



# BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SCHEDULED MEETING

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December 8, 2025

12:00 PM

Memorial Drive Auditorium

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

**1. ROLL CALL**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. November 10, 2025 Scheduled Meeting (p. 2)
- B. November 17, 2025 Special Called Meeting (p. 6)

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**5. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- A. Certification of the Municipal General Election Runoff (p. 9)
- B. 2026 BRE Meeting Calendar (p. 23)

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**7. BOARD COMMENTS**

**8. 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 217 2(a)(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 remains unchanged. 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

November 17, 2025

Start Time: 4:40 p.m.

End Time: 6:52 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 called the Special Called meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Dr. Harris conducted the roll call, confirming the presence of each board member by name. A quorum was established.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Harris 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](mailto: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:

- Cheryl Dudley
- Bill Henderson
- Betsy Shakelford
- Bethann Frillman
- Terrance Parker
- Konrad Hayashi
- Kendra Biegalski
- Michael Beach
- Karen McCallan

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Swift requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Bowden made the motion and Mr. Abhiraman seconded. It was approved.

### **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

#### **A) Recount Certification of Decatur City Commissioner 1 Post A**

Director Smith reported the recount results of the Decatur City Commissioner 1, Post A race. She stated that the recount resulted in one (1) change for the winning candidate and explained there was one Out of Precinct provisional ballot which the original duplication panel had declared to contain a blank vote for Decatur City Commissioner District 1, Post A. The decision of the recount duplication panel was that it contained a vote for Mark Arnold.

Ms. Lee moved to certify the recount. Mr. Bowden seconded. The motion passed.

Ms. Bowden moved to recess so Board members could sign certification paperwork. Ms. Lowman seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Bowden moved to reconvene. Ms. Lowman seconded. The motion carried.

#### **B) Voter Challenges Submitted by Robert L. Ashe III on September 29, 2025**

Chair Swift began by providing instructions on the hearing process and offered the floor to the attorney for Mr. Robert L. Ashe III, Mr. Austin Hollimon.

Mr. Hollimon provided a packet of information to the Board which is in evidence and presented on the challenges submitted by the Bondurant firm.

Mr. Terrance Parker offered testimony to address the challenge against Margaret Parker.

After the presentations, the Board deliberated on the evidence.

Mr. Abhiraman moved to dismiss the voter challenges against Christopher Mann and Elissa Falconer on the grounds that those challenges were moot. Mr. Bowden seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ms. Lowman moved to dismiss the voter challenge against Ms. Margaret Parker on the grounds that the challenge was moot. Mr. Abhiraman seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ms. Lowman made a motion to dismiss the voter challenges against Mr. Jose Montanez, Mr. Mark Toups, and Mr. Ronald Van Leaks. Ms. Lee seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Board Comments**

Mr. Abhiraman admonished Georgians to be careful as to not provide an agency inaccurate information regarding residency and more specifically to confirm their selections when visiting the Department of Driver Services. He went on to state his belief that everyone could work together in a nonpartisan and bipartisan effort to ensure Georgians are aware.

Chair Swift clarified that the Stonecrest Library had been added as an early voting and would be open beginning Sunday, November 23.

Mr. Bowden stated that he appreciated everyone who came out and wished everyone who observes Thanksgiving a Happy Thanksgiving. He thanked Mr. Hollimon and everyone for their comments.

Ms. Lee stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Hollimon and Mr. Parker for coming and that she sympathized with them.

Ms. Lowman stated that she wanted to thank the department for adding another early voting location to serve District 5 and that Stonecrest would take advantage of that. She stated that comments had been made suggesting that certain individuals were registered illegally and that those comments were inaccurate and unfairly impugned the character of those individuals. She stated that it was likely an administrative matter and that such language was inappropriate.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:52 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bowden. Seconded by Ms. Lowman. The motion passed unanimously.



