

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2024

Start Time: 12:14 p.m.

End Time: 3:07 p.m.

Board Attendees: Karli Swift, Chair
Vasu Abhiraman, Vice-Chair
Nancy Jester
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Shelley Momo, Senior Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Swift called the Board of Registration and Elections meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. A quorum was met.

Motion to approve the agenda by Ms. Motter and seconded by Ms. Jester. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 8 and February 10 scheduled meetings by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Austin read the rules for public comment:

Public comments may be made in person or submitted by sending an email of one printed page or less at a minimum font of 12 to electionspubliccmnt@dekalbcountyga.gov which must be received between 35 and 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting. The body of your email must include your first and last name. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted. By submitting an email for public comment, you agree to have your name and the email broadcast on the UStream and entered into the record and minutes. The DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections reserves the right, at the DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections' sole discretion, to (1) add your email to the record/minutes without reading any of it into the broadcast or (2) read all or a portion of your email into the record/minutes.

The following citizens provided public comment:

- Tommy T. Travis
- Jackie S. Malcom

Approved 04/11/2024

- Pat Culp
- Jacqueline Adams
- Joscelyn O’Neil
- Besse Swint
- Beverly Dabney
- Eunice Wright
- Andrew W. Boll
- Willie Pringle
- Gail Lee
- Bill Henderson
- Bethann Frillman
- Janet Grant
- Barbara J. Mobley
- Nicole Massiah

ITEMS FOR DECISION

A) Certification of the March 12, 2024 Presidential Preference Primary/Special Election

Director Smith reported the election results and statistics of the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary and Special Election. She shared the continued success of partnerships with other County departments including the scaling of election night runner activities for this election. She proceeded to thank all key stakeholders for another successful election cycle.

Ms. Jester commented on the election night runners and reiterated the significant improvement in the ability to report the election results.

Motion to approve and certify the election of the Presidential Preference Primary/ Special Election held on March 12, 2023 by Ms. Jester and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

B) 2024 Advance Voting Locations, Dates, Times, and Managers

Director Smith presented the proposed Advance Voting locations, dates, times, and managers.

Chair Swift requested that approval for November and December elections to be deferred and requested that Neighborhood Church be added as an Advance Voting location.

Motion to approve the 2024 Advance Voting locations, dates, times, and managers for the May General Primary/Nonpartisan Election and June General Primary/Nonpartisan Election Runoff only, with the addition of Neighborhood Church to the Advance Voting location sites by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter.

Further discussion ensued.

The motion passed unanimously.

C) 2024 Election Day Locations and Managers

Motion to decide item 5D in advance of item 5C by Ms. Jester and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Smith presented the list of Election Day locations and managers for all remaining elections in 2024.

Motion to approve the list of Election Day locations and managers as provided by the Executive Director by Ms. Motter and seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman. The motion passed unanimously.

D) Polling Place Changes

Director Smith proposed 2 location changes for the May General Primary/Nonpartisan Election and 4 location changes for the June General Primary/Nonpartisan Election Runoff.

Motion to accept the polling place changes discussed by Executive Director Smith including Evergreen Baptist Church and Livsey Elementary School for the May General Primary/Nonpartisan Election and Intown Community Church, Holiday Regency House, Holiday Regency House, and Mount Moriah Baptist Church for the June General Primary/Nonpartisan Election Runoff by Ms. Jester, seconded by Ms. Motter.

Chair Swift asked if Winnona Park and Midvale changes would be permanent. Director Smith replied that Midvale would not be permanent, but Winnona Park would be.

Ms. Motter commented on the posting of notices to the Champion and said that it appears that software reformats the notices online, so it looks distorted. She provided an example of a post on gapublicnotice.com and asked if the Law Department could look at revamping the format of notices.

Mr. Lewis clarified that Livsey Elementary will be the location for Midvale for May and June.

