



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday, April 12, 2022

The April 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, Director; Christina Redden, Assistant Director; Taylor Cooper, *The Brunswick News*; Joyce Kitchens, and Lavonia Clark

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2022, Regular Meeting

Mr. Channell presented the minutes. Mr. Clark made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Schaumberg seconded the motion, the motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

Redistricting Update

The precinct cards for voters impacted by redistricting have not yet arrived from the State's vendor. This is due to the large volume of cards being ordered currently statewide. The Board discussed additional ways to notify voters of district and precinct changes including website alerts and utilizing local billboards. Ms. Redden noted all maps have also been updated throughout the county website.

Office Space Update

The County Commissioners accepted the construction bid at their April 7, 2022 meeting. The contractor, C. Merrill Construction, has asked for a delayed start date of May 31, 2022. This will give time for materials to arrive and prevent downtime during construction. The doors and generator, which are expected to have delivery delays, have already been ordered. The city building permit has been issued. The contractor has set January 1, 2023 as an occupancy date. The General Runoff is December 6, 2022. Once that election is certified, the office will finalize packing and other move preparations. Ms. Featherstone reiterated the Board's gratitude for the county's investment in this project which Mr. Clark will convey to the County Chairman.

Legislative Update

HB 1464 was heavily discussed at the recent GAVREO conference. The bill passed the House but was revised several times in the Senate. Ultimately, the bill was dropped and the legislative session has now adjourned. There was no action to change the 1 voting machine per 250 active voters requirement in each general election. This will require the purchase of additional machines ahead of November or the Board will be out of compliance. The Board discussed the repercussions of being out of compliance, especially if an issue should occur. Funds have been earmarked within the county budget to purchase the machines but the ultimate decision will be up to the County Commissioners and administration. Mr. Channell plans to review the topic again with administration once the new County Manager has started.

General Primary Update

The election project has not yet arrived from the State. Logic and Accuracy testing will begin as soon as possible once the project has arrived. All necessary notices to begin testing have been given. There are members of the public wishing to observe testing and they will be notified once a start time is established. All UOCAVA ballots were mailed by the deadline. Any challenged voters have been sent instructions to cure the ballot challenge.



New Business

GAVREO Conference Discussion/Feedback

Conference attendees reviewed the event and important topics covered. Mr. Clark noted the legislative update discussing HB 1464 as well as the Georgia POST presentation on elections security. Ms. Featherstone inquired if Board members and office staff felt the security issues from the presentation were being addressed in Glynn County. Mr. Clark and Mr. Channell gave an overview of steps the Sherriff's Department takes to secure each election as well as stay current on election laws and issues. Mr. Schaumberg was concerned if each presenter was truly the most qualified speaker as some speakers admittedly did not use current election technology and could not answer all questions. Mr. Schaumberg also noted the GAVREO organization has potential to be a great lobbying tool for election officials statewide. Mr. Rustin noted many of the presentations seemed to reiterate basic elections processes instead of addressing new topics or challenges. Ms. Redden replied turnover has been high among election personnel statewide and that more than half of conference attendees were new to elections. All attendees agreed breakout sessions by county size and extra training on the new GARViS system would have been beneficial. Ms. Featherstone noted the presentation on Risk Limiting Audits and how the county presenting performs an audit after every election. The Board agreed an audit after the May 24, 2022 primary will provide good practice before the November general election. Ms. Featherstone also referenced the Secretary of State's presentation on public trust and SB202. Ms. Featherstone agrees voters still seem disenfranchised and that the Board and staff should redouble efforts to educate the public about election laws.

Office Report

Mr. Channell presented the current financials. Although the budget is only 49% expended with two months left in the fiscal year, the significant cost of the primary, primary runoff, and redistricting postage are still outstanding. Countywide payroll increases will be reflected in the next month's budget report. The municipal election inter-governmental agreement discussion has begun. The City is creating the agreement which will be reviewed by the County Attorney and the Board prior to negotiations and finalization. The new voter registration database has been delayed and the legacy system will be used for the May and June elections. Glynn County will host the July regional elections meeting at the Casino building. The Board reviewed the upcoming calendar dates. Election day assignments will be given at the next Board meeting. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the job descriptions discussed at the previous meeting. Mr. Channell has submitted these to Human Resources to become final.

Board Member Comments

There were no additional 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