



BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SCHEDULED MEETING

January 8, 2026

4:30 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. Amendment to November 10, 2025 Approved Minutes (p. 2)
 - B. December 5, 2025 Special Called Meeting (p. 6)
 - C. December 8, 2025 Scheduled Meeting (p. 8)
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - A. Director's Report (p. 11)
- 6. ITEMS FOR DECISION**
 - A. Early Voting Sites for Potential Special Election (p. 16)
- 7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- 8. BOARD COMMENTS**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2025

Start Time: 12:12 p.m.

End Time: 1:30 p.m.

Board Attendees: Karli Swift, Chair
Vasu Abhiraman, Vice-Chair
Travis Bowden
Gail Lee
Dele Lowman

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Michael Petty, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Clark Candler, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tristen Waite, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Swift convened the Board of Registration and Elections meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Ms. Austin conducted the roll call, confirming the presence of each Board member by name and establishing that a quorum was present.

Ms. Lee moved to amend the agenda to include an item titled SB 189 Compliance – Registration at Nonresidential Address. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowden and duly approved.

Subsequently, Ms. Lee moved to approve the amended agenda, with a second by Ms. Lowman. The motion was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 9 and November 7 meetings was made by Mr. Bowden seconded by Ms. Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy Shackelford
Janet Grant
Marla Tepper
Cheryl Dudley

Michael Beach
Katherine Gauntt
Bethann Frillman

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Post-Election Report

Director Smith presented a comprehensive overview, accompanied by a video highlighting the extensive preparations undertaken for Election Day. The presentation illustrated the coordinated efforts across the Voter Registration and Elections team, including staff working both at the warehouse and at polling locations. Director Smith commended the Board, staff, and poll workers and other partners for their dedication and contributions to a successful election. Director Smith went on to provide a general summary of voter participation and activity, noting that turnout for this election significantly exceeded that of previous municipal elections.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

A) Certification of the Municipal General/Special Election- Public Service Commissioner

Director Smith presented a summary of the unofficial and incomplete results of the November 4, 2025, Election for the Board's review and approval. Ms. Lee inquired whether there had been any changes to the reported outcomes, and Director Smith confirmed that there were no changes to the results or the declared winners.

A motion to certify the results of the November 4, 2025, Election was made by Ms. Lowman and seconded by Mr. Bowden. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Bowden moved to recess the meeting at 12:44 p.m., with a second by Ms. Lowman. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 12:57 p.m., Mr. Bowden moved to resume proceedings, with a second by Ms. Lowman. The motion was approved unanimously.

B) Remaining Election-Related Matters

1. SB 189 Compliance (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-217(a)(2)(C)): Ms. Lee stated that proof of ownership of a post office box is not sufficient to establish a valid residential address for voter registration purposes. Director Smith clarified that while recent legislation introduced new language, the underlying process for new registration applications remains unchanged. For electors who are already on the voter roll with nonresidential residence addresses, she explained that letters are sent requesting they cure their addresses within forty days. Those who do not respond or change their address go into the state list maintenance process which can lead to them becoming inactive and ultimately cancelled. Ms. Lee introduced the possibility of achieving compliance with the

law via a board hearing under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-228. Dialogue ensued regarding the matter.

2. Request for Recount: Director Smith reported that a recount had been requested in the City of Decatur, District 1, Post A race, as the margin of difference fell within the statutory threshold of one-half of one percent. Mr. Abhiraman inquired whether the recount request was submitted in full compliance with legal requirements and consistent with the recently certified results. The County Attorney confirmed that the request met all applicable legal standards. Mr. Abhiraman moved to approve the recount request, with a second by Mr. Bowden. The motion was passed unanimously.
3. Potential Runoff : Director Smith provided an update on the upcoming runoff elections and outlined the necessary preparations. Chair Swift inquired whether absentee voting could be conducted on the day after Thanksgiving. Director Smith explained that this would not be permitted and recommended offering early voting on the Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving instead. Ms. Lowman asked whether the Stonecrest Library could be used as an early voting location. Director Smith responded that no agreement was in place with the library for the current election cycle but noted that outreach could be initiated. Director Smith explained that the process is governed by the provisions of each city's charter. Chair Swift concluded by asking whether the Stonecrest Library could be considered as an additional voting location for future elections.

