



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday, September 13, 2022, Brunswick Library

The September meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order at 2:00PM.

Present were Patricia Featherstone, Chairman; Keith Rustin, Vice Chairman; Ward Schaumberg, Secretary; Sandy Dean, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Director; Christina Redden, Assistant Director; Gordon Jackson, Terry Starry, Paula Galland, Penny Hennessy, and Lavonia Clark.

Public Comment

Ms. Hennessey inquired about the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) plan to re-stripe and repave Gloucester and if there were concerns about it impacting Early Voting. Mr. Rustin and Ms. Featherstone agreed to add that to the discussion of the Election Preparation.

Approve Minutes- August9, 2022 Meeting

Mr. Clark made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Dean seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

Office Space Update

Mr. Channell stated the project is still progressing quickly with no significant issues. Although the project seems to be ahead of schedule there has been no change regarding occupancy date. Ms. Featherstone inquired if there have been drawing updates to the schematics regarding mid-project layout or structural changes. Mr. Channell stated Ms. Redden has been keeping updated sketches of changes but there is no official revised drawings from the architect.

General Election Preparation

Ballot proofing is complete, the project has arrived from the State, and logic and accuracy testing has begun. The office is still receiving poll worker applications daily but has now received more than 100 new applications and is not actively recruiting for additional workers. Ms. Redden noted there are now enough new applicants that a wait list has been created. The State released a calendar of General Election dates. Veterans Day is the third day after the election which is the traditional date to cure provisional ballots and certify the election. As it is a federal holiday, the State has moved these deadlines to Monday, November 14. Mr. Channell suggested the regular monthly meeting scheduled for that day be moved to Tuesday, November 15. Mr. Schaumberg made a motion to officially move the November monthly meeting to November 15. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and the motion passed 5—0. Mr. Channell noted the Board should plan to be available for a Special-Called meeting prior to the election in the case of any challenges which need to be resolved before absentee tabulation can begin. Ms. Featherstone inquired about each polling locations power availability with regard to the additional machines. Mr. Channell answered that the polling locations had originally been cleared for more machines but there will be additional purchases for power cords. The Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) must begin by November 17 and be completed by November 22. Ms. Featherstone noted the November meeting will also have many action items including FY24 budget milestones. Runoff Early Voting will begin as soon as possible but no later than November 28. Mr. Rustin addressed the public present assuring every effort will be made to open Early Voting sooner than later as well as advertise the dates.

Ms. Featherstone inquired about the Gloucester traffic concern. Mr. Channell stated the City and GDOT had only just announced the start date for the project. It seems to be moving quickly but could likely congest Gloucester during Early Voting. Efforts to alert the public will include social media and signs encouraging voters to access the building from the rear parking lot off Johnston St.

Final Report Cost of General Primary and Primary Runoff

Mr. Channell presented the financials from the May Primary and June Runoff. One of the significant costs was the printing and mailing of ballots. Ms. Dean noted the cost of ballots from the Primary is roughly the cost of

the new ballot printing press. Mr. Channell agreed and stated he expects the machine to offset those costs by eliminating shipping costs, allowing true print-on-demand ballot printing and more efficient ink usage.

New Business

Staffing Change/Job Posting

The posting for the vacant Elections Technician position will be posted later this month. Mr. Channell expects an interview process in November or December. In-office poll workers will supplement the workload until the position is filled. The Assistant Director will assume the primary technician duties. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the staff's comfort level heading into the election and Mr. Channell confirmed staff is prepared for the workload.

Discuss Budget Preparation Planning/Schedule

Mr. Channell gave an overview of the expected timeline for the FY24 budgeting process and the existing Department Goals and Objectives. Most budgeting milestones are due in December. Mr. Channell and Ms. Featherstone urged Board members to be prepared to finalize budget documents at the November Board meeting. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the likelihood of a completed precinct plan by the end of the year. Mr. Channell stated redrawing precinct lines is in progress but has been delayed by the vacancy of the Elections Technician. The mapping software license expires in November and staff will work to complete the maps by that time. Efforts to contact alternative precinct locations have been unproductive and Mr. Clark stated he will pursue those options further.

Office Report

Mr. Channell presented the FY23 financials which include the new postage meter and travel expenses for machine transport and the GARViS training conference. Mr. Channell reviewed the voter registration statistics for August which netted a gain of 429 voters. Mr. Channell noted upcoming changes including the delivery of new PollPads this month, the active testing of GARViS in preparation for the February launch date, and the County Attorney's progress on the Municipal Election Intergovernmental Agreement.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Clark noted the success of the Logic and Accuracy testing including public engagement through public notice, question and answer periods during public observation, and articles in the newspaper and local news station. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the website blog. Ms. Redden has been unable to update it recently due to the Elections Technician vacancy. Ms. Redden encouraged Board members to consider writing a post before the general election.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

Ms. Featherstone made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Dean seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Patricia Featherstone, Chairman

Ward Schaumberg, Secretary