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## **GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION**

Meeting, Tuesday June 8, 2021

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

Present were Patricia Featherstone, Chairman; Keith Rustin, Vice-Chairman; Patricia Gibson, Secretary; Sandy Dean, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Gordon Jackson, *The Brunswick News*; Ward Schaumberg; and Terry Starry.

### ***Public Comment***

There was no public commentary.

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

Ms. Gibson requested a minor correction to the draft minutes. Ms. Dean made a motion to accept the minutes with this correction. Mr. Clark seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

### ***Old Business***

#### ***Medical Ballot Request/ Nursing Home Operating Policy Review***

Mr. Channell presented a draft of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) involving medical ballot requests to hospitals and nursing homes. A newly designed Medical Ballot Request form was also presented. The Board reviewed both documents and clarified the qualifications needed to request this type of ballot. The Board specified medical ballots will only be delivered in the county.

This SOP is part of a larger office project to create a full manual for all activities which will be adopted by the Board upon completion. Ms. Featherstone requested the procedural flowcharts be included with the SOPs for better understanding. All the SOPs will be reviewed and edited by a technical writer before final approval. Since writing the full manual will likely take a year or more, Ms. Featherstone requested the draft SOP manual be placed online for periodic Board review.

#### ***SB202 Focus Series: Absentee Ballot Application & Ballot Processing***

Ms. Redden presented flowcharts representing the procedural and decision-making changes to both the absentee ballot application and ballot acceptance processes. The presentation emphasized the new requirements to mail and accept a ballot. The presentation also addressed public rumors about the changes. Ballots and ballot requests will need to include the voter's state identification number or the last four of the social security number. If those numbers are not available, then a photocopy of an accepted form of identification must be provided. Voters will also have to supply their date of birth and sign the application or ballot envelope, though signatures will no longer be verified. Ms. Redden emphasized that voters who do not provide this information will not be rejected, instead will be challenged with the opportunity to clear it during the Provisional period.

Many new requirements emphasize transparency and custody, putting that responsibility on the Board but especially on a designated Absentee Ballot Clerk. Ms. Featherstone asked about this role. During election time, a member of the trained seasonal office staff will be appointed to support this position but the primary responsibility for absentee ballots will fall to the Assistant Supervisor. Mr. Rustin inquired if there were any new eligibility requirements to receive absentee ballots. Ms. Redden replied no-excuse



absentee voting remains in effect. Ms. Gibson inquired if the elderly and disabled will still be able to request ballots for the full year. Ms. Redden stated this policy remains in place. Ms. Redden explained another policy change should reduce the volume of duplicate applications received. SB202 discussions will continue in July with Tabulation and August with Logic & Accuracy Testing.

### ***New Business***

#### ***Upcoming GAVREO Conference***

The conference is set for August 29 through September 1. Registration closes July 31. Mr. Channell requested Board members provide information needed to complete conference registration by that time.

#### ***Poll Worker Update***

Mr. Channell presented a breakdown of the current poll worker roster. There are 24 available poll managers and 45 assistant managers. There are also clerks available for promotion. The office is planning a poll worker introduction workshop for the First Friday events held downtown in January and August 2022.

#### ***Office Report***

Mr. Channell presented the remaining FY21 budget which ends June 30. Due to the \$55,000 cost of the SPLOST election, \$18,000 legal fees from the unexpected police referendum lawsuit, and state mandated need for additional poll workers, there will be a budget shortfall. These costs are expected to be assumed by the County. Finance is aware of the situation and will work with Mr. Channell to align the budget at year end. The FY22 budget is expected to be approved with the new staff position, recruiting for that position will begin upon approval.

Mr. Channell has received a request from Glynn County Schools to remove all polling locations from schools immediately. This has been a Board goal for three years, but some precincts do not have viable alternatives to schools. State code gives the Board the authority to use schools as polling locations. There has been progress on finding an alternative to the Boys and Girls Club, which may be finalized by the August meeting. A search continues for alternatives to Sterling Elementary, CB Greer, and Golden Isles Career Academy.

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

Ms. Gibson stated her intention to retire, effective August 1. Ms. Featherstone expressed thankfulness for Ms. Gibson's service. The Board commented on the breadth of important knowledge and experience Ms. Gibson has provided throughout her service. Ms. Featherstone asked all members to review and update their contact information for the office staff directory. Ms. Featherstone also inquired about the State's pilot program to audit voter registration and districting, but there has been no news.

#### ***Executive Session***

There was no motion for Executive Session.

#### ***Adjournment***

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

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Patricia Featherstone, Chairman

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Patricia Gibson, Secretary