

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Special Called Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2020

*via zoom platform

Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

End Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Other Attendees: Erica Hamilton, Director
Irene Vander Els, Assistant County Attorney
Shelley Momo, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order. Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Tillman to adopt the agenda. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) July 9, 2020 Regular Meeting
- B) July 16, 2020 Special Called Meeting
- C) August 21, 2020 Regular Meeting
- D) September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion by to Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Vu to table this item. 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 which must be received between 9:00 AM and 9:30 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).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) November 3, 2020 General/ Special Election Advance Voting Times and Locations

Ms. Hamilton provided the proposed dates and times for the advanced voting period:

- October 12th - 30th, Monday thru Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday October 17th and 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday October 18th and 25th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The proposed locations are as follows:

- Voter Registration & Elections Office, 4380 Memorial Dr., Suite 300
- Coan Park Recreation Center, 1530 Woodbine Ave. SE, Atlanta
- The Lynwood Park Recreation Center, 3360 Osborne Rd., Brookhaven
- Core4 Atlanta, 2050 Will Ross Ct., Chamblee
- Agnes Scott College – Rebekah Scott Hall, 141 East College Ave, Decatur
- Berean Christian Church, 2197 Young Rd., Stone Mountain
- Ellenwood Library, 4332 River Rd.
- Dunwoody Library, 5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd.
- The Gallery at South DeKalb Mall, 2801 Candler Rd., Decatur
- The House of Hope Atlanta, 4650 Flat Shoals Pkwy, Decatur
- Former Sam's Club Building, 2994 Turner Hill Rd., Stonecrest
- Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library, 5234 Lavista Rd., Tucker

Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Tillman to approve the proposed advanced voting locations, dates and times. The Board discussed how the proposed locations correspond to locations recommended to the Board and the equitable distribution of the locations based on where drop boxes are placed. Motion carries 4-1. Ms. Smith voted nay.

B) November 3, 2020 Election Day Polling Locations

Ms. Hamilton reported there are about five locations that she is still waiting to hear from. Ms. Hamilton has back-up locations if a prospective location cannot be secured. Approval of this item is deferred to a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

A) September 29, 2020 Election Certification Meeting

Ms. Hamilton requested that the this meeting be scheduled for October 9th. Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Vu to change the October 8th meeting to October 9th. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

B) County Resources

Ms. Howard provided an update on polling place training for the November 3, 2020 Election. 141 administrative clerks and monitors have been trained to date. Training will conclude on October 28th. An additional 60-65 individuals will be trained and placed on stand-by.

Ms. Hamilton provided updates and ensured that the department is well-staffed and prepared.

C) BRE Meetings & Updates

Ms. Smith recommends holding weekly meetings until the election in November. Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Motter for the Board to establish weekly meetings, for every week moving forward, until the November 3, 2020 General Election. Mr. Vu suggested incorporating updates from other department staff members for future meetings. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis recommended that instructions be provided to the public via the VRE website to help guide voters with filling-out and completing their registration forms and absentee ballot applications, in order to prevent common mistakes. Ms. Smith echoed this recommendation.

Ms. Motter and Ms. Smith each expressed concern that the department is not cooperating with NVAHI and Mr. Burton.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Vu to adjourn this meeting. Motion does not carry. Mr. Vu, Ms. Motter and Ms. Smith all vote nay. Mr. Tillman turned the meeting over to Mr. Vu for the remainder of this meeting.

Mr. Tillman left the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Motter to hear comments from the Commissioner. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

Mr. Lewis left the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson addressed the Board. Ms. Cochran-Johnson commented that to her knowledge, an agenda was not posted which is a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Additionally, Ms. Cochran-Johnson was disappointed that the Board did not vote to extend advanced voting hours.

Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Motter to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Public Comments

Public Comment #1

Dear Board,

Please share your detailed plans for staffing for Election Day and beyond, to ensure that all votes are counted. Your explanation should include information about hiring, training, and planned hours of operations to handle the volume of mail-in ballots.

How often will you be picking up ballots from the dropboxes, and what is the plan to lock those boxes at the close of election day?

We deserve to know who you are protecting our votes during this most critical election.

