

# DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

## Special Called Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2020  
\*via zoom platform  
Start Time: 8:30 a.m.  
End Time: 9:00 a.m.

Board Attendees: Chair Samuel Tillman  
Vice-Chair Baoky Vu  
Dele Lowman Smith  
Anthony Lewis  
Susan Motter

Other Attendees: Erica Hamilton, Director  
Viviane Ernestes, County Attorney  
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney  
Irene Vander Els, Assistant County Attorney  
Shelley Momo, Assistant County Attorney

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Motter to move the executive session up the agenda before old business and to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Tillman read the rules for public comment.

Public comment may be submitted by sending an email of one page or less to [Electionspubliccmnt@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:Electionspubliccmnt@dekalbcountyga.gov) which must be received between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM on the day of the meeting. The body of your email must include your first and last name, followed by your address. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted. By submitting an email for public comment, you agree to have your name, address 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 Public Comments received are attached and hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. See attachment(s).

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Motter to recess for executive session to discuss personnel. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **Public Comments (4)**

### Public Comment #1

Dear Board members:

You had many challenges going into the Nov 3 election, but your late determination of precinct changes meant voter confusion due to poor signage, poor publicity, and postcards to affected voters arriving at the last minute.

You are supposed to announce precinct changes 60 days before an election, which means you should have already determined Senate runoff locations back on Nov 6 for the Senate runoff. The Covid emergency is no longer a convincing excuse for such delays.

Early voting locations aren't even an agenda item for your meeting today, despite Early Voting starting in 24 days.

Please address these urgent items as soon as possible.

Liz Throop  
612 Clifton Rd., NE  
Atlanta, GA 30307

### Public Comment #2

To the Board:

The Board should not delay approving and announcing advance voting locations and dates/times of operation. This is a matter of great importance and the public needs to know about this matter as soon as possible, for several reasons.

Also, on the issue of public notice for meetings: The Board has often treated informing the public as an afterthought. This is both unfortunate and unacceptable. This current meeting, Friday, Nov 20, violates both the spirit, and I believe the letter of Georgia's Open meetings law. The Board isn't using social media to announce meetings, and I received notice after 7 p.m. Thursday only because I'm on the County's news release email list.

You really need to improve on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Grant  
3531 Evans Ridge Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30341

### Public Comment #3

Hi, I was wondering if it is up to the discretion of the county if they want to use the numbers they got from the audit vs the original machine count?

There's been a lot of confusion about whether it will be strictly the original count, or if there are allowed to be any changes made via the audit.

For instance, it seems the votes from the memory cards are allowed to be included in today's certification. Is that the only change that is allowed to be made, or could there be other changes, even if they are very small?

thanks!

David Schiller  
815.307.4300

Public Comment #4

Board Members,

The insufficient notice for today's Special Called Meeting, and the lack of discussion of plans for the January 5 Run-Off, are very concerning to me as a member of the public. It would appear that the Voter Registration and Elections Department is in disarray. The January 5 run-off will affect the balance of power for the entire nation, not just the state of Georgia. Please demonstrate that DeKalb County will be fully prepared to conduct a fair election, starting with early in-person and absentee voting.

Thank you

Paula Bosworth  
2845 Whitby Dr  
Doraville 30340