

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2022

*via zoom platform

Start Time: 4:30 p.m.

End Time: 6:11 p.m.

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

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Irene Vander Els, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Lowman Smith called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. All members were in attendance.

Motion by Ms. Swift and seconded by Ms. Motter to approve the agenda. The Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) March 10, 2022

Motion by Vice-Chair Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter to approve the minutes from March 10, 2022. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B) March 25, 2022

Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Vice-Chair Jester to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2022 Special Called Meeting, subject to the inclusion of Mr. Phillips in the list of attendees. The Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Austin read the rules for public comment:

Public comments of two 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 for the record. Also, please be conscious of speaking

Click here to view BRE meetings: [Video On Demand | DeKalb County, GA \(dekalbcountyga.gov\)](https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov)

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:

- Sonya Collette Frix
- Haqiqa Bolling
- Dr. Jane Mezoff
- Chana Harris
- Ethan Brandon
- Naomi Bock

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Director's Report

Director Smith discussed preparations for the General Primary, including advance voting, redistricting, ballot proofing, UOCAVA ballots, and Logic and Accuracy testing.

She discussed the results of a survey of current poll officers, including their length of service. She reported the current number of vacancies at each level and compared their pay rates to other metro counties.

Ms. Swift asked what steps were being taken to fill the remaining vacancies.

Mr. Lewis requested information about recruitment at Georgia State. He suggested that the political parties might nominate poll officers for the clerk positions that have the most vacancies. He requested for the Department to share collected information about gender, race, and party affiliation of poll managers with the Board. He also requested for updated precinct and district maps to be posted on the website.

Ms. Motter asked about increasing poll officer pay, particularly for the clerk positions with the most vacancies. She suggested recruiting at as many college campuses as possible. She requested for the Department to maintain ongoing statistics about poll worker staffing and pay.

Vice-Chair Jester asked for information about poll officer political affiliation at the precinct level.

B) Language Access Expansion

Ms. Swift discussed a resolution by the City of Clarkston urging the translation of voting materials to Somali, Burmese, Arabic, and American Sign Language.

Ms. Smith, Ms. Motter, and Mr. Lewis discussed the census data and the logistics involved.

Chair Lowman Smith and Ms. Swift discussed the on-site translations provided by Orange County, California.

Director Smith and Mr. Burton provided information about the language facilities the Department currently offers.

Ms. Motter raised the need for clear instructions for poll managers surrounding the translations.

Chair Lowman Smith requested for the Department to research whether it would be an option to provide translations only in the areas of the county where they are most needed.

Click here to view BRE meetings: [Video On Demand | DeKalb County, GA \(dekalbcountyga.gov\)](#)

C) Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson supported the allocation of funds to ensure the Department's ability to reach diverse people. She offered to help recruit poll officers through her newsletter.

Commissioner Ted Terry supported achieving pay equity with other metro counties. He recommended partnering with organizations that could recruit poll officers, especially ones who speak multiple languages. He mentioned comments from constituents that SB 202 had made absentee voting more difficult.

D) Legislative Update

Ms. Vander Els updated the Board on SB 441, which addresses record keeping and gives authority to the GBI to investigate violations of the election code.

Chair Lowman Smith added that a bipartisan group of elections officials had spoken out against a number of provisions under consideration this session, including HB 1464.

E) Communications Update

Mr. Burton recapped the recent virtual listening sessions and plans for six more meetings with stakeholder groups. He also discussed plans for the Spanish and Korean voter information translations and upcoming educational videos.

Vice-Chair Jester thanked Mr. Burton and Director Smith for their work on the listening sessions.

Chair Lowman Smith and Mr. Burton discussed the voter registration kiosks.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

A) List of Poll Managers for the May 24 General Primary

Motion by Ms. Swift and seconded by Vice-Chair Jester, with an amendment by Ms. Motter, to approve 173 poll managers for the May 24 General Primary and allow Director Smith to fill the remaining three spaces as they can be confirmed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Swift thanked the public commenters for their interest in voting accessibility and the Board for their openness to language expansion.

Vice-Chair Jester remarked that the school system uses a phone translation service and suggested reaching out to them. She also thanked the staff for their participation in a recent voter registration drive.

Ms. Motter thanked Director Smith and the staff for their work on the meeting materials, and the public.

Mr. Lewis thanked the staff for their hard work and asked how much it would cost to achieve pay parity with Fulton County.

Chair Lowman Smith recommended absentee voting for anyone who is able to make use of it so that those who are not can come to advance voting. She requested throughput data for advance voting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice-Chair Jester and seconded by Ms. Swift to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11p.m.