Chair Swift inquired about the timeline for notices to voters impacted by the polling location changes. Director Smith replied that letters to impacted voters will go out in the next 2 weeks, ahead of Advance Voting.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman expressed concern about having different locations for May and November elections and reiterated the importance of signage for these locations.

The motion passed unanimously.

E) Special Election

Chair Swift provided background on the need for a Special Election. She stated that a Special Election could not be called until vacancies were created by candidates qualifying for the May General Primary/Nonpartisan Election. She further stated that there are 2 options to administer the Special Election: May 21 but it must be separate and apart from the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election or Nov 5 in conjunction with the General Election.

Director Smith presented the research for a separate and apart Special Election including the financial cost, logistics, staffing, space, and electrical requirements.

Motion to call the Special Election for Districts 3 and 7 to set a date of November 5, 2024 by Vice-Chair Abhiraman and seconded by Ms. Motter.

Further discussion ensued.

Director Smith recommended the qualification period for the Special Election to be Monday, April 1 - Thursday, April 4 from 9am - 5pm and Friday, April 5 from 9am - noon.

Motion for the Board of Registration and Elections to call the Special Election for the Board of Commissioner seats 3 and 7 on November 5, 2024 with the respective qualifying period being held April 1 through April 4 Monday through Thursday from 9am-5pm and April 5 from 9am-noon with the location for qualifying being at Memorial Drive by Ms. Motter and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to recess for five minutes to sign certification documents by Ms. Jester, seconded by Ms. Motter. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to end recess and resume the regular meeting by Ms. Jester and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion carried unanimously.

F) VOTE Resolution

Director Smith presented the recommendations the Board received earlier in 2024 in the presentation by Management Fellow, Sabiel Rodriguez. The recommendation was to continue translating materials in Spanish and Korean and to add 2 additional languages each year based on statistical data.

Motion to approve the recommendations of the department for DeKalb County's VOTE Resolution by Ms. Motter and seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman.

Further discussion ensued.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman restated the motion. The motion carried 3-2 with Ms. Jester and Mr. Lewis voting nay.

G) Purchases

a. SCYTL EMS

Director Smith stated that this EMS purchase from SCYTL would provide additional election night reporting features including customized views and graphs. The total cost is \$60,000 for a 3-year agreement.

b. SCYTL LMS

Director Smith stated that this LMS purchase from SCYTL would provide an online training platform and repository for VRE including poll workers. The total cost is \$75,200 for a 3-year agreement.

Motion to approve both purchases with SCYTL for upgraded election night reporting as well as online poll worker training by Ms. Motter and seconded by Vice Chair Abhiraman.

Further discussion ensued and the Board's consensus was to separate the purchases into two motions.

Motion to approve the online poll worker training services offered by SCYTL with the agreement to be in a form acceptable to the County Attorneys by Ms. Motter and seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman. The motion passed 3-2 with Ms. Jester and Mr. Lewis voting nay.

Motion to defer the SCYTL EMS proposal for election night reporting by Vice-Chair Abhiraman and seconded by Ms. Motter. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Director's Report

Director Smith reported on the budget, recent purchases from KnowInk, Tattnall, and Fort Orange, candidate qualification, and contests/questions submitted for the May and November ballots.

B) Contract Signing Authority || Executive Director

Chair Swift requested that discussion on the contract signing authority for the Executive Director be deferred until the next meeting.

C) Legislative Update

Ms. Momo stated that she will have a legislative update at the next meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis thanked the staff and the County Attorneys for all their work. He also thanked the public for their attendance and comments.

Ms. Jester thanked Chair Swift for her leadership and agreed with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Lewis.

Ms. Motter thanked Tiffani Gilbert and Jean Wingo for their work with qualifying candidates during the qualifying period. She also thanked the County partners that participated as Election Night Runners. She thanked the staff, County Attorneys, poll workers, and the public.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman echoed the thanks that the other Board Members expressed. He also thanked the poll workers for their recruitment efforts and the public.

Chair Swift also agreed with the appreciation expressed by the other Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman. The motion carried unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.