



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday October 12, 2021

The October 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; Sandy Dean, Secretary; Ward Schaumberg, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Gordon Jackson, *The Brunswick News*; Pam Shierling, *The Islander*; Billy Gibson; Patricia Gibson; Terry Stary; Julian Smith; Tim McDermott; Estelle Miller; Anita Collins; Lavertia Ekrock; and Jones Hooks.

Public Comment

Mr. Smith commented in general about the process of redistricting in the county and the choice to have redistricting public comment held during the Board of Elections and Registration's monthly meeting and location. Mr. Smith expressed concerns that the meeting time would limit public involvement.

Approval of Minutes: September 14, 2021, Regular Meeting

Ms. Dean made a motion to accept the minutes with minor corrections, Mr. Schaumberg seconded the motion.

Old Business

Redistricting Update/Public Comment on Proposed Maps

Ms. Redden explained the procedure for public comment. Comments would be recorded and forwarded to the Glynn County Board of Commissioners. Ms. Redden also noted the Board of Elections and Registration is assisting the County with drawing maps and managing public comments but will not select a map. Mr. Channell read a pre-submitted statement from Mr. Hooks representing the Jekyll Island Authority (JIA). The JIA statement expressed concerns about Jekyll's placement in the proposed maps. Mr. Smith gave public comment on the State mandate to have less than 1% deviation because it ensures some communities of interest must be divided which leads to unfair maps.

Ms. Featherstone asked about the next steps in the process. Mr. Channell answered the County Commissioners will examine the maps, public comments, and any other relative information during a Work Session on October 19. Ms. Featherstone asked for the number of citizens over the age of 18 be added to the data accompanying the maps. Mr. Rustin asked for clarification if the State mapping requirements include registered voters. Mr. Channell said it does not consider registered voters but rather that districts are divided equally to result in "one person-one vote". Ms. Dean commented the number of registered voters in a district does not matter because all citizens of the district will be represented by that district's commissioner. Mr. Rustin agreed but supported including voter registration data as a matter of public information.

Office Space Update

Mr. Channell updated the Board on the office space at 1715 Gloucester. There have been no revisions to the floorplan since it was last presented to the Board. Hazmat elimination work is now completed which will allow engineers to finalize the electrical and HVAC survey. There is a strict timeline to get this information back to the architect within sixty days of the Commissioner's approval. Mr. Rustin asked about the anticipated move-in dates. Mr. Channell answered the election office will likely be moved in early 2023 due to known delays regarding contractors, supplies, and the 2022 election cycle.

Municipal Election Update

Early voting and ballot mailing began October 12. At the time of the meeting, there had been 14 early voters and 37 absentee ballots mailed. There are absentee voter outreach events planned this week at the Roosevelt Harris Center and St. Mark's Towers. The Board finalized election day and equipment delivery assignments. Mr. Channell has not had Public Works respond to the request for delivery assistance, but the department is currently working to relocate the Pate Building staff ahead of the upcoming trial.



Policy Review Storing Voter Registration Cards

Mr. Channell explained this topic was added to the agenda after receiving communications from the Records Management Department which allocates resources and space to store mandatory Elections Documents. Under the current policies and procedures, Records Management is under an unnecessary burden since the original, scanned documents are not required to be maintained. Mr. Channell presented a proposed Standard Operating Procedure to address destruction of scanned voter registration cards. Ms. Dean requested verification that the shredding of these documents is lawful once they are scanned. Mr. Channell confirmed this procedure follows Georgia law. Mr. Rustin asked the Board to review the procedure and place it on the November agenda to be discussed and possibly approved. The Board agreed to continue this topic at the November meeting.

New Business

None

Office Report

Mr. Channell presented the current office financial information. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Channell to expand on a recent email about anticipated supply shortages. Mr. Channell and Ms. Redden explained that certain industries which create items mandated for elections, such as print toner and paper, are facing critical supply problems which could possibly impact the 2022 Primary. Ms. Redden is recommending the Board purchase the Primary supplies, which were already budgeted this year, now to stay ahead of price increases and product unavailability. The Board agreed with this action. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the reimbursement from the City of Brunswick after the Municipal election. Mr. Channell confirmed this money will be added to the County's general fund and not the office budget.

Mr. Channell presented upcoming calendars which included the FY23 Budget planning milestones. Mr. Channell also provided the current goals and objectives to discuss changes in the November meeting. Mr. Rustin asked if the County is aware of the mandatory purchase of machines in FY23. Mr. Channell confirmed he has provided the equipment estimates but has not formally presented the estimate to the County Commissioners. Ms. Dean commented that election laws may change after the 2021 election which will negate the need for the equipment. Ms. Redden noted that these items will need to be ordered in July 2022 to receive the equipment in time for November 2022 logic & accuracy testing as delivery times may be extended.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Clark thanked the public for the significant turnout to discuss the important elections and redistricting topics. Mr. Clark also recognized former member, Ms. Gibson, was in attendance. Mr. Clark commended Mr. Channell and his staff on their role in the management of the redistricting project. Mr. Schaumberg inquired if there had been any issues with logic and accuracy testing. Mr. Channell confirmed it was successfully completed. Mr. Rustin reminded the public that the elections process is transparent, and the new office space will allow for increased public observation. Ms. Featherstone asked when precincts will be addressed in the redistricting process. Mr. Channell replied this will be done once the State maps are available. Ms. Featherstone commented on the success of recent voter outreach activities and encouraged Board members to attend these events. Ms. Featherstone also inquired about an update regarding SB202 liability insurance and there was no new update.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

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

Patricia Featherstone, Chairman

Sandy Dean, Secretary