

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Special Called Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2021
*via zoom platform
Start Time: 5:00 p.m.
End Time: 6:10 p.m.

Board Attendees: Chair Dele Lowman Smith
Vice-Chair Nancy Jester
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter
Karli Swift

Other Attendees: Twyla Hart, Interim Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Irene Vander Els, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Shelley Momo, Senior Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Swift and seconded by Ms. Motter to call this meeting to order. Motion carries 4-0. Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Motter to approve the agenda. Ms. Swift added item C for discussion of Sunday voting during the advanced voting period. Motion carries 4-0.

Ms. Jester is not present at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Matelski read the rules for public comment.

Public comments of three minutes or less may be made live via the teleconference. For those joining the meeting by telephone, please be aware that your phone number may be displayed to the public viewing or participating in the online meeting. Citizens who attend the meeting via the Zoom link above may join the public comment queue by raising their hand in the Zoom application, while citizens who attend the meeting via telephone may join the comment queue by pressing # followed by 2. There will be no comment cards, so when you are called upon, please state your name and address for the record. Also, please be conscious of speaking time so that everyone has an opportunity to provide input in the allotted time. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted.

The following citizens provided public comment:

- Kelvin Kight

ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD

A) North Hairston Polling Place Change

Ms. Hart explained that the Victory Christian Church polling place located at North Hairston Rd will not be able to accommodate the election due to renovations. Ms. Hart stated that there is no

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other facility that could accommodate the election and is proposing the change to Stone Mill Elementary, which is outside the precinct boundary.

Ms. Vander Els explained that O.C.G.A. §21-2-265(e) prohibits a polling place change outside of the precinct boundaries within 90 days before an election.

Ms. Motter asked about locations that were considered as replacements within the precinct boundary. Ms. Hart explained that Victory Christian Church was the only facility that could accommodate voting inside the precinct boundary and thus, Stone Mill Elementary is the next best option. Stone Mill Elementary is approximately 2 miles outside the precinct boundary.

Mr. Lewis asked Ms. Hart to explain the procedure for notifying voters should the Board approve this change. Furthermore, Mr. Lewis wants to ensure the department goes above and beyond in its effort to communicate this change to effected voters.

Ms. Smith requested that an item to discuss voter outreach for this polling place change be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion by Ms. Swift and seconded by Ms. Jester to approve this precinct change pursuant to the applicable notice requirements being satisfied. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

B) City of Stonecrest Candidate Challenge

Ms. Vander Els presented the circumstances of the challenge. The question before the Board is whether Mr. Kight resides in District 1 and therefore, is eligible to run for a city council position in District 1. The Board will hear first from the City of Stonecrest and then from VRE staff. Finally, Mr. Kight will be able to rebut any evidence presented.

Ms. Jackson and Ms. Katz appeared on behalf of the City of Stonecrest. Mr. Kight submitted his qualifying documents, seeking candidacy in District 1, on the last day of the qualifying period. It is the City's position that Mr. Kight does not qualify for candidacy in District 1.

Ms. Hart explained that Mr. Kight sought candidacy in District 1; however, the address he provided in his qualifying documents is in District 5.

Mr. Kight explained that he is not interested in running for District 5 and is not contesting the challenge to his qualification in District 1. Also, Mr. Kight requested that his qualifying fees, in the amount of \$450.00 be refunded.

The Board discussed the issue of Mr. Kight's qualification and reimbursement of his qualifying fees.

Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Motter to remove Kelvin Kight's name as a candidate for Stonecrest City Council in District 1 because Mr. Kight resides in District 5, and the Board has determined that Mr. Kight does not qualify to run in District 1. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

C) Sunday Voting for Advanced Voting Period

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Ms. Swift is proposing that Sunday, October 17 and Sunday, October 24 be added to the advanced voting period.

Ms. Jester asked if staff is prepared to work on the proposed dates and what the notice requirements are. Ms. Hart will need to request the proposed dates for all the approved locations and Ms. Vander Els stated the notice requirements according to Senate Bill 202.

Motion by Ms. Swift and seconded by Ms. Jester to expand early advanced voting to include two Sundays during the advanced voting period, contingent on guidance from the law department. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Swift shared a comment about poll manager training and thanked the staff for inviting Board members to attend.

Ms. Smith looks forward to working with department to have documented procedure for securing locations and approving dates and times for early voting so there is consistent and clear communication with the public.

Ms. Smith also commented on the candidate challenge and the need for documented policies and procedures for the Board and municipal partners to prevent confusion and unnecessary issues that can be avoided.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Swift to adjourn. This meeting is adjourned.