

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2025

Start Time: 12:10 p.m.

End Time: 12:45 p.m.

Board Attendees: Vasu Abhiraman
Travis Bowden
Gail Lee
Dele Lowman
Karli Swift

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Michael Petty, Assistant County Attorney
Tristen Waite, Assistant County Attorney
Judge Bedelia C. Hargrove

SWEARING-IN OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Phillips called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Judge Hargrove swore in the Board members.

Mr. Phillips called for recess.

Motion by Ms. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bowden, to end recess and resume the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Swift, seconded by Mr. Bowden, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A) Election of Chair

Mr. Abhiraman nominated Ms. Swift. Ms. Lowman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B) Election of Vice-Chair

Ms. Lowman nominated Mr. Abhiraman. Chair Swift seconded the motion.

Ms. Lee made a substitute motion and nominated Mr. Bowden. Mr. Bowden seconded. The motion failed by a vote of 2-3. Ms. Lee and Mr. Bowden voted Aye. Mr. Abhiraman, Ms. Lowman, and Chair Swift voted Nay.

The original motion and nomination of Mr. Abhiraman was called and carried by a vote of 4-1. Mr. Abhiraman, Ms. Lee, Ms. Lowman, and Chair Swift voted Aye. Mr. Bowden voted Nay.

APPROVED 07/21/2025

ROLL CALL

Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. A quorum was met.

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 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:

- Janet Grant
- Michael Beach
- Nancy Arnold
- Liz Throop
- Bill Henderson
- Kendra Biegalski
- Cheryl Dudley

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Pre-Certification Report

Chair Swift began by providing background for the public stating that the pre-certification meeting was a legally required meeting prior to certification which will take place on Monday, July 21, 2025.

Director Smith stated that VRE staff had compiled a pre-certification report in accordance with SEB Rule 183-1-12-.12, which requires the Board of Registration and Elections to hold a meeting after Election Day for the limited purpose of conducting a review of precinct returns. She went on to present

a summary of the unofficial and incomplete pre-certification report and stated that the total numbers of votes cast matched the total number of unique voter ID numbers.

Ms. Lee requested details on the origin of the numbers compiled in the pre-certification report. Director Smith explained that the number of ballots cast came directly from the tabulation, and credits came from the poll pads and Epulse for in-person or were entered directly into GARViS for absentee ballots.

Ms. Lee asked if efforts were made to detect duplicate entries in the voter credits. Director Smith responded that reviewing the list of credits for duplicates was part of the process and any duplicates found would have appeared on the pre-certification report.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Bowden said that he was honored to be a part of the Board and stated that he looked forward to serving with the other members.

Ms. Lowman stated that she was honored to serve once again. She further stated that the responsibility the Board holds has increased even further, and she looks forward to the Board setting an example in the county and state in upholding the constitution in ensuring every eligible voter is able to participate in elections.

Ms. Lee expressed appreciation to the election workers she observed in the office completing the extensive canvassing process. She described the processes she observed and thanked the team for their detailed work. She then thanked staff for the pre-certification report.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman stated that serving DeKalb County is an immense privilege and expressed his desire to live up to the responsibility.

Chair Swift thanked the staff, lawyers, and all who worked behind the scenes throughout the election and expressed appreciation to work with the team to continue to maintain excellence in elections in DeKalb County and ensure all eligible voters can vote in an efficient manner.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Lowman, seconded by Mr. Bowden, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.