

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
DEKALB COUNTY
June 26, 2017**

The DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections convened to conduct its monthly meeting on June 26th, in the Absentee Area at 4380 Memorial Drive with Board Chair Samuel Tillman presiding.

Present: Michael Coveny, Board Member
 Leona Perry, Board Member
 Anthony Lewis, Board Member
 Bennett Bryan, Assistant County Attorney
 Maxine Daniels, Director
 Erica Hamilton, Assistant Director
 Mary Frances Weeks, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Baoky Vu, Board Member

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 PM and asked for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to adopt the agenda. Ms. Perry seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the motion was approved.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Coveny to approve the minutes as written from the May 11th meeting. Ms. Perry seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the minutes were approved.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Tillman read the statement regarding rules and time limitations on public comments directly from the Board By-Laws. Several individuals signed in to speak regarding their ongoing discontent over the use of the current election equipment and contesting the election, other issues relating to the recent Congressional 6 Special Runoff Election, plus praise for the additional early voting locations. A petition for Recanvass by Electors in the 6th District of Georgia was presented to the Board by Mr. George Balbona.

Challenges - None

Certify Special Congressional District 6 Runoff Election

The Official and Complete Election Summary was provided to the Board. A motion was made by Mr. Coveny that the Board certify the Special Congressional Runoff Election results. Ms. Perry seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the motion was approved, after which the certification document was circulated for signatures.

Election Evaluation

Ms. Daniels reported that other than the issue whereby two Express Poll units were delivered to the wrong precincts, the election ran very smoothly. The correction was made as quickly as possible and the polls remained operational with provisional ballots as the normal emergency procedure. However, as a convenience to the voters, an extension of 30 minutes at the two respective precincts was implemented.

Ms. Daniels further stated that we had unprecedented early and absentee by mail voting for a special runoff election resulting in 30% of the voters having already voted prior to Election Day, with a 57% turnout overall. Again, the biggest issues encountered were individuals wanting to vote who did not live in the District and voters who had received absentee ballots in the mail, coming to the poll to vote, thereby requiring the extra step of cancelling their un-voted absentee ballot to allow them to vote in person.

Mr. Lewis asked if a voter has a concern at the polling place, if they can speak to the manager about the problem. Ms. Daniels responded that voters have several options including addressing the manager, calling our office or calling the Secretary of State, any of which would result in immediate resolution.

Mr. Coveny commended the staff for all of the early voting efforts that was required to make this happen.

Mr. Tillman expressed his appreciation to the staff for doing an outstanding job and to the Board for approving the additional advance voting sites for this election. He further stated that the Secretary of State's office assigned an observer on Election Night who commended DeKalb County on being the best run election location in the state of Georgia. He was also here for the Special Election in April.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Information Items Included in Packet: (Reviewed by Board members with comments)

- A) Work Performed in Office
- B) Correspondence from Rocky Mountain Foundation
- C) Georgia Constitution

Comments from the Board –

Mr. Coveny recounted issues presented in the Public Comment section and thanked the attendees for their input. Ms. Daniels responded that the Department works equally hard and is perseverant for each and every election – not just the ones that get the most public attention. She reiterated that every election is important and is treated as such.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Frances Weeks, Administrative Assistant
Registration and Elections