Kate Armstrong Lee
404-626-8118

Public Comment #2

Hello elections officials (and 'Cc'd commissioners),

I have a few comments today but they all come down to transparency and communication. Please communicate with BoC members and members of the public and make plans and metrics publically available.

These include things like 1) number of absentee ballot applications received (portal, email, snail mail) 2) number of applications processed 3) number rejected 4) number of days from receiving (not opening the email/envelope) to processing the applications.

Additionally, it would be helpful if the elections office could clearly state when they plan to begin processing absentee ballots, including scanning. I know the State Board ruling allows for it to begin two weeks out and I hope we plan to take advantage of that for all parts of the process. I know people are deciding how they want to vote and knowledge about when their ballot could be processed influences their decision.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Burns
731 Scott Circle
Decatur GA 30033

Public Comment #3

How is hiring and training additional poll workers going? How many people have been hired? How many people have been trained? How does this compare to 2016? I know a number of people who have applied and heard nothing back.

How many additional temp office staff have been hired? What additional equipment was purchased? I know there are high speed scanners and there was discussion about a machine that could sort the absentee ballot applications by precinct. What have we purchased? What is the absentee ballot request processing turnaround time?

Please hire enough people to process absentee ballots within three days of their arrival to the Elections Office.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Deloris Bryant-Booker
1123 Hunters Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Public Comment #4

To the Elections Board Chair and our Elections Staff:

I am a Dekalb County resident. Dekalb County will be key to our upcoming election in Georgia and it is imperative that we have final results as soon as possible. Our county commissioners and CEO have pledged plenty of financial and Human Resources to ensure that we can count absentee ballots quickly and efficiently. Now it is up to you. I implore you to hire enough help to count absentee ballots so that we can have final results at the earliest possible time. And I implore you to be fully transparent about those efforts. So far, we do not know what steps have been and are being taken to address this critical need.

Thank you,
Amy Swygert
Dunwoody

Public Comment #5

To the DeKalb Elections Board --

I believe keeping the public fully informed about your efforts to process and tally a record number of votes this fall is very important to ensure public confidence in this election.

To that end, could you please let us know how many people have been hired to process absentee ballot requests and returned ballots? can a ballot request be turned around in 3 days, as some have suggested?

How many people have been hired to staff the polls on election day? If there is an overall goal, how close are we to meeting that goal? Do we have 50 percent of the people we need? Eighty percent? How is the training going? Will poll workers get hands on training on the machines? Has the board considered hiring a temporary staff agency to find these people?

There has been discussion of the purchase of new equipment -- high speed scanners and sorters which can sort by precinct. has that been done, and is the equipment working as expected?

What is being done to find large enough spaces that people can work while social distancing? Can we locate a public building such as a school gym or other large space that is not being used this fall, and make use of it?

Please let us know if there are ways we can help you staff and train workers for this election.

Thank you for all of your work during this challenging time.

Ms. Chris Carroll
815 Pinetree Dr
Decatur GA 30030

Public Comment #6

Public comments to DeKalb Board of Elections, 9/25/20 There are many areas of concern. Today I will focus on the absentee ballot process and security of the ballots, Covid19 at Memorial Dr. office, and lack of communication to the public.

Absentee Ballot Process: how will you ensure you will process absentee ballot applications within three days of their ARRIVAL to the elections office; inform people if their application or ballot is reject and how to correct the problem so their vote will count; how to have all ballots processed by 11/2 so on 11/3 you are only processing those ballot left in drop boxes/Memorial office.

Absentee Ballot Security: What is the process for receiving and securing the applications and the ballots. Protocols for picking up ballots from drop boxes with security. Where will you keep and process them? Other counties have secured larger facilities for their absentee ballots. Memorial drive is small with limited room. How will the selected facility be secured/locked with security guards?

Impact of COVID19: Apparently you have closed Memorial Dr office twice now for deep cleaning. What is the plan to continue work if a Covid case occurs among staff on or around election day?

Should the Memorial Dr. Office continue to be an early voting site? Can you redesign it so voters do not go into the main lobby of the offices to early vote but keep early voters separate?