# DeKalb County Voter Registration & Elections

Board of Registration and Elections  
December 8, 2025

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*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



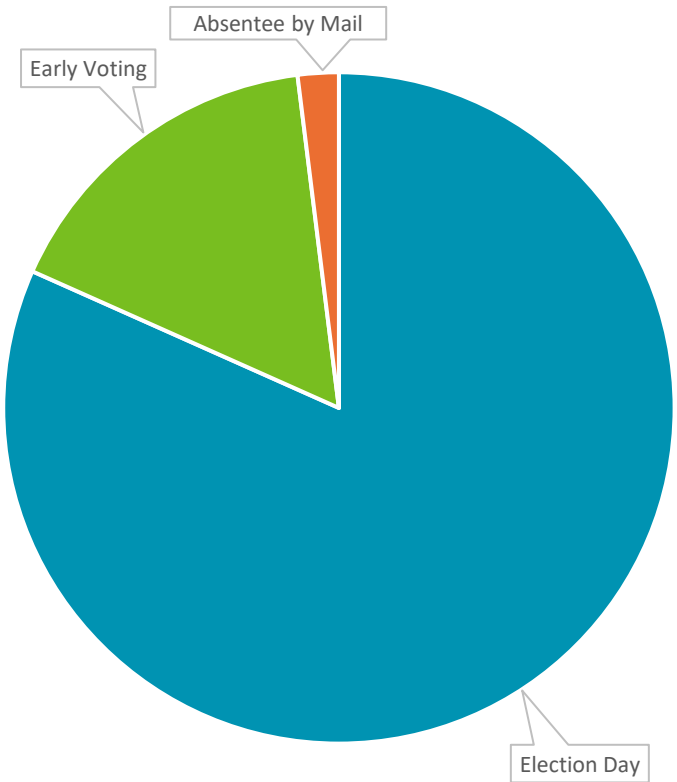
Operational  
Efficiency

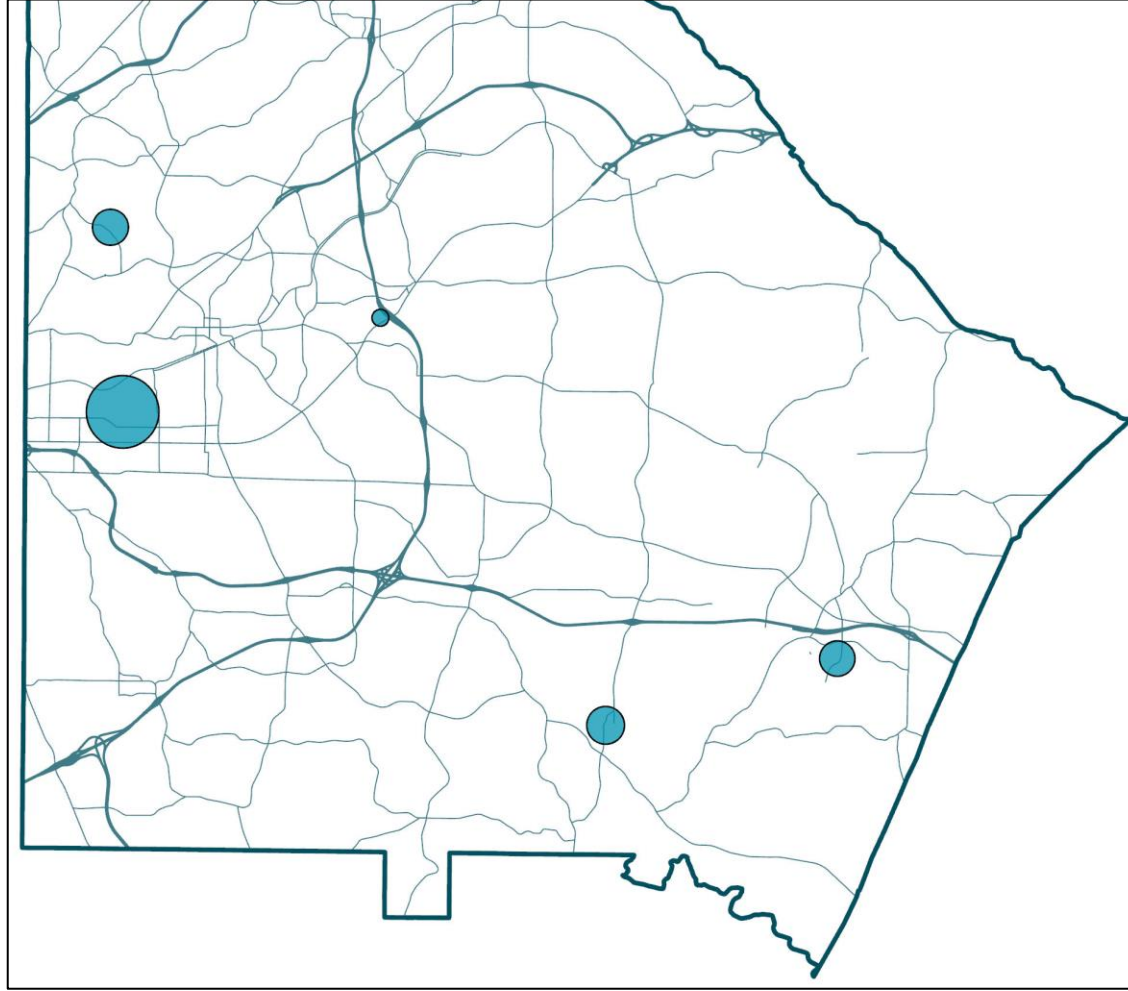
# Post-Election Report

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December 2, 2025 Municipal General Election Runoff

Registered Voters	38,519	(Active)
Ballots Cast	2,941	
Overall Turnout	7.64%	
Election Day	2,402	81.67%
