

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

Start Time: 4:50 p.m.

End Time: 6:41 p.m.

Board Attendees: Karli Swift, Chair
Vasu Abhiraman, Vice-Chair
Nancy Jester
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Shelley Momo, Senior Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Swift called the Board of Voter Registration and Elections meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. A quorum was met.

Motion to approve the agenda by Ms. Motter and seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman, to approve the minutes of the December 11 scheduled meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Austin read the rules for public comment:

Public comments may be made in person or submitted by sending an email of one printed page or less at a minimum font of 12 to electionspubliccmnt@dekalbcountyga.gov which must be received between 35 and 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting. The body of your email must include your first and last name. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted. By submitting an email for public comment, you agree to have your name 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 following citizens provided public comment:

- Judy Sophianopoulos

Approved 02/08/24

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Director's Report

Director Smith reported on registration, election, warehouse, budget, facilities, and communications activities.

Ms. Motter commented on the impact of redistricting on election activities and encouraged electors to check online to ensure their registration is up to date and for additional information updates.

Ms. Jester asked about the proposed 2024 budget and the stakeholder meeting. She also requested information from the law department regarding grants and the County's membership with the Center for Tech and Civic Life.

Mr. Lewis asked about the Secretary of State's health check on the election equipment. Julietta Henry provided brief details regarding the scheduled inspection.

B) VOTE Resolution Proposal

Mr. Sabiel Rodriguez presented research findings regarding the VOTE Resolution. He stated that after English, the most spoken languages in DeKalb County were Spanish, Amharic, French, Chinese, Yoruba, Bengali, and Vietnamese. Discussion followed regarding several components of the research and proposal.

C) Special Election || Call and Qualifying Period

Ms. Momo stated that the attorneys recommended deferring this agenda item because they were still looking into the details of any special election that might need to occur in 2024 and the call and qualifying period associated with it.

Further discussion ensued. Chair Swift requested a memo on the matter from the law department before the next meeting.

Motion to defer the item to the next meeting By Ms. Motter and seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman. The vote passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

D) Polling Place Changes

Ms. Momo stated that the law department needed additional time to review the information. Chair Swift requested an update from the law department prior to the next meeting.

Motion to defer the item to the next meeting by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter. The vote passed unanimously.

E) Contract Signing Authority || Executive Director

Chair Swift noted that previous discussion had taken place to give Director Smith limited contract signing authority up to a certain amount. The law department advised for this item to be deferred for further review.

Motion to defer the item to the next meeting by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter. The vote passed unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Jester thanked the staff, the board, the public, and Mr. Rodriguez. She also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ms. Motter thanked Director Smith, the department, Mr. Rodriguez, and the law department.

Mr. Lewis wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman thanked the department and Mr. Rodriguez.

Chair Swift wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked DCTV and the public.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.