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## GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday May 11, 2021

The May meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 2:00 p.m.

Present were Patricia Gibson, Chairman; Patricia Featherstone, Vice-Chairman; Keith Rustin, Secretary; Sandy Dean, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Michelle Grovner; Terry Starry; Jeff Kilgore; Lavonia Clark; and Pamela Permar-Shierling, *The Islander*.

### ***Public Comment***

There was no public commentary.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Ms. Dean made a motion to accept the minutes for the April 13, 2021 Meeting as read. Mr. Clark seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

### ***Old Business***

#### ***Poll Worker Background Checks***

Mr. Channell presented a proposed written policy on poll worker employment and eligibility. This policy criteria include voter registration, which ensures a poll worker is not currently serving a felony sentence, and verification against the national offender registry. Student poll workers will only be eligible with a recommendation from a school principal, guidance counselor, government teacher, county political party, or civic organization.

The Board discussed the policy before voting. Ms. Featherstone proposed a revision that poll worker eligibility will be re-evaluated before each general (statewide) election cycle. Board members expressed their support for this revision. Ms. Featherstone also proposed a revision to restrict family members of Board members and office staff from serving as poll workers to increase accountability. Mr. Clark and Ms. Gibson commented this was an unfair limitation to family members who have been long-time volunteers. The Board decided not to include this provision in the policy. The policy was approved 5-0.

Ms. Featherstone stated the next area of concern will be strengthening the depth of the poll worker roster. This would ensure there are suitable replacements when a poll manager or assistant poll manager is unavailable. Mr. Channell stated he hoped the Board's recent poll worker pay increase would serve as an incentive for qualified poll clerks to step up to management positions.

#### ***SB202 Focus Series: Absentee Ballot Application Distribution and Drop Boxes***

As part of a new monthly series to examine the changes and implementation of SB202, Ms. Redden presented flow charts describing new procedures for how absentee ballot applications can be distributed in the community and managing drop boxes. The significant changes related to application distribution is the office will no longer offer stacks of blank applications to the community and third parties will be accountable for duplicate or confusing application mailings. New drop box policies will be very similar to those instituted in 2020 and the county's only drop box will be located inside the Board office. These



flow charts will be adapted into written policies as part of the office goal to create or update Standard Operating Procedures.

### ***New Business***

There were no new business items.

### ***Office Report***

Mr. Channell presented the remaining FY21 Budget and the latest FY22 proposed budget which includes Finance's approval and recommendation of the requested Elections Technician position. The additional full-time administrative technician position was not approved by Finance. The County Commissioners are currently holding a budget review meeting. There will be a public hearing on June 3 and the final Budget is expected to be accepted at the June 17 meeting.

Mr. Channell also provided additional handouts. The first package describes proposed changes to ballot delivery procedures for voters medically confined to hospitals and skilled-care facilities. The recommendations will be reviewed by the Board for discussion and/or adoption in the June meeting. The second handout explained the 2021 schedule for Statewide voter registration confirmation mailings in conjunction with the State's implementation of the new Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) data-sharing program.

### ***Set Calendar for 2021-2022 Board of Elections Meetings***

The Board agreed to continue meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 2 p.m. Meetings which conflict with early voting dates will be relocated to the library building. Ms. Dean made a motion to accept the new calendar, Mr. Rustin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

### ***Reorganization of Board Officers for 2021-2022***

Ms. Dean nominated Ms. Featherstone for Board Chairman, there were no other nominations. Ms. Featherstone was elected 5-0. Ms. Gibson nominated Mr. Rustin for Board Vice-Chairman, there were no other nominations. Mr. Rustin was elected 5-0. Ms. Dean nominated Ms. Gibson for Board Secretary, there were no other nominations. Ms. Gibson was elected 5-0.

### ***Board Member Comments***

Ms. Dean extended her congratulations to the newly elected officers. Ms. Dean and Ms. Gibson also thanked staff for producing the new 2021-2022 Voter's Guide. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the schedule of the Supervisor's performance evaluation. Mr. Rustin and Ms. Gibson will assist the new Chairman in preparing for that task. The process will begin in June.

### ***Executive Session***

There was no motion for Executive Session.

### ***Adjournment***

Ms. Dean made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

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Patricia Featherstone, Chairman

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Patricia Gibson, Secretary