



DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

MILTON D. KIDD, DIRECTOR

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

14 July 2022 at 5:00 PM

Board members in attendance: Myesha Good, Maurice Hurry, Michele Crochetiere, Kevin Evans and Bob Proctor

Staff in attendance: Milton Kidd, Constance Bowen, Ann Bolen, Cameron Fairley, Tesha Green, Philbert Smith and Malcolm Unvala

Legal counsel in attendance: Aaron Watson

Call to Order

Mrs. Good called the meeting to order at 5:01pm

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Proctor made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded. The motion to approve the agenda was passed unopposed.

Citizen Comment

There were no citizen comments.

Approval of Minutes for 9 June 2022 Monthly Board Meeting and 27 June 2022 Certification Meeting

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the 9 June 2022 monthly board meeting minutes and the 27 June 2022 certification meeting minutes. Mr. Hurry made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded. Both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

Felon Hearings

Mrs. Bowen reported that 56 felon notifications were delivered for June 2022 and that none have been returned. July's felon notices have not been delivered to the Board of Elections' office from the Secretary of State.

Office Operations report

Mrs. Bowen reported that after the 21 June runoff, the office began compiling street and ward information from the city of Douglasville's redistricting process. She noted that these changes will be made in the coming weeks and that affected voters will be mailed updated precinct cards.

Director Kidd stated that the office is working to have these changes made prior to the November election because the county is seeking to add a SPLOST to the General Election's ballot. He noted that the County as well as the municipalities of Douglasville and Villa Rica would be receiving proceeds from the proposed SPLOST and that joint sessions will be held and the final language of the question will then be transmitted to the Board of Elections to place on the ballot.

Mr. Proctor asked if that would require a special election.

Director Kidd explained that it would officially be a special election because a call must be issued by the county, but it would appear on the same ballot.

Mrs. Green reported that before November General Elections, it is customary for office staff to offer refresher training on registration processes and practices. She noted that scheduling of "registration boot camps" for staff members will begin in order to stay abreast of changes to the Registration process. Mrs. Green reminded the board of Georgia's new registration system, GaRVIS, that will be implemented statewide after the November election.

Director Kidd reported that he attended a scheduled hearing to address challenges to the decision of the Board of Elections around the candidacy of individuals involved in the Chief Magistrate Judge race.

Mr. Watson explained that counsel from Thompson Hine as well as Ryan Williams' counsel raised arguments to support the actions taken by the Board of Elections concerning the qualification challenges presented before the board. Mr. Watson stated that a decision would be made before close of business on 15 July but noted that the presiding Judge questioned the arguments made by the board's counsel because there was no specific statutory provision to enable the board to do what it did while noting there was no prohibition against it either.

Mr. Proctor questioned Mr. Watson on the ramifications of the upcoming ruling.

Mr. Watson noted that ramifications will be unknown until a ruling is issued, but either party would be able to appeal the decision. Mr. Watson stated that it is his belief that if the ruling is in the board's favor, he expects Mr. Camp to appeal.

Mrs. Good requested the ruling to be shared with the board when it is issued and Mr. Kidd assured her that it will be transmitted upon receipt.

Election Recap Report

Mr. Unvala shared an Excel spreadsheet. He explained that it is best to compare results from similar elections. He explained the difficulty of comparing a runoff because this election featured only one ballot style with different races compared to 2018, noting that the Republican ballot featured the Governorship while the Democratic ballot had a single race for State Superintendent. He highlighted the increase in absentee-by-mail voting which has been a trend since 2020.

Mr. Hurry asked for clarification regarding the 4% turnout.

Director Kidd explained that this runoff only had Democratic races and therefore not the entire electorate could participate in the runoff.

Mrs. Crochetiere asked for clarification regarding the terminology in the spreadsheet.

Mr. Unvala explained that "AIP" was advanced in-person, "ABM" was absentee by mail and "ED" was election day.

Mrs. Crochetiere asked how the general public could access voter statistics and figures similar to what was presented.

Mr. Unvala urged the public to visit the Georgia's Secretary of State website to access figures that are broken down by precinct, county dating back to the 1980s.

Director Kidd thanked all staff, poll workers, managers, facilities, etc. for helping to ensure the citizens of Douglas County have equal and fair access to the ballot box and that Douglas County continues to remain the Gold Standard of Elections.

Old Business

There was no old business to bring to the Board's attention

New Business

There was no new business to bring to the Board's attention

Board Member Concerns

There were no board member concerns.

Adjournment

Mrs. Good requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Proctor made the motion and Mr. Evans seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm.

Next Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, 11 August 2022 at 5:00pm