The VRE website and communications are lacking: Today, 9/24/20, I finally see the words "NOV 3" on the website, but much information is lacking. Ballots were mailed before the website acknowledged that there is an election Nov. 3. Communication with voters is a major issue that

should be corrected ASAP. There is no referral on the website to the SOS portal for requesting an absentee ballot. Will the public be able to contact the VRE office with problems and get answers – do you have enough informed staff?

Thank you,
Nancy Watkins
2626 Smoketree Court, Atlanta, 30345

Public Comment #7

Dekalb Board of Registration and Elections,

I am again submitting comments due to my continued concerns about DeKalb's readiness for the November election with its anticipated record turn out and unprecedented use of absentee ballots in the middle of this pandemic. The questions being raised nationally about vote by mail and election integrity demand a level of planning, execution and transparency beyond reproach and unfortunately that is not what appears to be playing out in Dekalb County. My specific concerns include:

1. **Backlog of absentee ballot applications.** I submitted applications for the August, November and December elections via email on June 15th. While I received my August ballot timely, my November and December applications have still not been processed (while my husband's November application sent in the same email was processed on August 17). Ironically, I then received two applications from Dekalb County this week. I have heard similar issues from many other voters and yet the director stated this week in several forums that there is no backlog and applications are processed within 3 days. While I commend you for sending postage paid applications to all registered voters, doing so with less than 40 days until the election contributes to voter confusion, duplicate submissions and challenges with timely processing.
2. **Processing of absentee ballots.** The new emergency rule allowing processing of absentee ballots two weeks ahead of Election Day needs to be fully leveraged to provide for timely reporting of election results. Yet it appears that many critical factors are still not finalized including space, staffing levels, and equipment capabilities. And the engagement of expert consultants from the National Vote At Home Institute has been not been embraced. Detailed plans need to be finalized using national best practices and communicated to the public immediately to regain any confidence in the use of absentee ballots.
3. **Transparency.** Watching the Board meetings and related Commission Ops meetings over the last months, raises concerns about transparency. Basic operational metrics are not provided to Board members, Commissioners and the public. Information has not been provided to the consultants impacting their ability to support readiness for this critical election. This is unacceptable, transparency for this public function is basic to our democracy. In addition, like the State Election Board, this Board should take live public comments, especially since the

submitted comments are not even acknowledged. This Board is ultimately accountable to the residents of Dekalb County and should value this public input.

4. **Communication.** With only 39 days to the election, the Communications consultant plan needs to be implemented immediately. Communication on drop box locations, early voting locations/hours and polling place changes needs to be communicated to the public as soon as possible. The web site also needs an overhaul to provide useful information to the public in a user friendly format.

I am very concerned that without these issues being addressed immediately, we will again see break downs on Election Day and the timely reporting of election results, potentially calling into question the very integrity of this important election.

Sincerely,
Janet Grant
239 Greenwood Circle
Decatur, GA 30030

Public Comment #8

In addition to my concerns below---Fulton County is offering 2 saturday and 2 sunday early voting locations. As well as opening additional opening voting locations. I hope Dekalb County is offering more weekend voting options and locations as well??!!

1) We urge you to prioritize transparency as we go into the November election around details we are all concerned about. It helps foster confidence in the community around our voting process. This includes:
How is hiring and training additional poll workers going? How many people have been hired? How many people have been trained? How does this compare to 2016? I know a number of people who have applied and heard nothing back. How many additional temp office staff have been hired? What additional equipment was purchased? I know there are high speed scanners and there was discussion about a machine that could sort the absentee ballot applications by precinct. What have we purchased? What is the absentee ballot request processing turnaround time? What is the status of the additional parts of the 3 month plan? Please hire enough people to process absentee ballot applications within three days of their ARRIVAL to the elections office. Let's get more people in shifts instead of making people work longer hours. Let's not shoot ourselves in the foot. Thank you for all the hard work.

Melvin and Penelope Krump
2617 Woodridge Drive
Decatur, GA 30033

Public Comment #9

Name: Sedric Beasley
Address: 5326 Salem Springs Dr.

City of Stonecrest

My message is for all levels of government. The message is the following: We can't afford to procrastinate on being ready for November the 3rd. We had long lines in Georgia earlier this year. Are we better prepared from that? Issues that are being discussed before they even happen like Voting by mail, how the post office is being managed. The messaging is causing more confusion among people. It's like you have to wonder if they want to scare you with the virus from doing in person voting and scare you with the mail issue. Now early voting starts on the 12th of October and as of the date of this letter there are no published locations and times for early voting in Dekalb county.