A motion to adopt the proposed recommendations, potentially including the Stonecrest Library as an early voting location, was made by Mr. Abhiraman and seconded by Ms. Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Abhiraman then moved to add an additional item to the agenda, with a second by Ms. Lee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Subsequently, Mr. Abhiraman moved to schedule a Special Called Meeting of the Board of Registration and Elections for November 17 at 4:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lowman and approved unanimously.

Director Smith noted that four early voting locations had been recommended for the upcoming runoff election.

C) Challenges Brought by Robert L. Ashe, III

A motion to defer the decision of challenges was made by Mr. Abhiraman to Nov 17th meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bowden. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session called.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Bowden expressed his appreciation to all participants for their professionalism throughout the election process.

Ms. Lowman also extended her thanks to everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Ms. Lee thanked a member of the public for her assistance and clarified a previous statement, explaining that she had misspoken regarding instructions related to ballot reconciliation. She noted that she had never seen those instructions in writing and expressed appreciation for the clarification provided.

Mr. Abhiraman extended his gratitude to all poll workers and commended the public for their thoughtful comments, noting that hearing from voters who participate regularly helps inform ongoing improvements to election administration. He also remarked on the distinct nature of the paper ballot and provisional ballot systems.

Chair Swift concluded by thanking everyone for their efforts and expressing appreciation for the continued collaboration and commitment demonstrated by the Board and staff.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:30 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bowden. Seconded by Ms. Lowman. The motion passed unanimously.

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2025

Start Time: 12:04 p.m.

End Time: 12:32 p.m.

Board Attendees: Vasu Abhiraman
Travis Bowden
Gail Lee
Dele Lowman

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Michael Petty, Senior Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Petty called the Board meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. He announced that Chair Karli Swift was absent and that Vice-Chair Vasu Abhiraman was attending virtually. Due to the Chair's absence, nomination and approval of an Acting Chair were required.

Ms. Austin conducted the roll call and confirmed that Mr. Abhiraman, Mr. Bowden, Ms. Lee, and Ms. Lowman were present. Chair Swift was absent. A quorum was established.

Mr. Petty requested a motion to appoint an Acting Chair. Mr. Bowden moved to appoint Ms. Lowman as Acting Chair for the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Lee. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bowden then moved to approve the meeting agenda, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Lee. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy Shackelford

ITEMS FOR DECISION

A) Director's Report

Director Smith stated that the pre-certification meeting was held for a limited purpose and conducted in accordance with Georgia state law. She presented the pre-certification report for the December 2, 2025, Municipal General Election Runoff and explained the tabulation process, including how election data and materials were prepared. Director Smith also presented the unofficial and incomplete election summary report.

The report showed no differences between ballots cast and unique voter registration numbers credited with the exception of one voter whose credit could not be removed due to privacy rules. Acting Chair Lowman asked whether this rare occurrence required any changes to established procedures. Director Smith responded that no procedural changes were necessary and confirmed that staff followed all protocols prescribed by the Georgia Secretary of State's Office.

Ms. Lee asked what would occur in a runoff election if neither candidate received any votes. Director Smith explained that the City of Atlanta's District 7 is split between Fulton and DeKalb Counties, with only four voters in DeKalb County. None of the DeKalb voters participated in this election. She further explained that the combined Fulton and DeKalb County results would be tabulated in accordance with standard procedures.

Ms. Lee stated that the explanation was satisfactory.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Lee expressed her appreciation to the poll workers and VRE staff for their service during the holiday period.

Mr. Bowden also expressed his appreciation to staff and all those in attendance.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman expressed his thanks to staff as well.

