



BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SCHEDULED MEETING

July 21, 2025

12:00 PM

Memorial Drive Auditorium

DCTV's UStream channel: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/xUJgKs6n2VW>

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. June 23, 2025 Scheduled Meeting (p. 2)
 - B. July 17, 2025 Special Called Meeting (p. 6)
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 5. ITEMS FOR DECISION**
 - A. Certification of the Special Primary Public Service Commissioner Election Runoff (p. 9)
- 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- 7. BOARD COMMENTS**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2025

Start Time: 12:05 p.m.

End Time: 1:16 p.m.

Board Attendees: Vasu Abhiraman, Vice-Chair
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
John Jones, Supervising County Attorney
Tristen Waite, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Abhiraman called the Board of Registration and Elections meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. A quorum was met.

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the minutes of the May 8 scheduled meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the minutes of the June 9 special called meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the minutes of the June 18 special called meeting. Vice-Chair Abhiraman abstained as he was not present for the meeting. The motion passed 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. 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
- Ellen Apte
- Cheryl Dudley
- Michael Beach

ITEMS FOR DECISION

A) Certification of the Special Primary Public Service Commissioner Election

Director Smith acknowledged the leadership, vocal advocacy, and integrity that defined the Board's work. She went on to say that this was the final Board meeting for 3 of the members and thanked them for their service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the community.

Director Smith presented the post-election report detailing election statistics including voter turnout for Election Day, early voting, absentee, and provisional voting. Director Smith thanked the staff, Board, poll workers, community members, poll watchers, and county partners that assisted VRE in facilitating fair, accessible, and accurate elections.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman asked for the breakdown of types of provisional ballots that were accepted. Staff confirmed that the reason for all the provisional ballots was out of precinct (OP).

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Mr. Lewis to certify the June 17, 2025 special primary. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter to recess for the purpose of signing election certification paperwork. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter to reconvene the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

B) Early Voting Locations, Dates, and Times for Election Runoff

Director Smith presented the proposed dates, times and locations for the July PSC Election Runoff early voting period.

Ms. Motter asked when L&A testing was scheduled to start. Director Smith replied that it was scheduled to begin on Monday, June 30th and confirmed that the notice was posted and published in the legal organ.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman confirmed with Director Smith that the last day to request an absentee ballot for the runoff was July 7th.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter to approve the early voting locations, dates, and times for the Special Primary Public Service Commissioner Runoff for dates July 7th through July 11th. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A.) Date for Pre-Certification Meeting || July Special Election Runoff

Vice-Chair Abhiraman stated that this meeting involved the schedules of Board members who had not yet been seated. Discussion followed surrounding availability as well as if this item should be moved to an item for decision.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter to schedule the pre-certification meeting for the Special Primary Runoff Election for Friday, July 18, 2025 at 10 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

B.) DeKalb County Board of Registration & Elections Bylaws

Vice-Chair Abhiraman stated that this was a discussion about the bylaws and a proposed addition. He further stated that there would be a new Board next month so this item would remain a discussion item.

Mr. Lewis stated that he recommended standardizing the application process for the appointment of the at-large Board member position. He further stated that he proposed an addition to the BRE bylaws, which would require the Board to establish communications with the Chief Judge to know the dates and requirements for applications by residents who would like to serve on the Board in the at-large position. He went on to read the proposed amendment.

Ms. Motter asked the attorneys to review the bylaws and proposed modifications to identify if they are consistent with the enabling legislation.

Mr. Lewis stated that the intent of the proposed amendment was increased communication and to form a relationship with the Chief Judge.

Ms. Motter reiterated that she wanted the county attorneys to bless the form of the bylaws and to confirm what could and could not be done as a Board in terms of communication or assisting the process of selecting Board members.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman agreed to the sentiment of transparency but stated that it may be better served as an informal process rather than voting it into the bylaws.

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Abhiraman stated that Ms. Jester was not able to attend the meeting due to a personal emergency. He then read comments on her behalf stating that she was grateful for the opportunity to have been of service for the past 4 years and that she wished everyone the best and enjoyed working with everyone even when they disagreed.

