



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday August 10, 2021

The August 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; Ward Schaumberg, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Gordon Jackson, *The Brunswick News*; Terry Starry; Paula Galland; and Lavonia Clark. Sandy Dean, Member, was absent.

Ms. Featherstone welcomed Ward Schaumberg to the Board. Mr. Schaumberg briefly explained his background and motivation for serving on the Board.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mr. Channell noted a correction needed in the minutes. Mr. Rustin inquired about discussions regarding new notice and website requirements related to July's SB202 Topic: Tabulation. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Mr. Rustin seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

Election of Board Secretary

Mr. Clark motioned to postpone this decision until the September meeting when all Board members could be present. Mr. Rustin agreed to perform the Secretary's duties for this meeting. This agenda item was deferred.

Urbana-Perry Parks Relocation Process

Mr. Channell presented a pre-written motion and lease agreement to relocate the Urbana-Perry Parks voting location to Bethel Evangel Community Church and allow the Chairman to enter into a lease agreement with the church. This move will benefit the community by removing elections from schools and childcare facilities. Research also indicates the poll will be closer to the precinct's population with the lowest vehicle availability. No negative feedback has been received. Mr. Clark made the motion and Mr. Schaumberg seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Changes will be made in the voter database and new precinct cards will be ordered immediately.

Office Space Update

After a meeting to discuss the project, the Board was informed the County will move ahead with the project with the Board of Elections and Registration as the only occupant in the space. The County has hired an architect for the project. Mr. Channell walked through the building with the new architect. The architect should have an official floorplan available in September which incorporates the building columns and other structural aspects.

SB202 Focus Series: Logic & Accuracy Testing

Ms. Redden explained how the new laws primarily focus on public notice. A large newspaper ad is required outside of the paper's legal notices and on the county website. It must include specific testing hours. Mr. Rustin commented on the new information now required on the website. Testing, tabulation times, absentee ballot statistics, and early voting metrics must now be available on the website throughout an election. Ms. Redden agreed the website must be redesigned before the Municipal election to accommodate the new requirements.

Ms. Redden also demonstrated a prototype of the new absentee ballot oath envelope. Absentee training is expected soon. In addition to these topics, Mr. Channell stated county legal counsel is working on recommendations in case of a performance evaluation. SB202 does not allow the use of county funds to defend a Board suspension.



Municipal Election Update

Candidate Qualifying for the city election will be August 16-20, 2021. Mr. Channell encouraged present members of the press to promote qualifying in the media. As soon as qualifying is complete, the names will be sent to the State to begin ballot building. Once the election project is received, logic and accuracy testing can begin.

New Business

Redistricting Timeline

While the Georgia House and Senate work on statewide redistricting, the county will also have to perform local redistricting to balance representation among the 5 County Commissioners. Mr. Channell attended a webinar explaining the process and establishing goals such as a population margin closer to 0% than the traditional 5%, attempt to avoid redistricting an incumbent, use general boundaries such as railroads and highways, and to preserve “minority majority” areas. Office staff has been working with Glynn Geospatial Information Systems to develop mapping. Official census data should be ready for mapping by early September.

Mr. Channell plans to present 4-5 map proposals to the County Commissioners along with justification for each map design. The Commissioners will decide which map will move ahead in the process. Aaron Mumford will be the official county spokesman for redistricting. However, office staff has offered to manage the 30 day public comment period due to staffing shortages within county administration. At the end of the 30 days, the Commissioners will vote to approve the new districts. Representative Don Hogan has agreed to sponsor the legislation. The Governor is expected to call a special session to address the legislation.

Office Report

Mr. Channell presented the final FY21 finance numbers and the new FY22 numbers. Mr. Rustin inquired when the new machines, required by SB202, will be purchased. These machines are required before the 2022 General Election and will be included in the FY23 budget. The State has named a new Director of Elections Division, Blake Evans. Breanna Thomas has been named deputy director in charge of elections, the State is still seeking several positions including a deputy director over operations, a training coordinator, and a systems manager. The office Elections Technician position has been filled and the new hire will start September 2.

Mr. Channell asked the Board for direction regarding storage of paper voter registration applications after scanning into the election database. State law allows for paper originals to be destroyed once a digital copy is created. Destroying paper copies ensures voter’s information stays protected inside the state database. Due to the scanning project, no paper copies were needed in the 2020. Board members preferred to keep the records for 2 years but agreed those records did not need to be stored in the limited office space. The Board instructed Mr. Channell to develop a written policy to be presented and voted on in September.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Clark welcomed Mr. Schaumberg to the Board. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the Standard Operating Procedures and hiring professional assistance. The process has just begun and is already a lengthy document. Mr. Channell expects the project to take more than a year and require revisions with new legislation. Staff members will contribute based on their expertise. The Board will reevaluate the project regularly. Mr. Schaumberg inquired about elections disaster planning. Mr. Channell stated this is part of the County’s overall planning. Ms. Featherstone inquired about recent Open Records Act requests. Ms. Featherstone requested clarification on current voter registration numbers after the State’s recent confirmation and cancellation process.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

Mr. Clark made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Schaumberg seconded. The motion was approved 4-0.