Public Comment #10

Hi -

I am a DeKalb County resident and I'm concerned about the county hiring a sufficient number of poll workers for the elections. We have seen from other states that have already started early voting that turnout for this election is overwhelming. I was wondering if you could share the number of additional workers the County has hired.

Additionally, I was wondering about counting mail-in votes. I understand that Georgia permits mail-in ballots to be counted starting two weeks prior to the election. I know that a lot of people will be voting absentee because of the coronavirus. Has the County secured a location for vote tabulation? Is it large enough to accommodate social distancing measures?

Thank you,
Susannah Khayat
Decatur

Public Comment #11

Since I am 69, I checked the box to receive an absentee ballot when I first applied for one during the primary season earlier this year. When I checked my absentee ballot status on My Voter GA, it shows where the ballot was issued and received for the primary, shows the ballot was issued and received on the same day for the special election - I voted early in person but not on that date. Do I need to reapply for an absentee ballot or is it too late now? Would it be better for me to vote during early voting? My name, as it appears on the roll, is F. Michelle Stewart WARE. I reside at 3533 Forest Downs Cove, Decatur 30034.

Thank you.

mshare3533@comcast.net

Public Comment #12

Dear Board Members:

We should all be concerned about the allocation of DeKalb's check-in equipment, which I have not heard discussed in your meetings.

The long lines of June 9th will be repeated at large polling places unless they get more equipment and get more poll workers trained to use them. On June 9th, all polling places were given two Poll Pads, with just a couple of exceptions. Testimony at the Governmental Affairs Committee, as well as reports from voting activists and news outlets, have consistently identified Election Day check-in procedures as the key bottleneck.

The variation in active voters per polling place is dramatic. Over 5000 per polling place were assigned to Miller Grove Middle School, Meadowview/Clifton and Rock Chapel Road, and all had to stay open late. Contrast this with Livsey Elementary, Kelly Chapel, and Warren Tech, with fewer than a third that many active voters. Turnout was much smaller at these locations and they closed on time — but all got the same number of Poll Pads: two.

I talked to poll workers doing check in who told me they didn't want to take bathroom breaks on June 9th because there was always a long line. If small polling places need two machines (they break down a lot, so this may be prudent), then by all means buy more. If they are not available, supplement with the kind of equipment the county already uses during Early Voting. And make sure printed paper poll books are up to date and that poll workers know how to use them.

Some of the lines on June 9th were caused by equipment failures, some were caused by large turnout – but somebody needs to look at numbers and allocate resources accordingly. It is the job of this board to make sure that happens.

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

Public Comment #13

To: DeKalb County Board of Registration and Election Public Comment

By Representative Viola Davis
909 Rays Road
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

I am Representative Viola Davis and I serve Georgia House District 87. I am writing this public comment to voice my concerns about the absentee ballot process. I have a long history of fighting for transparency, ethics, and accountability. I commend the employees at the Board of Registration and Election for their hard work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are essential workers that help with securing the vote.

With the Coronavirus pandemic, the absentee ballot process has proven to be an especially important process for voting in America, especially for people who want to protect themselves from COVID-19. In June, I mailed my absentee ballot on the same day as my parents who live in Gwinnett. My parents received notice that their ballots were received quickly by checking online. I tracked my ballot online for over two weeks. However, I waited over two weeks before I noticed that my ballot was received. How can we mail our ballots on the same day and I had to wait an additional two weeks for a notice that my ballot was received?

I received multiple complaints from constituents, family members, and friends about the absentee ballot process. I made several calls to the Secretary of State office and our local Board of Elections. We need to hire more people to ensure the process moves smoothly and without confusion and/or complaints. We need a quick turnaround time.

I hope and pray that we work together to improve the process to ensure everyone can vote and know that their vote was counted.

