



DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

MILTON D. KIDD, DIRECTOR

8 September 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Staff present: Milton Kidd, Constance Bowen, Tesha Green, Malcolm Unvala

Legal counsel present: Aaron Watson

Call to Order

Mrs. Good called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comment

Mr. Kidd informed the Board that no citizens submitted comments for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes for 11 August 2022 Monthly Board Meeting

Mrs. Good requested a motion to approve the 11 August 2022 minutes. Mr. Proctor made the motion and Mr. Hurry seconded. The 11 August 2022 minutes were approved unopposed.

Felon Hearings

Mrs. Bowen informed the board that 53 letters were mailed to individuals identified as potentially having a felony and none were returned.

Office Operations report

Mr. Kidd explained that the office has continued its recruitment for poll workers including orientation with the HR department. Mr. Kidd also announced that Douglas

County has set its schedule for Logic and Accuracy Testing. Testing will begin on 13 September at 8:00AM. He informed the board that this testing will be open to the public and that any interested parties should register in advance with the office.

Mr. Kidd also announced that a composite sample ballot is available on celebratedouglascounty.com under the tab section called "Sample Ballot." Packets including sample ballots and election calendars will be distributed to county facilities including ride share, the tax and tag office, libraries and parks.

Mrs. Bowen informed the board that absentee ballot applications for the November 8th election were accepted as of August 22nd. As of this meeting, she announced, over 1,400 applications have been accepted. She explained that ballots will be mailed out beginning on October 10th.

Mrs. Green announced that in anticipation of National Voter Registration Day, the Douglas County Board of Elections office has been working with all of Douglas County's high schools and colleges in making sure staff is trained to conduct voter registration drives with students who are 17 ½ years old. In addition, they are trying to identify students that will participate in Douglas County's Student Ambassador Program. Mrs. Green explained that the Student Ambassador Program is an introduction into the elections process and offers students a foray into civic engagement and they will be stationed at precincts throughout the county.

Mrs. Green announced that on National Voter Registration Day, the office will be hosting a registration drive outside of the courthouse. In addition, Mrs. Green announced that the office will be in attendance during Douglas County's September Saturdays Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 11am until 5pm.

Mrs. Green informed the board that from September 19 through September 23, she will be hosting a Deputy Registrar training class via Microsoft Teams for any member of the public that may be interested in hosting voter registration drives. She instructed members of the public to visit celebratedouglascounty.com and go to the Voter Registration Drives tab on the election's page.

Mrs. Green explained that the office has reached out to seven senior independent & assisted living facilities and dropped off 315 absentee ballot applications. She explained that by working with county Senior Services to make sure that those individuals will be able to have access to the absentee balloting process, including follow-up visits and meetings to ensure that forms are correctly submitted.

Mrs. Good asked the staff to share with the public any information that can help them ensure their applications are submitted appropriately.

Mr. Kidd advised that while not required, the application has spaces for emails and phone numbers. He advised that submitting contact information is the best way to correct any problems with applications while still complying with election law.

Mrs. Bowen agreed with Mr. Kidd, adding that written communications are always sent out along with calls and emails, however a phone number and email can make the curing process much faster.

Mrs. Good noted that college students in particular, who are not at home, if that would be the recommendation for them regarding absentee ballot applications.

Mr. Kidd noted that the “prework” with colleges and high schools, particularly deputy registrar trainings and the Student Ambassador Program allows the office to go over and explain the process and correct procedures with new voters. However, Mr. Kidd stressed the importance of providing a phone number and email.

Mrs. Crochetiere inquired about any age restrictions to participate in the student ambassador program.

Mr. Kidd informed her that election law requires poll workers to be at least 16 years old.

Mrs. Crochetiere asked for clarification regarding the virtual registrar trainings.

Mr. Kidd informed her that it will be the week of September 19-23 at 3:30 each day and classes take about an hour.

Mr. Proctor asked if all high schools participate in Douglas County’s student ambassador program.

Mr. Kidd informed him that the program is open to all schools and in the past recruited students from each one. It is only a matter of student availability.