Acting Chair Lowman thanked all participants for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:32 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bowden and seconded by Ms. Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2025

Start Time: 12:04 p.m.

End Time: 12:32 p.m.

Board Attendees: Vasu Abhiraman, Vice-Chair
Travis Bowden
Gail Lee
Dele Lowman

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Michael Petty, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tristen Waite, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Abhiraman called the Board of Registration and Elections meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Ms. Austin conducted the roll call and confirmed the presence of each board member by name. A quorum was established.

Ms. Lowman made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowden.

Ms. Lee moved to amend the agenda to add an item for decision regarding the establishment of a hearing date under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-228 for post office and mail service addresses that are currently listed on the voter roll. Mr. Bowden seconded the motion.

Ms. Lowman requested legal guidance regarding the authority of the Board to set a hearing date prior to a vote.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman called for a vote on the amendment. Mr. Bowden and Ms. Lee voted in favor. Vice-Chair Abhiraman and Ms. Lowman voted against. The motion failed.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman then called for a vote on approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Mr. Bowden moved to approve the November 10th, 2025 and November 17th, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Ms. Lowman seconded.

Ms. Lee moved to amend the November 10th, 2025 Board meeting minutes and correct a scrivener's error in the November 17th, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Bowden accepted the amendment to his motion.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman called for a vote on the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy Shackelford
Janet Grant
Liz Throop

ITEMS FOR DECISION

A) Certification of the Municipal General Election Runoff

Director Smith provided a post-election report summary. 38,519 electors were eligible to vote in the runoff. 2,941 ballots were cast, for an overall turnout of 7.64%. Bessie Branham Recreation Center was the most popular Early Voting location. Director Smith also provided a breakdown of absentee ballots, Election Day turnout, staffing, equipment, and provisional ballots.

Director Smith provided an overview of the unofficial and incomplete election summary report and presented it to the board for their consideration, review, and approval.

Ms. Lee moved to certify the results of the election. Mr. Bowden seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lee moved to recess the meeting to sign the certification paperwork. Mr. Bowden seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The board recessed at 12:25 p.m.

Mr. Bowden moved to return to regular order. Ms. Lee seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting resumed at 12:27 p.m.

B) 2026 BRE Meeting Calendar

Director Smith presented an overview of the 2026 meeting schedule for the Board of Registration and Elections. Regularly scheduled meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month, with the exception of meetings held following an election.

Ms. Lowman asked if pre-certification meetings would be scheduled at the time of each election. Director Smith confirmed that this was the usual procedure.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman expressed hope that pre-certification meetings will be discontinued at a point in the future.

Mr. Bowden moved to adopt the schedule and Ms. Lowman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No session called.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Lowman expressed appreciation to members of the public who attend Board of Registration and Elections meetings and acknowledged their service and contributions.

Mr. Bowden echoed his appreciation to members of the public for attending and thanked staff for their hard work.

Ms. Lee stated her disappointment that the Board did not hear the resolution and noted that the Board is responsible for maintaining compliance with the law.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman thanked all attendees and staff for their participation and hard work and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:32 p.m., Mr. Bowden made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lowman and passed unanimously.

Director's Report

January 8, 2026

Keisha L. Smith, MPA
Executive Director
Voter Registration and Elections (VRE)

Topic 1: General Operations Updates

- ❖ Registration Updates
 - Total number of Registered Voters as of January 5th: **564,849**
 - Total number of Active Registered Voters: 485,050
 - Total number of Inactive Registered Voters: 79,799
 - Total applications left to be processed as of January 5th: **23,088**
 - DDS: 21,301
 - OLVR: 0
 - MVP: 0
 - Handwritten: 1,787
 - Manual Voter Registration Cancellations for 2025: **4,089**
 - Monthly (November – December): 796
- ❖ Election Activities

Notes:

Topic 2: Administrative/Finance Updates

- ❖ Personnel
- ❖ Budget Activities

Notes:

Topic 3: Stakeholder Engagement Updates

- ❖ Key Stakeholder Meetings
- ❖ General Communications

Notes:

**Office of the Secretary of State
Elections Division**



2026 ELECTION CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

The purpose of this calendar is to provide information on deadlines for election activities. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-14, when the last day for the exercise of any privilege or discharge of any duty falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the next succeeding business day shall be the last day to exercise such duty.