Public Comment #14

To the DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections (BRE):

Please address the following comments and concerns during your meeting on September 25, 2020:

1. What is the status of your preparation for mailing out requested absentee ballots, processing returned absentee ballots, and ensuring that absentee ballots are quickly processed so that they can be immediately counted at the time the polls close on November 3, 2020? Who is in charge of the entire absentee ballot process from end to end? Will you institute ballot review panels as soon as you see that a voter has used a check mark or "X" on an absentee ballot instead of filling in an oval to vote for a candidate? Do you have a designated team to immediately inform voters when their absentee ballot is rejected? Please clarify what "processing" absentee ballots prior to the close of the polls on Election day entails. Does it mean checking the voter's oath signature against your registration records, opening the outer ballot envelope, opening the inner ballot envelope, and scanning the ballot using a scanner that will scan but not tally the ballot? What are you doing to ensure that the place or places where absentee ballots are being processed, will not have to shut down due to someone showing signs of, or testing positive for, Covid-19? Please provide full detail to the public about what you are doing to expeditiously, safely, and securely manage the absentee ballot process. Will you have multiple shifts working around the clock, if necessary? Did you in fact order AND receive additional scanners to scan absentee ballots as you indicated you would do some weeks ago?
2. What is your communications plan, who is your point person, and how have they been trained? Have you allowed (and trained) the staff from other County departments, as offered by the DeKalb County Commissioners? Please share the written plan, or a substantial written summary of the plan, with members of the press and the public. Without that, our concerns that your preparations are woefully lacking continue, as the June primary remains a chaotic, bitter, and frightening debacle in our minds.
3. What have you done to ensure rapid processing of voters on Election Day? Have you purchased additional poll books? Have you hired and trained technicians to repair any technological problems at every polling site? If you have not done this, when will it be completed? Will you have an additional line for those who decide not to vote absentee, but wish to come to vote in

person? As it appears their needs take longer than in-person voters who did not request an absentee ballot, how will you process these voters in an expeditious manner? Separate, dedicated lines? Post a notice of the closest drop box locations to that precinct's polling place? What are you doing to ensure that if lines get too long, that voters may be checked in quickly and given an Emergency (not provisional) ballot? Please give concrete examples that will assure the public that you have thought about, and prepared for, the obvious snags in the process and have devised ways to eliminate such problems.

4. How is the BRE holding management of the Voter Registration and Elections Department (VRE) accountable? It has been clear from past meetings in 2020 that the VRE has failed to demonstrate that it is fully prepared, so we are looking to the BRE to aid with this concern.

Submitted On behalf of Indivisible Marching Buddies of Atlanta,
Paula Bosworth, 2845 Whitby Dr., Doraville, GA 30340
Libby Howze, 3130 Westmart Ln., Tucker, GA 30340

Public Comment #15

Good Morning

I volunteer with Getting Out The Vote In Dekalb County. We are working hard to get citizens to the polls. Where is the BORE in the county with implementing a massive transparent communication effort ? It is crucial as we go into the Nov 3rd election that clear information needs to come out as to where drop boxes will be located, as to where are the early voting sites and what will be their hours of operation. This needs to be communicated on the internet through the TV, newspapers, radio etc. When will this occur?

Karen R. Davenport
3638 John Carrol Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30034

Public Comment #16

GOOD MORNING, I AM MS, CARLEEN CUMBERBATCH A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST FOR THE 100,000 SENIORS IN DEKALB COUNTY. I KNOW THAT EACH OF OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EACH OF OUR SENIORS, CONSEQUENTLY, I HOPE THEY HAVE MADE SURE THERE ARE PROCEDURES IN PLACE THAT ENABLES EACH SENIOR TO CAST HIS/HER VOTE. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE BALLOT BOXES ARE AT THE SENIOR CENTERS AND AT SENIOR HOUSING PROPERTY OWNED BY HOUSING AUTHORITIES OR PRIVATELY OWNED. WE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT EACH VOTE IS AND WE NEED TO BE SURE EACH VOTE IS COUNTED. ALL 100,000 OF THEM. THANK YOU. CARLEEN CUMBERBATCH

Carleen Cumberbatch
Advocate for Seniors
DeKalb County, Ga

Public Comment #17

I know you have a challenging job with an election that is sure to draw an unprecedented response. I urge you to make sure you have made every provision to handle, in a timely manner, both the absentee ballots that will be received and the huge in-person vote. Never did we imagine this election would take place during a pandemic.