Early Voting	481	16.35%
Absentee by Mail	58	1.97%
Provisional	0	0.00%
<hr/>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,941</b>	<b>100.00%</b>





Bessie Branham  
Recreation Center  
was the most  
popular Early  
Voting location.

<b>Ballots Accepted</b>	<b>59</b>
Domestic	59
Overseas	0
<b>Rejected/Spoiled</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>62</b>

## Provisional Absentee Ballots

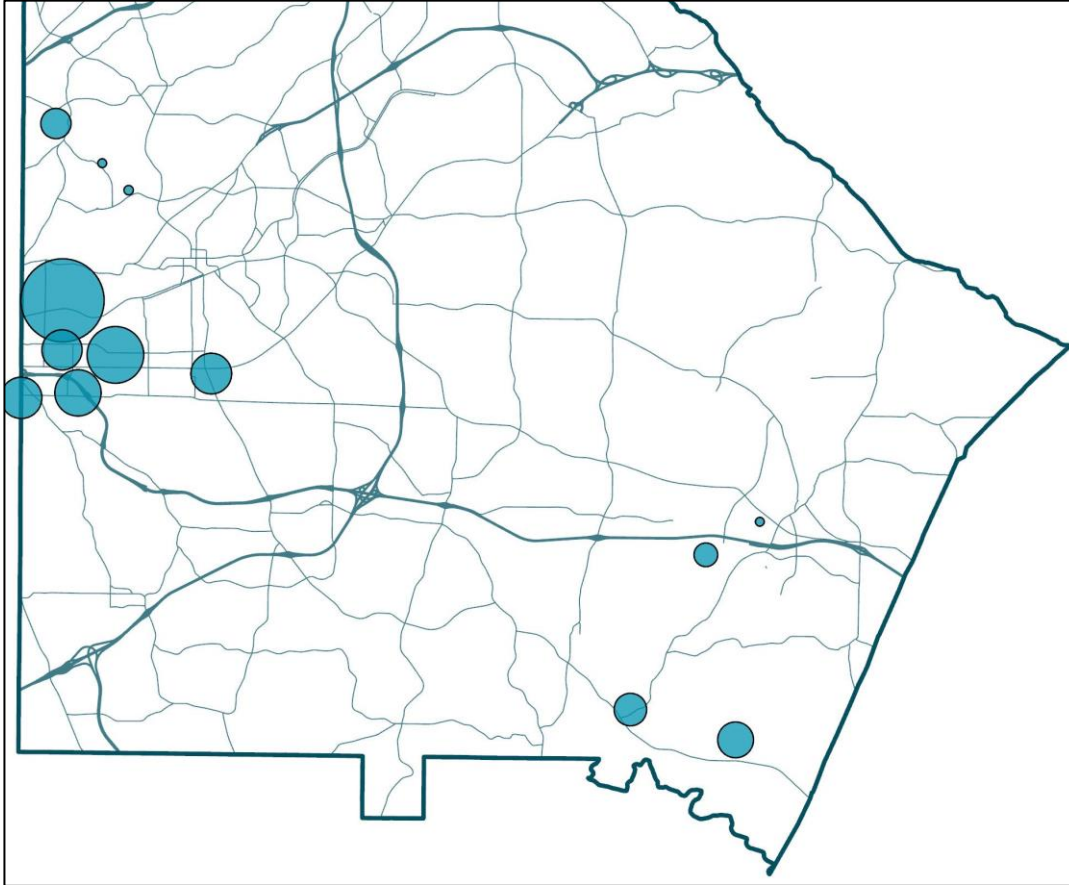
Electronic Signature	0
Missing Signature	2
Incorrect DOB	0
Missing DOB	1
Incorrect ID	0
Missing ID	0
Total	3

