



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday November 9, 2021

The November 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*; Terry Starry; Jana Kitchens

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes: October 12, 2021, Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

Redistricting Update

Mr. Channell stated the State Reapportionment office had asked for some minor map adjustments to the proposed Glynn County map. Most of these adjustments involved census blocks with no population such as waterways and railroads. The State requested two specific census blocks remain in their original districts to protect voter privacy. Other counties have begun submitting their redistricting maps causing longer processing times, but the State should reevaluate the revised map this week. In general, the Reapportionment office was complimentary of the county's proposed map. Mr. Rustin asked about notification process, especially for a district's core voters that may be moved at a State or local level. Mr. Channell reviewed the notification procedures.

Precinct Redistricting Update

Since the original 2021 Census data was released later, the mapping process at a State and local level is delayed. Once all maps are passed in the legislature, the office must notify voters and adjust their registration in the voter registration system. Each step involves legal milestones and will include significant work. To ensure the State and county districts are correct before March qualifying and the May primaries, Mr. Channell is recommending the Board postpone precinct redistricting until after the 2022 election cycle. Mr. Channell explained this will temporarily create more combined precincts, which are precincts with two or more districts voting in one location, but this is a better alternative than rushing these decisions. The Board agreed to postpone this process but will continue to examine and finalize the plans throughout 2022, as part of the FY24 goals, so that action can be taken as soon as the election cycle closes. Mr. Schaumberg inquired about the goal to move voting locations out of schools. Mr. Channell explained this remains a goal and if an opportunity to move arises the Board should consider that change but keep the voting district boundaries the same until 2023.

Office Space Update

Mr. Channell updated the Board on the office space at 1715 Gloucester. Preliminary engineering work should be completed by November 15. Bidding will likely occur at the end of 2021 and the schedule should be available by the December meeting. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the Project Manager for the project. Mr. Channell stated the Public Works, Community Development, and the Elections managers are working together on this project and Elections has been actively involved with the architect's design questions.

Municipal Election Recap

17.2% of registered city voters turned out to vote. No candidate for Mayor received enough votes to declare a winner and a runoff will be held between the top two performing candidates. Ms. Featherstone commented on her election day precinct visits, including the success of the student poll workers from Brunswick High and how Bethel Evangel Community Church provides a better voting location for the Urbana-Perry precinct. Mr.



Channell agreed and stated Bethel Evangel may be an ideal location to test an “Adopt a Precinct” program among the church members to recruit poll workers.

Policy Review Storing Voter Registration Cards

Mr. Channell provided the Board with copies of the proposed Voter Registration Card Records Management Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). This procedure will allow for destruction of accepted, processed, scanned, and digitally stored voter registration cards. Mr. Rustin made a motion to accept the Standard Operating Procedures, Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FY23 Goals and Objectives

The County Budget Team has recommended examining the department’s mission statement. The Board decided to amend the statement to include elections transparency and security. The Board examined the existing goals and objectives individually. Many of the goals are perpetual and will remain yearly but may be revised. Goals which were achieved in FY22, including staff positions and voter outreach objectives, will be removed, and discussed in a cover letter to the Budget Team. The Board also discussed new goals and objectives to be added. Ms. Featherstone noted the building move will be a major undertaking and should be included. Ms. Dean inquired about adding a poll clerk feedback objective to the goal related to recruiting and retaining poll workers. Mr. Schaumberg noted recent census data of voting aged citizens implies District 4 needs additional voter outreach. Mr. Clark emphasized the importance of moving the Sterling Elementary and CB Greer voting locations. Ms. Featherstone requested the SOP development be added as it is a significant project within the office. Mr. Channell noted the expected machine purchases, if that law is not rewritten before November 2022, will not be a countywide capital expense and must be included in the Department’s FY23 budget. These goals will be written and presented for the Board to review and accept at the December meeting.

New Business

Municipal Runoff Preparation

The runoff election will be held on November 30. The election database has arrived. Logic and accuracy testing has begun. Early voting will begin Wednesday. Absentee ballot mailing has begun. November 19 is the last day to request an absentee ballot. Mr. Schaumberg will accompany Public Works machine delivery on November 29. Tabulation will start on November 30. Board members will arrive by 5:30 P.M. Those participating in the vote review panel will arrive earlier.

Office Report

Mr. Channell presented the current department financials. This update includes the purchases approved in the October meeting to ensure a full elections inventory before the May primaries. The update did not include the Poll Worker pay from the last week of early voting or election day.

Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

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

Patricia Featherstone, Chairman

Sandy Dean, Secretary