I thank you for what you are doing on behalf of voters in DeKalb County. Let's be a model of how this can efficiently and effectively done!

Sincerely,
Deborah G. Shendelman
4838 Dunwoody Junction
Dunwoody, Ga 30338

Public Comment #18

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 first note that this Board habitually fails to post meeting agendas and minutes in a timely fashion, in contravention of the Open Meetings Actn (§50-14-1). The agenda for today's meeting has not yet been posted, nor have minutes since June 29, 2020 Special Called Meeting. Given the importance of the upcoming November 3 election, it is imperative that this information be made available to the citizens of DeKalb.

Additionally, as this Board prepares for the November 3rd election, I ask that you pay particular attention to the following:

- Ensure there is adequate PPE for all poll workers for the full early voting period and on Election Day.
- Ensure that absentee ballot drop boxes are located throughout the county, especially in more remote areas where there is less access to public transportation.
- Finalize the hire of the Communications Director.
- Direct the Communications Director to ensure that the election's website is easy to read, coherent, and provides up-to-date information for voters - including emergency polling location changes, including the location of absentee ballot drop boxes.
- Direct the Communications Director to create an FAQ page to address common questions, including how to check their registration status, the status of their absentee ballot requests, what provisional ballots are and how to ensure they are counted, and the time frames for counting absentee ballots.
- Ensure each polling location has a sufficient number of paper/provisional ballots.
- Ensure all poll workers have a clear understanding of both how to handle voters who requested absentee ballots but have opted to vote in person (whether because they never received their

ballot, or decided they'd prefer to vote in person), as well as when it is appropriate to have voters vote on a provisional ballot.

- Design consistent and highly visible signage that can be placed at each closed polling location to direct voters to the emergency polling location.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. 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 elections.

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

Public Comment #19

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Elections

We urge you to prioritize transparency as we go into the November election around details we are all concerned about. It helps foster confidence in the community around our voting process. This issue raises the following questions:

1. Why dropboxes are not co-localized with all advance voting locations? 2. How is hiring and training additional poll workers going? How many people have been hired? How many people have been trained? How does this compare to 2016? I know a number of people who have applied and heard nothing back. 3. How many additional temp office staff have been hired? 4. What additional equipment was purchased? I know there are high speed scanners and there was discussion about a machine that could sort the absentee ballot applications by precinct. What have we purchased? 5. What is the absentee ballot request processing turnaround time? 6. What is the status of the additional parts of the 3 month plan? Please hire enough people to process absentee ballot applications within three days of their ARRIVAL to the elections office. Let's get more people in shifts instead of making people work longer hours. Let's not shoot ourselves in the foot. Thank you for all the hard and selfless work that you do. Jean-Louis Sankale

Jean-Louis Sankalé
444 Nelson Ferry Rd
DECATUR GA 30030
DEKALB COUNTY

Public Comment #20

Name: Deborah Dulin

Address: Lithonia, Georgia

Question: At the June 9th primary election, my precinct, Redan Elem School could not use all of the voting machines, therefore creating long lines. Many voters left and did not come back to

vote. Will the voting be moved to a larger area within the building (ex Gym), so all of the machines can be separated 6 feet apart and therefore be able to accommodate voters in this precinct?

Thank you

Public Comment #21

I am writing today to urge the DeKalb County Board of Elections to increase their staffing immediately to ensure a smooth, transparent and fair election process. I personally have experienced issues with my absentee ballot not being properly processed resulting in delays. Given the historic number of ballots coming via mail, we must ensure the appropriate resources are allocated. We must get those absentee ballots processed prior to Election Day so that we have timely results and do not contribute to unnecessary delays. It is possible to do this, we just need you to commit.

Public mistrust is at an all time high, it is imperative that you are fully transparent in all of these processes and provide regular updates on your progress to the public. We need voters to feel confident in you and your work and that our votes are safe and counted.

Sincerely,
Janel Green
3213 Lindmoor Dr.
Decatur 30033

Public Comment #22

Hello,

We urge you to prioritize transparency as we go into the November election around details we are all concerned about. It helps foster confidence in the community around our voting process. This includes:

1. HIRING:

How is hiring and training additional poll workers going? How many people have been hired? How many people have been trained? How does this compare to 2016? I know a number of people who have applied and heard nothing back. How many additional temp office staff have been hired?