Cured Provisional	2
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## Rejected Absentee Ballots

Missing Signature	1
Incorrect ID	1
Missing ID	1
Total	3

Cured Rejected	0
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Turnout was not high in general, but 778 voted at Neighborhood Church, which would be well above the county average even in a Presidential election.



<b>Precincts</b>	20
<b>Polling Places</b>	13
<b>Poll Workers</b>	102
<b>Equipment Tested &amp; Deployed</b>	
Poll Pads	52
Touchscreens	169
Scanners	18

	Accepted	Rejected	Total
Out of Precinct	0	1	1
Registration in Question	0	0	0
Missing ID	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1

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



# Election Summary Report

General Election

DeKalb

December 02, 2025

Summary for: All Contests, 030 Atlanta, Stonecrest Ward 5, All Tabulators, All Counting Groups

Unofficial and Incomplete

Elector Group	Counting Group	Ballots	Voters	Registered Voters	Turnout
Total	Election Day	2,402	2,402	38,519	6.24%
	Advance Voting	481	481		1.25%
	Absentee by Mail	58	58		0.15%
	Provisional	0	0		0.00%
	Total	2,941	2,941		7.64%

Precincts Reported: 20 of 20 (100.00%)  
Registered Voters: 2,941 of 38,519 (7.64%)  
Ballots Cast: 2,941

## Atlanta City Council Member District 7 (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 2 of 2 (100.00%)

		Election Day	Advance Voti	Absentee by	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast		0	0	0	0	0 / 4	0.00%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Thad Flowers		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Thomas Worthy		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Total Votes		0	0	0	0	0	
		Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	

## Atlanta Board of Education Member District 8 At Large (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 16 of 16 (100.00%)

		Election Day	Advance Voti	Absentee by	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast		2,066	347	51	0	2,464 / 29,752	8.28%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Kaycee Brock		706	124	26	0	856	34.74%
Royce Mann		1,360	223	25	0	1,608	65.26%
Total Votes		2,066	347	51	0	2,464	
		Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	

Stonecrest City Councilmember District Post 5 (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 4 of 4 (100.00%)

		Election Day	Advance Voti	Absentee by	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast		336	134	7	0	477 / 8,767	5.44%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Tammy L. Grimes (I)		160	70	3	0	233	48.85%
Karmesha Washington Smith		176	64	4	0	244	51.15%
Total Votes		336	134	7	0	477	
		Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	

## BOARD OF REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 PM  
(Subject to change in months with scheduled elections.)

Thursday, January 8	Scheduled Meeting - 4:30 PM
Thursday, February 12	Scheduled Meeting - 4:30 PM
Thursday, March 12	Scheduled Meeting - 4:30 PM
Thursday, April 9	Scheduled Meeting - 4:30 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 26**</b>	<b>Scheduled Meeting - 12:00 PM</b>
<b>Monday, June 22**</b>	<b>Scheduled Meeting - 12:00 PM</b>
Thursday, July 9	Scheduled Meeting - 4:30 PM
Thursday, August 13	Scheduled Meeting - 4:30 PM
Thursday, September 10	Scheduled Meeting - 4:30 PM
Thursday, October 8	Scheduled Meeting - 4:30 PM
<b>Monday, November 9**</b>	<b>Scheduled Meeting - 12:00 PM</b>
<b>Monday, December 7**</b>	<b>Scheduled Meeting - 12:00 PM</b>

**\*\* Date Changed Due to Election and/or Holiday**

Meetings are streamed on DCTV's UStream channel: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/xUJgKs6n2VW>

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