Mr. Lewis thanked everyone who was involved with the election process. He thanked the staff and commented on how the staff had grown and said he was happy to see how engaged with the public the department had become. He stated that he was happy to see the relationship with the Board of Commissioners strengthened and was grateful for the funding they provided to grow the department. He thanked all of the county partners with special thanks to DCTV, the legal staff, security staff, and warehouse staff. He commented on how much public engagement has grown and how it has brought about positive change. Lastly, Mr. Lewis stated that he was very proud and happy to have been able to serve his County in this way and was grateful to everyone for being part of it.

Ms. Motter stated that she had served on the Board for 6 years and was very thankful to the DeKalb community for offering her the opportunity to serve in this capacity. She said she was most proud of the increase in transparency and noted that the budget and materials had previously not been available to the

public. She said she agreed with Mr. Lewis in being proud of the growth of the department as well as increased pay and the improvements to training efforts. She said she was proud of the department's reaction to her many requests to review ADA issues, particularly at schools. Ms. Motter further stated that she was proud of the work that had been done on language translation to make sure certain communities within the County had access to translated materials so that they, as American citizens, could exercise their right to vote and participate in democracies. She thanked the staff and the poll workers and asked the future Board members to help educate the public by asking questions because there is a lot of disinformation, misinformation, and gaps in voter knowledge and it is up to the Board to fill the gap. Lastly, she stated that she was thankful to the Board members and that they really appreciated one another.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman said that it was a pleasure serving with Ms. Motter and Mr. Lewis for the last 2 years and that he had learned from them both as well as Ms. Jester. He proceeded to stand and give the outgoing Board members a personal standing ovation. The public and the staff joined him in applauding the transitioning members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

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.

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.

DeKalb County Voter Registration & Elections

Board of Registration and Elections
July 15, 2025

*Keisha L. Smith, MPA
VRE Executive Director*

Key Priorities



Our key priorities center on enhancing the voter experience for all eligible voters in DeKalb County. We will work to ensure the integrity of our elections, improve operational efficiencies, enhance staff training for full-time and seasonal employees and integrate technology and innovation to better our processes and upgrade our voter experience.