2. EQUIPMENT:

What additional equipment was purchased? I know there are high speed scanners and there was discussion about a machine that could sort the absentee ballot applications by precinct. What have we purchased?

3. BALLOT PROCESS / TURNAROUND:

What is the absentee ballot request processing turnaround time?

4. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

What is the status of the additional parts of the 3 month plan?

Please hire enough people to process absentee ballot applications within three days of their ARRIVAL to the elections office. Let's get more people in shifts instead of making people work longer hours. Let's not shoot ourselves in the foot.

Thank you for all the hard work.

Jacinda Jackson

(2312 Wayside Drive, Brookhaven, GA)

Public Comment #23

When Erica Hamilton is presenting information such as she did today reading off all of the Early Voting times it does no good to just read this to the public. Yes, she has emailed this to the board, but it doesn't help the public for her just to read it. Can this be shown on the screen so the public can see it?

If Erica Hamilton's Wi-Fi connection is not reliable, can she please move to a different part of the building for these meetings so the public can get complete information, instead of chopped or buffering where we only get every other word?

This was a very, very important meeting - information the public has been waiting on. Almost every other county has had their early voting locations posted for over a week...some nearly two weeks. EVEN FULTON COUNTY - who is so screwed up they have been referred to the State Attorney General has their locations posted!!! DeKalb is waaaaay behind. Yet, we still don't have information for voters.

Margaret Arnett
1010 Greenbriar Cir
Decatur, GA 30033

Public Comment #24

Please increase staffing to the levels funded by the Board of Commissioners so that you are able to count absentee ballots. We must have final results of the November 2020 election at the earliest possible time.

You voted to do this; you gave your word. What have you done? What positions that you committed to fill have you not yet filled? What is the time line? We, the taxpayers to whom you are accountable, need you to be fully transparent about those efforts.

Thank you.

Karen Langford
2480 Glenbonnie Drive
Dunwoody, GA 30360

Public Comment #25

Chairman Tillman acts as a handmaiden to Erica Hamilton and not as the leader of the BRE. He obstructs at every opportunity. He should be removed.

Elizabeth Howze
3130 Westmart Lane
Tucker

Public Comment #26

Dear Board Members:

I'm listening to your meeting this morning. I second the emailed comments of Liz Throop. I heard Director Hamilton talk about the minimum numbers of BMDs and scanners that she would like to have in polling locations. The critical piece of equipment not mentioned is poll pads which is the bottleneck. Although she may have been talking about advance voting when poll pads aren't used for all check-in functions, please –for election day – keep in mind that the number of poll pads must be adequate for any given location's capacity. I also urge board members to insist on more than adequate emergency ballots, provisional ballots, up-to-date paper poll books for each precinct and proper training of poll workers in how to use them so that voting never stops.

Thank you,
Joy Wasson
612 Clifton Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

Public Comment #27

Sam Tillman's rationale to not extend early voting hours is not only tone deaf but completely reprehensible. It is nothing short of shocking that a member of the Board of Elections would fail to see that it is insane to not do everything possible to get every single voter possible through Early Voting in order to alleviate pressure on November 3.

While everyone absolutely appreciates everything that the staff does, it is 100% irresponsible to not approve extending voting hours simply because the staff will have to work longer hours. While it sounds harsh... the staff knew this when they signed up. This is like an accountant not knowing that there was going to be long

hours during tax season. It comes with the job.

AND - as has been stated multiple times - Erica Hamilton has been offered multiple times to receive help in the office. I personally have called her to offer help multiple times and was told "NO" each time.

The board MUST extend the early voting hours to help more voters.

Margaret Arnett
1010 Greenbriar Cir
Decatur, GA 30033

Public Comment #28

Given the anticipated interest in early voting for those wishing to avoid crowds, what is being done to accommodate the numbers of voters? Will the hours be lengthened? Any other plans?

Gail Richman
1064 N Valley Drive
Decatur, GA 30033

Public Comment #29

Public Comment #30

Public Comment #31

Public Comment #32

Public Comment #33