



---

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

Meeting, Tuesday December 14, 2021

The December 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; Taylor Cooper, *The Brunswick News*; Terry Starry; Michelle Grovner, Joyce Kitchens, and Lavonia Clark

### ***Public Comment***

There were no public comments.

### ***Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2021, Regular Meeting***

Mr. Clark made a motion to accept the minutes with minor corrections, the motion passed 5-0.

### ***Old Business***

#### ***Brunswick Municipal Runoff Recap***

Mr. Channell will deliver the certified results to the Secretary of State's office this week. A post-election recap was held with the three poll managers. There were no surprises from this meeting. The poll managers agreed to use different precinct layouts for the next election to increase security and help improve voter traffic flow. Chairman Featherstone inquired about the cost of the election and Mr. Channell stated the final figures are not yet available. This data should be available by the next meeting.

#### ***Redistricting Update***

The State Reapportionment office requested minor changes to the proposed map, formerly known as "Map G". The final map was approved by the Commissioners and the State Reapportionment office. This map is set to be introduced by Representative Don Hogan in the next State House legislative session which begins in January. In the November meeting, the Board had decided to postpone countywide precinct changes until after the 2022 election cycle. Mr. Channell recommended moving forward now with the consolidation of Saint Simons Island from four precincts down to three in conjunction with redistricting. The machines, poll officers, and resources from the fourth precinct would be reallocated to the remaining three locations. The fourth precinct's polling location, Golden Isles Presbyterian, could serve as a backup in case of an emergency at another location. The island's heavy early voting turnout and additional machines will ensure there is no increase in wait times. Mr. Channell will present a written proposal to be considered in the January meeting. Mr. Channell also noted that if an alternative to the current school polling locations becomes available, the Board should consider the change, but it would not impact precinct boundaries. Chairman Featherstone requested a copy of the new map. Office staff will produce a copy and Mr. Channell noted a searchable map is located on the department website.

#### ***Office Space Update***

The building plans are complete and have been emailed to the Commissioners for approval in order to be put out for bid. The bid process is 30 days. The estimated build time is 365 days after the bid is accepted. Using these estimates, Mr. Channell stated the office move will likely happen in Spring 2023. Chairman Featherstone asked about funding for the project. Mr. Channell stated he believes the county has already earmarked the funds.

#### ***FY23 Goals and Objectives***

Mr. Channell presented the draft Goals and Objectives and revisions suggested by Chairman Featherstone. Mr. Rustin inquired about the documents due date. Mr. Channell answered it is due immediately and has been delayed by the Municipal Election and Runoff. A final copy will be presented to the county as soon as possible.



## ***New Business***

### ***Athens GAVREO Conference March 2022***

The next conference will be March 20 – 23, 2022 in Athens. Hotels reservations have been booked. The current budget reflects half of the hotel costs but no other related expenses.

### ***Office Report***

Mr. Channell presented the proposed FY23 budget. The proposed budget contains substantial increases over FY22. This is primarily due to the significant cost of purchasing the additional machines needed due to Senate Bill 202 (SB202), the warranty for the existing machines, and the postage anticipated because of redistricting. Mr. Clark commented on the cost on the machine warranty and if the State considered this information when selecting this voting system. The proposed budget includes three elections: a general election, a general election runoff, and either a special election or the primary runoff if the State moves the date. Mr. Channell stated it was better to plan for an unexpected third election in the budget year since unplanned elections had caused budget shortfalls in previous years. Currently, the primary runoff was moved from July to June 2022, due to SB202. It was not part of the FY22 budget request and will cause a shortfall. Mr. Channell stated if there is not a third election, the county will be able to use those funds elsewhere or an alternative is to earmark those funds ahead of time. Chairman Featherstone asked if the county has been made aware of the expected FY22 shortfall. Mr. Channell stated he will include the notification in the official budget presentation.

Mr. Channell also presented the current operational budget. Mr. Schaumberg asked if the pre-purchasing of elections inventory had begun as approved by the Board. Ms. Redden stated all of the supplies have been purchased. Mr. Channell stated some of the invoices have only just been received and are not yet processed in Munis.

Mr. Channell described his meeting earlier in the month with Senators Butch Miller and Sheila McNeill. The meeting discussed several concerns mainly regarding challenges created by SB202. The 250 voters/machine ratio and the need to incorporate early voting turnout into the formula was a main topic discussed. Both Senators recognized this significant financial burden placed on every county, especially considering these machines will not be needed in areas of high early voting turnout. Senator Miller recommended GAVREO write a proposed change to the current law and submit it to the Ethic committee. The Senators also were receptive to fixing the problems in Enet and removing the stub requirement from absentee ballots since the Dominion software cannot print informational stubs. The meeting also discussed bringing back signature verification to increase elections security and moving the primary runoff to July 2022, but the Senators did not feel these issues can be addressed legislatively at this time.

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

Mr. Clark thanked his fellow Board members for organizing an office luncheon to thank the staff for their service. Chairman Featherstone requested to discuss the Municipal election contract in the January meeting as the latest election financials will be available and a new city commission will be seated.

### ***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