

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025

Start Time: 4:46 p.m.

End Time: 5:33 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
Michael Petty, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Swift called the Board of Registration and Elections meeting to order at 4:46 p.m. Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. A quorum was met.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Vice-Chair Abhiraman, seconded by Ms. Motter, to approve the minutes of the March 13 scheduled meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Vice-Chair Abhiraman, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the minutes of the April 10 scheduled meeting. Ms. Motter abstained as she was not present for that meeting. The motion passed.

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. 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. All public comments will be limited to 2 minutes. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language, holding up signs, clapping, yelling, standing or laying in the aisles to show support for or opposition to a speaker will

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not be permitted, but a show of hands or quietly standing in place will be permitted to show support for or opposition to a speaker's position.

The following citizens provided public comment:

- Elizabeth Shackelford
- Cheryl Dudley
- Gail Lee
- Janet Grant
- John Arnold
- Nancy Arnold
- Denise Peterson
- Bill Henderson
- Online Comment- Marla Tepper

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Director's Report

Director Smith reported on registration and returned mail processing, election activities including poll worker hiring, absentee ballot requests, ballot proofing, and L&A testing, budget activities, poll worker training, and outreach efforts.

Mr. Lewis asked what expenses were charged to the line item for dues in the budget. Director Smith replied that she would research that expense and get back to him. Mr. Lewis asked what accounted for the decrease in inactive electors and if it could have been due to state actions, county actions or if they expired off the inactive list. Director Smith replied that a combination of those factors could attribute to that change.

B) Legislative Updates

Mr. Petty advised that none of the election related bills had been signed by the Governor yet, and that there were 6 days remaining for them to be signed.

C) Date for Pre-Certification Meeting || June Special Election

Chair Swift stated that the state required pre-certification meeting had to be held no later than 3 p.m. on the Friday following the PSC election on June 17th. She asked Mr. Petty if the pre-certification and certification meetings could be held on the same day and Mr. Petty replied that they could not be. Discussion ensued and the date for the pre-certification meeting was set for Wednesday, June 18th at 10a.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Abhiraman thanked the public that regularly attend the meetings.

Ms. Motter thanked the staff, Executive Director Smith, the attorneys, and the Board and stated that this would be her next to last Board meeting. She also stated that she recently traveled to Japan and presented Japanese Kit Kats for the VRE staff.

Mr. Lewis shared concerns presented to him by the public expressing feelings regarding the Board's composition. He recounted details from his years of experience on the Board and encouraged interested

individuals to seek information on becoming a Board member. He went on to thank the security team, the staff, and the public.

Ms. Jester thanked Mr. Lewis for his comments and years of service and went on to thank the staff and Director Smith for a great report.

Chair Swift thanked the public for their comments, the staff, and Director Smith and further expounded on the composition of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.