Voter
Experience



Elections
Integrity



Technology &
Innovation



Staff
Training

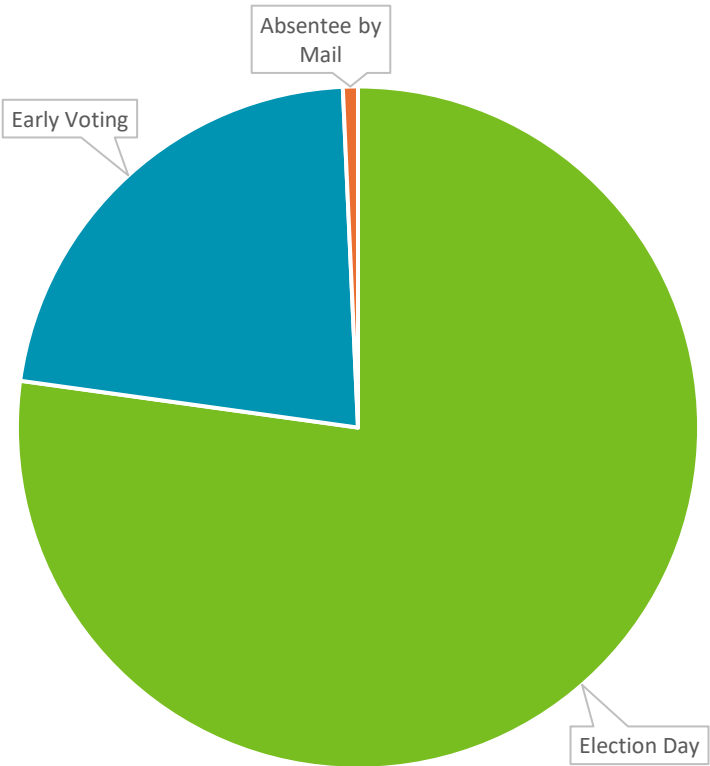


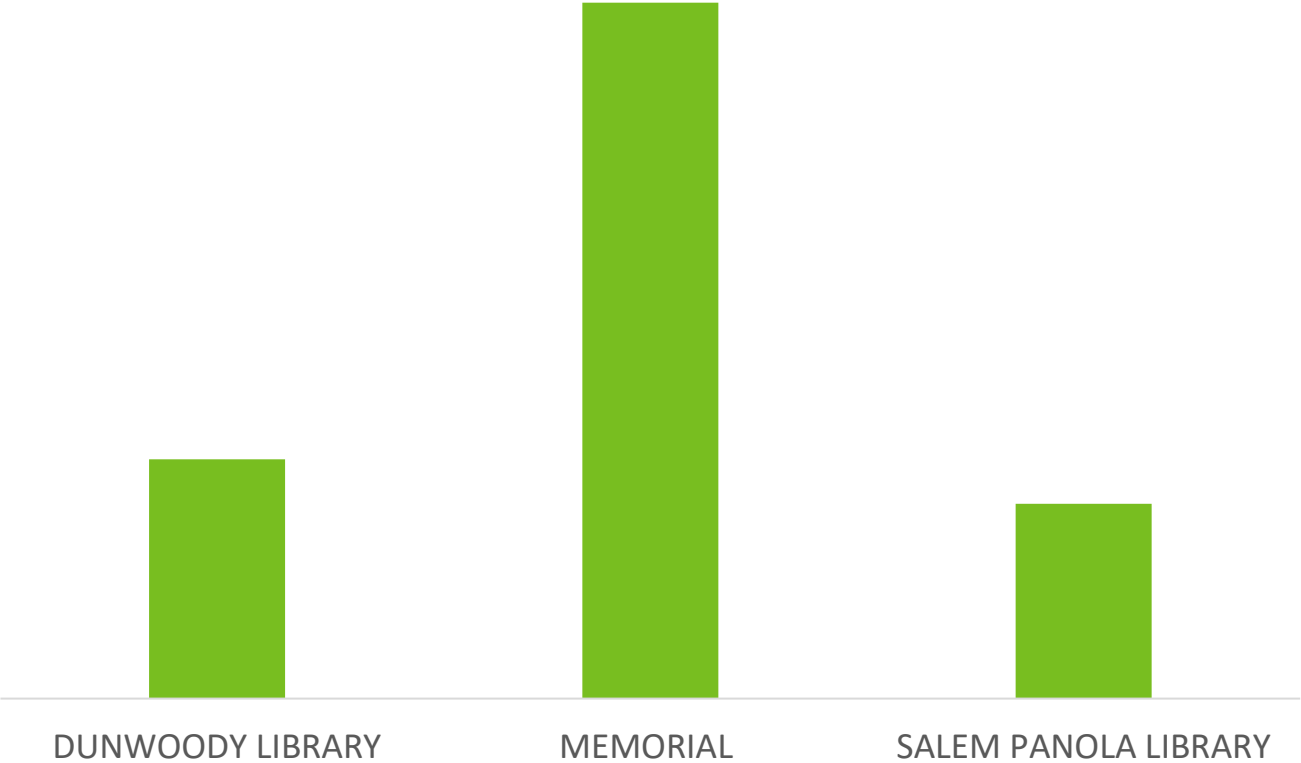
Operational
Efficiency

Post-Election Report

July 15, 2025 Special Primary Public Service Commissioner
Election Runoff

Registered Voters	508,223	(Active)
Ballots Cast	24,210	
Overall Turnout	4.76%	
Election Day	18,679	77.15%
Early Voting	5,347	22.09%
Absentee by Mail	172	0.71%
Provisional	12	0.05%
Total	24,210	100.00%





Memorial was the most popular early voting location, accounting for 62% of votes.