Click the link to access [O.C.G.A. TITLE 21 – ELECTION CODE](#)

QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CYCLE	March 2, 2026 – March 6, 2026
---	--------------------------------------

ELECTION	ELECTION DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE *FEDERAL CONTEST REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Special Election	03/17/2026	02/17/2026
Special Election Runoff	04/14/2026	02/17/2026
General Primary Election/Nonpartisan Election	05/19/2026	04/20/2026
General Primary Election/Nonpartisan Runoff	06/16/2026	04/20/2026 *05/18/2026
General Election/Special Election	11/03/2026	10/05/2026
General Election/Special Election Runoff	12/01/2026	10/05/2026 *11/02/2026

January - December 2025

Row Labels	OBJECT CODE Description	Sum of Total Budget	Sum of Commitments	Sum of Obligations	Sum of Expenditures	Sum of Funds
						Available Amount
511101	511101-SALARIES	2,426,152.00	0.00	0.00	1,938,248.87	487,903.13
511102	511102-SALARIES - PART TIME	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
511199	511199-SALARIES - ADJUSTMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
511200	511200-SALARIES - TEMPORARY	4,002,552.00	0.00	0.00	2,038,471.38	1,964,080.62
511300	511300-SALARIES - OVERTIME	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	96,864.16	103,135.84
512100	512100-COUNTY MATCH - GROUP INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	281,047.35	(281,047.35)
512101	512101-COUNTY MATCH - GRP INS - REVERSAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	(255,888.00)	255,888.00
512102	512102-COUNTY MATCH - GRP INS - ALLOCATED	468,000.00	0.00	0.00	429,000.00	39,000.00
512200	512200-COUNTY MATCH - FICA	181,217.00	0.00	0.00	236,797.36	(55,580.36)
512400	512400-COUNTY MATCH - PENSION	0.00	0.00	0.00	39,286.42	(39,286.42)
512402	512402-401(a) EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION	71,164.00	0.00	0.00	50,916.46	20,247.54
512700	512700-WORKERS COMPENSATION	51,871.00	0.00	0.00	47,549.00	4,322.00
512904	512904-ALLOWANCE - AUTOMOBILE	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	6,000.00
521101	521101-BOARD MEMBER SERVICES	12,000.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	0.00
521104	521104-TEMPORARY PERSONNEL SERVICES	1,600,000.00	0.00	137,692.74	208,262.22	1,254,045.04
521105	521105-SECURITY SERVICES	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
521209	521209-OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,750,000.00	(100.00)	481,706.94	749,463.79	518,929.27
522201	522201-MAINTENANCE & REPAIR SERVICES	125,000.00	0.00	26,880.02	64,863.07	33,256.91
522311	522311-RENTAL OF REAL ESTATE	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
522321	522321-RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	34,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34,000.00
522322	522322-LEASE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT	26,000.00	0.00	469.58	7,143.30	18,387.12
522329	522329-OTHER RENTALS	116,950.00	0.00	14,168.02	50,882.30	51,899.68
523001	523001-OTHER SERVICES - NON PROFESSIONAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
523201	523201-POSTAGE	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	89,304.03	10,695.97
523202	523202-POSTAGE - CENTRAL SERVICES	27,552.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,552.00
523203	523203-TELEPHONE SERVICE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
523204	523204-TELEPHONE - LONG DISTANCE	600.00	0.00	0.00	102.11	497.89
523206	523206-INTERNET SERVICES	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	491.40	4,508.60
523207	523207-TELEPHONE - WIRELESS	303,455.79	0.00	0.00	165,866.12	137,589.67
523301	523301-ADVERTISING SERVICES	205,000.00	0.00	421.00	6,635.12	197,943.88
523401	523401-PRINTING SERVICES	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	24,991.75	20,008.25

