

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
DEKALB COUNTY
May 14, 2020**

The DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections convened to conduct its monthly meeting on May 14th, via teleconference (Zoom) while simultaneous available via livestream on DCTV's UStream channel (<https://video.ibm.com/channel/dctv-channel-23>).

Present:

- Anthony Lewis, Board Member
- Susan Motter, Board Member
- Dele Lowman Smith, Board Member
- Samuel Tillman, Board Member
- Baoky Vu, Board Member
- Erica Hamilton, Director
- Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
- Irene Vander Els, Assistant County Attorney
- Shelley Momo, Assistant County Attorney
- Sharon Hillman, Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 PM and the agenda was adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Smith to approve the minutes. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. The question was called, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Comments from the Public

Three citizens emailed their comments between 4:30 PM and 5:00 PM. They are attached to the minutes.

Unfinished Business –

- A) 2019 Challenged Voters- Mr. Vu motioned to defer this agenda item until after the Executive Session. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The question was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

After the executive session, Mr. Vu motioned to resend the cancellation of the electors who were placed in cancelled status due to being challenged by a different elector based on residency. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The questions was called, and the motion passed unanimously. A list of those whose cancellations status was rescinded can be found at the end of the minutes.

- B) Emergency Polling Place Changes: Ms. Hamilton stated that there were currently 14 polling locations that did not want to host the June Election. The staff's recommendation was to defer this agenda item to a Special Called meeting after the staff is able to reach out to additional polling locations. Mr. Vu motioned to defer the item to a Special Called Meeting. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The question was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business -

- A) Audit Assessment: Ms. Hamilton stated that it is the staff's recommendation to respond the audit assessment after the June Election. There was a discussion on

when to revisit the assessment as Ms. Smith stated that there were items on the assessment that could be implemented in the coming months. After discussion, Ms. Smith motioned to table the agenda item to a later date. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The question was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

- B) Ballot Drop Box: Ms. Hamilton stated that there were currently two drop boxes located the Memorial Drive complex. One would be placed in Dunwoody soon. The staff is waiting on the remaining 9 boxes there were ordered to be shipped from California. Ms. Hamilton discussed that all the cities were contacted about the drop boxes. There are several specific state mandated requirements for the drop boxes and many different locations are being examined by the staff.
- C) June Meeting Date: Ms. Hamilton stated that it is the staff's recommendation to move the June meeting to the second Friday after the Election, which is June 19, for certifying the results. Ms. Smith motioned to follow the staff's recommendation and move the meeting to June 19th. Mr. Vu seconded the motion, the question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson thanked the Board and Commissioner Larry Johnson for allow her to speak. Commissioner Davis Johnson stressed the importance of fairness and equity when deciding the locations of the ballot boxes. She specifically expressed concern for Unincorporated DeKalb and what area gets boxes first. She also commended the Secretary of State for the vote by mail initiative. Commissioner Davis Johnson also asked Ms. Hamilton about confirming the availability of all polling locations for Election Day.

Commissioner Larry Johnson briefly joined the meeting. He thanked the volunteers who are participating and expressed that the Commissioners were there for anything the Board needed.

Director's Report

Ms. Hamilton provided information on the status of the Registration Department, Election Department, and Absentee Ballot request. She also thanked the staff for their hard work during the Covid 19 crisis.

Ms. Smith asked if there had been any discussion on the state level of voting centers versus voting precincts. Ms. Hamilton stated that at that time, there had not been. Ms. Motter discussed the absentee ballot application processes and asked if there was any discussion with the Secretary of State's office of extending the absentee ballot return date. Ms. Hamilton stated at this time, the state had not discussed this with the counties.

Executive Session

Mr. Tillman asked for a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel regarding litigation. Ms. Smith motioned to go into Executive Session. Mr. Lewis second the motion. The question was called, and the motion passed unanimously. The Board excused themselves to another video conference, after which, a motion was made by Mr. Vu, seconded by Ms. Smith to go back into regular session. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called; the motion was approved; and the meeting was called back to order with the following statement: "No decisions were made, and no votes were taken while we were in Executive Session." A signed affidavit to this effect will be placed with the minutes

Comments from the Board – Ms. Smith requested that the record show she has no conflicts regarding the Special Called Meeting on Friday, May 22. Mr. Vu thanked the department and the county as did Ms. Motter. Ms. Motter also thanked the county attorneys.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sharon Hillman, Administrative Coordinator.
Registration and Elections

2019 Challenged Voters

Quron Nathaniel Henry
Melissa Ann Bell
Anthony Lombardo
Tiffany Harris
Eric Warren Robins
Leon Harris
Christina Austin
Aaron Trey Robinson
John Henderson
Claudine Hargrove
Tray C. Cost
John Coleman
Simba McWonder
Jesse Posey
Michael White
Diondre Daniel
Shontell Johnson
Martha May Andreatos
Brittani Aponte
Malcolm Badding
Gerald Brown
Barry Butzloff
Melissa Crocker
Antonio Cross
Mark Fenstermaker
Nisha George
Justin Groot
Eugene Hicks
Doris Hicks
Jason Huie
Aadaam Kelly
Henry Lewis
Cassandra Leyanna
Marc Anthony Leyanna
Anthony Javaid Mallik
Amiri McIntyre
John Obermeier
Stefany Oji
Johnathan Demaar Tease
Kristen Wallace

Betsy Schwalbach: 536 Hardendorf Ave, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307

Submitted by: Liz Throop, 612 Clifton Rd., NE, Atlanta 30307

DeKalb voters are asking a lot of questions about voting on social media, including Where are the absentee ballots voters applied for? The dates that voters see on MVP are apparently off by more than a week.