Ballots Accepted	172
Domestic	172
Overseas	0
Rejected/Spoiled	1
Total Received	173

Provisional Absentee Ballots

Missing ID	3
Incorrect ID	0
Missing Signature	0
Electronic Signature	0
Total	3

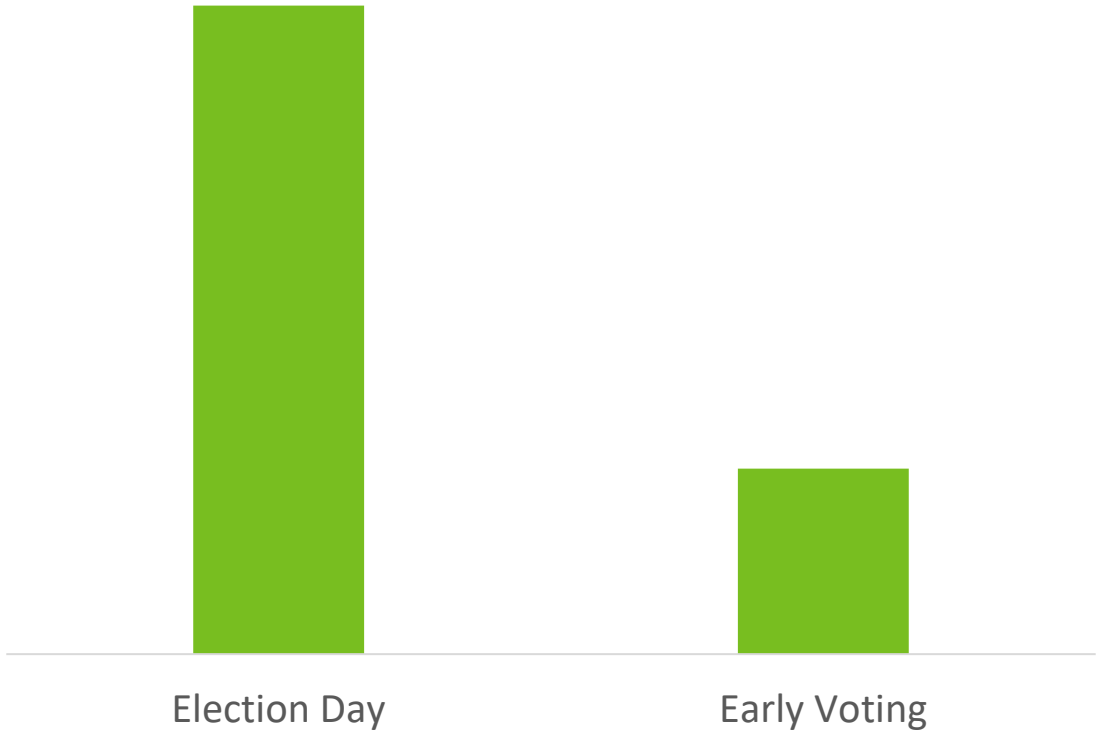
Cured Provisional 3

Rejected Absentee Ballots

Missing ID	0
Incorrect ID	1
Missing Signature	0
Total	1

Cured Rejected 0

Election Day turnout was more
than triple early voting



Precincts	191
Polling Places	147
Poll Workers	1,089
Equipment Tested & Deployed	
Poll Pads	294
Touchscreens	759
Scanners	147

	Accepted	Rejected	Total
Out of Precinct	12	3	15
Registration in Question	0	1	1
Total	12	4	16

A huge thank you to our county partners who worked alongside us to facilitate another successful election!



Election Summary Report

Closed Primary

DeKalb

July 15, 2025

Summary for: All Contests, All Districts, All Tabulators, All Counting Groups
Unofficial and Incomplete

Elector Group	Counting Group	Ballots	Voters	Registered Voters	Turnout
Total	Election Day	18,679	18,679	508,223	3.68%
	Advance Voting	5,347	5,347		1.05%
	Absentee by Mail	172	172		0.03%
	Provisional	12	12		0.00%
	Total	24,210	24,210		4.76%

Precincts Reported: 191 of 191 (100.00%)
Registered Voters: 24,210 of 508,223 (4.76%)
Ballots Cast: 24,210

PSC - District 3 - Dem (Vote for 1)
DEM

Precincts Reported: 191 of 191 (100.00%)

		Election Day	Advance Voti	Absentee by	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast		18,679	5,347	172	12	24,210 / 508,223	4.76%

Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Peter Hubbard		12,972	3,655	100	6	16,733	69.15%
Keisha Sean Waites		5,697	1,691	72	6	7,466	30.85%
Total Votes		18,669	5,346	172	12	24,199	

		Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
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