Mrs. Good requested clarification on the definition deputy registrar and the requirements to serve as well as their duties.

Mr. Kidd explained that high schools, colleges and universities are required to have a member of their staff that is qualified to conduct voter registration drives. In the past, he explained, the office coordinates with principals and other administrative staff to ensure they maintain this certification. He added that Douglas County strongly encourages all members of the public interested in this process to attend these trainings in order to comply with election law.

Mr. Hurry asked whether all senior communities in the county were being delivered absentee ballot applications and registration applications.

Mr. Kidd informed him that the office plans to target all facilities in the county within the coming weeks. He noted that most of these facilities have already submitted these applications themselves, but the office will make every effort to ensure that these are submitted correctly with the most up to date information.

Old Business

Mr. Unvala explained that as of August 22nd, the office began accepting absentee ballot applications. He went on to note the following dates;

- October 17th is the first day of early voting, ending on November 4th with Saturday Voting available on the 22nd and 29th of October.
- October 28th is the deadline to submit an absentee ballot application. Mr. Unvala reiterated that this deadline is earlier than it was previously due to changes in election law.
- November 8th is election day and all absentee ballots must be in the Douglas County Board of Elections' office by 7:00pm to be counted.

Mr. Unvala shared a screen of all early voting locations and explained to the board that all seven locations will be open for the entirety of the early voting period. The slide contained the following information

- Early voting hours are 8:30-6:00pm Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm on the two Saturdays
- The locations of early voting polling places;
 - Douglas County Courthouse (Saturday Voting)
 - Old Courthouse
 - Deer Lick Park (Saturday Voting)
 - Woodie Fite Senior Center (Saturday Voting)
 - Dog River Library (Saturday Voting)
 - Boundary Waters Activity Center
 - Lithia Springs Senior Center

Mr. Unvala urged electors to check if any of those locations are closer to home or work and advised that there are more locations than just the Courthouse.

New Business

Mr. Kidd informed the board that the Secretary of State's office inquired with the Douglas County Elections office regarding external ballot boxes in June 2022. The Secretary of State's office asked for the exact locations of every external dropbox to which the office complied. Mr. Kidd explained that the investigator was asking whether absentee ballots were being accepted through these dropboxes. The investigator was informed that the Douglas County Board of Elections complies with all Elections regulations, including the provisions requiring the absentee dropbox to be located inside the Elections Office and only accessible during business hours. Mr. Kidd reiterated that the only accessible dropbox is located inside the office. The office of the Douglas County Board of Elections has received no follow up on this matter.

Mr. Kidd informed the board that a State Election Board meeting was held virtually on August 22nd, which he attended. During the meeting, he discovered that a case involving Douglas County was on the consent agenda for automatic dismissal. Mr. Kidd expressed his concern due to the fact that Douglas County was not informed that there was a formal

case established. State investigators were located throughout Douglas County on Election Day monitoring external dropboxes, which have not been used since SB 202 took effect in July 2021. Mr. Kidd informed he board that he contacted the State Elections Director to find out how a county can have a named case, even one being dismissed without being notified by the Secretary of State's office. As of this meeting, he explained, there has been no word from the Secretary of State's office.

Mr. Hurry asked if the county attorneys have investigated the merits of this case.

Mr. Kidd explained that the county attorney was not involved in this matter either, and this is part of the complaint by Douglas County.

Mr. Hurry asked if the office will be providing any additional updates regarding this matter.

Mr. Kidd affirmed that any developments will be brought to the attention of the board.

Mr. Watson noted that he would also like to be informed and kept abreast of any developments.

Mr. Proctor explained that while watching the hearing, he observed that other counties claimed to have no prior notification, and that Douglas County may not be unique in this matter and that the State Elections Board has not been notifying involved parties appropriately.

Mr. Kidd explained that previously, the State Elections Board has notified involved parties.

Mr. Kidd announced the retirement of Constance Bowen and thanked her for 21 years of service.

Board Member Concerns

There were no board member concerns.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28PM

Next Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, 13 October 2022 at 5:00pm