How many absentee applications have been sent out? Received? How many ballots have been sent? What is turnaround time for applications?

Is it true that a second mailing of applications is being sent out by DeKalb? Will it look like the initial mailing?

The only date shown on the absentee ballot is May 19. When is the deadline to get ballots returned? How is DeKalb letting voters know this?

The absentee ballot has no inner envelope, yet it's mentioned in the materials. What is DeKalb doing to address the confusion?

Other topics of interest

What are the numbers of poll workers hired and retained? Are there contingency plans if workers quit at the last minute (which would likely if pandemic worries increase)?

How is DeKalb Elections ensuring the safety of poll workers? What PPE has been ordered? Received? Will there be plastic shields (sneeze guards) or other barriers between voters and poll workers? Will poll workers be required to wear PPE?

Are poll workers receiving hazard pay? How much? Are they receiving training on sanitary practices?

Are there contingency plans for poll closings if poll worker shortages become an issue? If venues cancel their agreements?

How does DeKalb plan to sanitize frequently-touched surfaces such as Poll Pads and touchscreens? How often will they be cleaned? Will DeKalb dedicate poll workers to enforcing social distancing?

Who is removing the ballots from DeKalb drop boxes?

Will election workers be sequestered in order to begin tabulating early?

Submitted by: Jamil A. Favors, 230 E Ponce de Leon Ave, Decatur, GA 30030

Has there been any update / will there be any updates on the placement of additional drop boxes in Dekalb County? As of right now, there have only been two drop boxes announced and it's not clear where and how that process works. Other counties, particularly Cobb county, have a video making that process clear.

What is the current timeline/timeframe for processing VBM applications? There are individuals who sent their applications over three weeks ago and have not received their ballots?

Will all polling locations be open on June 9th for those who will not have received their ballots by that time?

Public Comments

Submitted by: Bethann Frillman, 1659 E. Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30307

We recognize what a trying and unusual time this is for everyone. The impact on the Department of Voter Registration and Elections is significant, and we recognize the efforts the Department has made to make quick changes to the processes and provide DeKalb voters a safe voting process. We are volunteers with the voter protection group and in that capacity, we would like to be able to provide voters with accurate information and help them follow their ballots through the process.

Absentee Voting:

We are seeing significant delays (more than 3 weeks) from the time a voter emails or sends an application until their ballot shows up as processed. According to an email from Ms. Hamilton, the department is now caught up in processing applications. Additionally, applications that your office says are processed are not showing up in mvp.

Going forward: How long should a voter plan for VBM processing to take?

Is there a lag between processing and information being loaded into MVP?

Overall how long between when a voter sends their application and when they should expect to see if it is processed in MVP?

How long is it taking for the SOS/mail house to mail ballots after processing?

Drop Boxes:

Among other metro counties; Cobb currently has four drop boxes in place throughout the county. Fulton will have a total of 20 and currently has eight already in place. Gwinnett has four in place and spread throughout the county.

Where and when will drop boxes be placed in DeKalb beyond the two at Memorial Drive?

Will there be drop boxes in unincorporated South DeKalb?

In-person Voting:

Will there be any emergency Election Day location changes?

How will voters be notified of these changes?

Will there be signage at the unopened locations?

In the case of dual precincts, what actions will be taken to help voters find their correct precinct - signage? staff directing voters?

Please update us on staffing for early vote and Election Day. Have you seen a drop off in staff available? What contingency plans are in place to identify and train replacement staff?

We asked a number of questions (via the instructions on your website for submitting public comments) at the last Board of Elections meeting (April 27th), we have since had to go through various people to try and get answers. We hope that you will answer these during today's meeting or if that is not possible, we are available by email or phone. Thank you.

Bethann Frillman

Additional members of the voter protection team:

Shawn Ouweleen: 1476 Fairview Road, Atlanta, GA 30306

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DEKALB

OPEN MEETING AFFIDAVIT

Personally came Samuel Tillman, who on oath says that, to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, on the 14th day of May, 2020, in the County aforesaid, a meeting of the DeKalb County Board of Voter Registration & Elections was closed to the public for the following reasons: [check appropriate line(s)]

1. Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the County or any department, officer or employee thereof [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2-(1)];
2. Those tax matters which are otherwise made confidential by state law [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2-(2)];
3. Staff meeting held for investigative purposes under duties and responsibilities imposed by law [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3-(1)];
4. Meetings of a law enforcement agency, including grand jury meetings [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3-(3)];
5. The future acquisition of real estate [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3-(4)];
6. Meeting of the governing authority of a public hospital or any committee thereof when discussing the staff privileges or the granting of abortions under state or federal law [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3-(5)];
7. Meeting when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee but not when receiving evidence or hearing argument [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3-(6)];
8. Meetings of the board of trustees or the investment committee of any public retirement system created by Title 47 [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3-(8)];
9. Inspection of physical facilities [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1-(2)];
10. Meeting outside of geographical jurisdiction of agency at which no official action is to be taken [O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1-(2)];
11. Other (please provide legal authority): _____

and that except for the foregoing, no portion of the closed meeting involved discussion, presentation, or any action on any other matter.

Sworn to and subscribed
before me, this 20 day of
May, 2020.

Notary Public

Samuel E. Tillman
Signature of Chair or Presiding Officer

