

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2023

Start Time: 9:07 a.m.

End Time: 10:14 a.m.

Board Attendees: Karli Swift, Chair, via telephone
Vasu Abhiraman, Vice-Chair
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Tristen Waite, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Abhiraman called the Board of Voter Registration and Elections meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. A quorum was met.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman recognized Director Smith. Director Smith went on to announce that Chair Swift was outside of the jurisdiction and would participate remotely. She further stated that pursuant to Chair Swift's request and the bylaws of the Board, Vice-Chair Abhiraman would preside over the meeting.

Motion to move items for decision before the approval of the minutes by Ms. Motter and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

A) Certification of the December 5, 2023 General Municipal Election Runoff

Director Smith began by presenting the results of the General Municipal Election Runoff. She reported that 9,201 total votes were cast. 6,481 votes were cast on election day, 2,565 votes were cast during advance voting, 148 absentee by mail ballots were processed as well as 7 provisional ballots. Lynwood Recreation Center was the most popular advance voting site accounting for 56% of all advance votes. Election Day voting reached a new record high for other similar municipal elections. Additional details of the runoff election were shared. Director Smith thanked the Board, VRE staff, poll workers, county partners, and everyone who participated in orchestrating another successful election.

Mr. Lewis asked Director Smith for an overview of how election costs are determined for the municipalities. Director Smith replied that there is an established formula that provides the structure for charging the municipalities to facilitate elections in the jurisdictions.

Ms. Motter clarified the absentee by mail break down for the benefit of the public.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman noted that the 73,076 registered voters represented active voters only.

Motion to certify the December 5, 2023 General Municipal Election Runoff by Ms. Motter, seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to recess to certify the election by Ms. Motter, seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to reconvene by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter, to approve the minutes of the November 14 scheduled meeting. 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:

- Naomi Bock
- Vic Tripp
- Gail Lee
- Nancy Arnold
- Bill Henderson
- Elizabeth Shackelford
- Carmen Tripp
- Jane Seward
- Pam Woodley

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Motter and seconded by Mr. Lewis to recess for an executive session to discuss litigation. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The Board exited executive session and resumed the regular meeting.

No action was taken during the executive session.

Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Motter to adjourn executive session and reconvene in open session. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis thanked the staff and poll workers for all their hard work. He also thanked the public for their attendance and comments.

Ms. Motter also thanked the staff, poll workers, the public, county attorneys, and all partners for the work they do.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman asked the public for collaboration in advancing voter education. He thanked the staff and poll workers for a great 2023 election cycle. He closed by wishing everyone happy holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Motter and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.