

# DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

## Special Called Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2020

\*via zoom platform

Start Time: 9:30 a.m.

End Time: 10:35 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

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m. Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Vu to approve the agenda. Ms. Smith requested item 3(B) early and advance voting locations be added to the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as amended carried 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 9:30 AM and 10:00 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).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A) Certification of the November 3, 2020 General Election Recount Results

The board discussed the recount and the small margin of error (approx. 0.009%) resulting from the recount, which is a total vote difference of about sixty-eight or sixty-nine votes.

Ms. Smith expressed concern for public transparency and hopes that moving forward there is a better understanding of what leads to these types of changes related to the equipment the state is purchasing for the counties and the processing of absentee ballots.

Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Vu and Ms. Motter to certify the presidential election of the November 3, 2020 General Election Recount. Mr. Lewis shared one comment. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### B) Dates/Times for Advance Voting Locations

Ms. Hamilton reported that all locations for advanced voting will be the same, except House of Hope is now Flat Shoals Library. Agnes Scott will be available for the last two weeks of advance voting. Ms. Hamilton is working with the City of Decatur for a location during the first week in its place.

- December 14<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday – Friday
- Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve) 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- December 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve) 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will be the last day
- Christmas Day and the day after are not voting days.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Vu to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **Public Comments (4)**

### **Public Comment #1**

Chairman Tillman, Vice-Chairman Vu, and Board Members Lewis, Smith, and Motter:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I am Susannah Scott, the president of the League of Women Voters of Georgia, and a life-long resident of DeKalb County. I am committed to the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

I would like to ask, again, however that public comments be read into the record during meetings. Given the failure of this Board to publish minutes in a timely fashion (the last minutes posted on the website are from the June 29, 2020 Special Called Meeting), it is important that the public is aware of the concerns and issues their fellow citizens are raising during the public comment section. I also strongly encourage the Board to ensure that they are adhering to the

Open Meetings Act (§50-14-1) by ensuring meeting agendas and minutes are posted in a timely fashion. The ongoing failure of this Board to ensure adequate notice of meetings and timely publication of minutes is very concerning to the public, as well as being a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Thank you for your time and attention to these issues. The League of Women Voters stands ready to assist DeKalb to ensure all DeKalb voters have full and equal access to the ballot box in the upcoming election.

Sincerely,  
Susannah E. Scott  
2557 Hawthorne Drive NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

#### Public Comment #2

To the Board:

(This was previously sent as an email to Board Members and other elected officials)

During its most recent meeting the Board of Registration and Elections voted on Advance Voting Sites and times for the January 5 runoffs. Unfortunately, the motion was, I believe, incomplete. Specifically, the opening times on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 remain uncertain.

During discussion, Elections Director Erica Hamilton suggested hours of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 31. Subsequent to that, the Board agreed to 7 a.m. start times for weekday advance voting. The motion made by Dele Lowman Smith only refers to an early close—which I assume means the hours Ms. Hamilton suggested—but the opening times were not mentioned. So, a question remains: Will those two days have 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. start times? This needs to be clarified.

It is a matter of continued frustration and disappointment that the Board has not finalized and publicized the early voting sites and hours of operations. We are little more than a week away from the start of early voting and the Board's tardiness in setting this up hampers any effective public information program both by the board and citizen activists. The Board should finalize Early Voting plans before it adjourns and publish them before end of business today

On another matter, I also request that the Board reissue an updated Statement of Votes Cast for the General Election, since tens of thousands of votes have been counted since this the original stated was posted.

Jonathan Grant

3531 Evans Ridge Drive  
Atlanta GA 30341

Public Comment #3

Since there is a recount vote discrepancy that involves both machine and absentee ballots, what, specifically are the numbers that changed. The public wants to know these numbers. Please state them during THIS meeting.

Paula Bosworth  
2845 Whitby Dr  
Doraville 30340

Public Comment #4

Dear Board members:

Thank you for your ongoing involvement with DeKalb elections. I can't even imagine how exhausted you must be between the many elections, recounts, and the drama about election legitimacy at the state level. In response to all this, DeKalb has had to expand facilities and staff, adapt to more mail ballots, redesign its workflow, and react to the sudden politicization of all aspects of elections. You have stayed on task and worked for accessibility, accountability, and efficiency of DeKalb elections.

Nevertheless, you need to firm up Early Voting and Election Day polling place locations and schedules as soon as possible. The legal 60 day requirement for relocating polling places passed weeks ago. The notifications and signage about November 3's relocations were not acceptable. Schedule another meeting to firm this up so voters can put together a plan to vote during the busy holiday season. It is your legal and ethical duty to resolve this as soon as possible.

Sincerely

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