial election. The advertising budget will increase to support voter outreach with the goal of retaining higher turnout numbers in the 2021 municipal and 2022 county elections. The Board decided the 2020 Voter Guide was well received and should be published annually.



New Business

Board Monthly Meeting Time

The Board decided to table this discussion until the February meeting when all Board members will be present.

Office Report

Mr. Channell presented the FY20 budget report and the Secretary of State's office 2021 calendars. Mr. Channell has been added as a member of the State's elections legislative committee. The Board's space needs presentation has been added to the January 19, 2021 Commissioner's meeting.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone inquired about the logistics of the possible March SPLOST election. Mr. Channell commented it must involve all twenty precincts, absentee mailing, and three weeks of early voting. Saturday voting will not be required. All machines will be prepared for the election due to the state regulated machine-to-possible voter ratios. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the voters on the list recently submitted for challenge. Mr. Channell noted once the election is certified the office will be able to evaluate voter participation to see if and how those voters voted in the runoff. Ms. Redden stated the Secretary of State's office has already mailed letters and is expected to send confirmations to each voter on the list. Ms. Featherstone also tasked office staff with reviewing the elections reporting software to determine which reports offer the best data for voter turnout analysis.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn and approved 3-0.

Patricia Gibson, Chairman

Keith Rustin, Secretary