Row Labels	OBJECT CODE Description	Sum of Funds				
		Sum of Total Budget	Sum of Commitments	Sum of Obligations	Sum of Expenditures	Available Amount
523501	523501-MILEAGE - PERSONAL VEHICLE	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	4,324.44	(1,824.44)
523504	523504-TRAVEL - ACCOMMODATIONS / HOTEL	23,300.00	0.00	0.00	8,386.94	14,913.06
523505	523505-TRAVEL - PER DIEM	12,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,786.00	9,214.00
523601	523601-DUES	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
523701	523701-TRAINING & CONFERENCE FEES - EXTERNAL	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	18,562.54	31,437.46
523702	523702-TRAINING & CONFERENCE FEES - INTERNAL	4,552.00	0.00	0.00	1,225.00	3,327.00
523906	523906-ELECTION EXPENSES	1,239,644.21	(0.00)	95,436.18	830,772.53	313,435.50
531101	531101-OPERATING SUPPLIES	817,400.00	0.00	241,540.06	534,432.43	41,427.51
531199	531199-FREIGHT	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	130.47	869.53
542201	542201-COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	94,500.00	0.00	0.00	95,141.00	(641.00)
542202	542202-COMPUTER SOFTWARE and TECHNOLOGY	56,500.00	0.00	0.00	9,841.67	46,658.33
542309	542309-OTHER EQUIPMENT > \$5,000	26,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,000.00
551104	551104-VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CHARGE	4,133.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,133.00
551105	551105-VEHICLE REPLACEMENT CHARGE	3,048.00	0.00	0.00	2,794.00	254.00
551107	551107-VEHICLE INSURANCE CHARGE	500.00	0.00	0.00	459.00	41.00
551141	551141-VEHICLE MAINT - FUEL	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,375.76	(4,375.76)
551142	551142-VEHICLE MAINT - PREV MAINT	0.00	0.00	0.00	708.77	(708.77)
551143	551143-VEHICLE MAINT - REPAIRS	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,488.52	(5,488.52)
551144	551144-VEHICLE MAINT - OVERHEAD	2,095.00	0.00	0.00	1,921.00	174.00
573099	573099-OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
707009	707009-COUNTY PENSION ALLOCATION	264,636.00	0.00	0.00	242,583.00	22,053.00
Grand Total		14,603,522.00	(100.00)	998,314.54	8,050,231.28	5,555,076.18

QUALIFYING FEES FOR COUNTY OFFICES

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners set the following qualifying fees at their January 13, 2026 meeting for the following offices to be elected by DeKalb County voters in 2026.

Office	Fee
Board of Commissioners	\$2,101.28
Judge, State Court	\$5,912.74
Board of Education	\$750.00

Qualifying for the offices listed above will begin on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon on Friday, March 6, 2026 at 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300, Decatur, GA 30032. The General Primary will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

This 1st day of February 2026

For the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners

Keisha L. Smith
Executive Director
DeKalb County Voter Registration and Elections

PUBLISH: 2/1/26



Early Voting Locations

The following Early Voting times and locations are proposed if a Special Election is called for March 17, 2026:

Locations

Voter Registration and Elections Office

4380 Memorial Dr, Ste 500
Decatur, GA 30032

New Bethel A.M.E. Church

8350 Rockbridge Rd
Lithonia, GA 30058

Redan-Trotti Library

1569 Wellborn Rd
Lithonia, GA 30058

Times

Weekdays: Monday, February 23 – Friday, March 13, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturdays: February 28 and March 7, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sundays: March 1 and March 8, noon-5 p.m.