



BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS SCHEDULED MEETING

March 16, 2026

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. February 12, 2026 Scheduled Meeting (p. 2)
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 5. ITEMS FOR DECISION**
 - A. Certification of the March 10 Special Election (p. 6)
 - B. Early Voting Times and Locations for the April 7 Special Election Runoff (p. 19)
- 6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - A. Legislative Update
- 7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- 8. BOARD COMMENTS**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026
Start Time: 4:46 PM
End Time: 6:03 PM

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

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Michael Petty, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Clark E. Candler, II, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Swift called the meeting of the Board of Registration and Elections to order at 4:46 p.m.

Ms. Austin conducted the roll call, confirming the presence of Board members by name. A quorum was established.

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

Mr. Bowden moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2026 regular scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lee and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Beach
Janet Grant
Betsy Shackelford
Cheryl Dudley
Kendra Biegalski
Stephanie Sansom (Online)
Carla Boudreau (Online)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Director's Report

Director Smith provided an update on total voter numbers, voting methods, and unique voter statistics as of February 16, 2026. She also reported on the successful conclusion of the Pension Board election and shared preparations for the upcoming March 10, 2026 Special Election. In addition, Director Smith announced an upcoming VRE workshop for individuals interested in running for office to better understand required paperwork.

Director Smith delivered an Administrative and Finance update, including an overview of the budgets from the past three fiscal years. She noted that the increased number of elections has driven higher election costs and presented the projected budget needs for FY 2026, inviting the Board to consider whether to request any additional funding.

Director Smith also provided a Stakeholder Engagement update.

Ms. Lee asked questions regarding the budget, including capital outlays and building-related costs. Director Smith clarified that the County is responsible for building maintenance. Ms. Lee also asked about the increase in retirement costs, and Director Smith explained this was due to increased staffing. Ms. Lee requested the updated budget when available, and Director Smith stated it would be provided at the March Board meeting. Ms. Lee further asked about a breakdown of voter statistics based on state legislative processes; Chair Swift indicated that the current breakdown was sufficient.

Mr. Bowden asked about a \$60,000 budget increase, and Director Smith explained it was for computer equipment and software.

Ms. Lowman stated her question regarding capital outlays had been addressed and expressed satisfaction with the level of detail in the report, noting she did not want staff to expend additional resources unnecessarily.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman indicated he had no further questions and congratulated Director Smith on the level of detail in the report.

Chair Swift asked whether there were any budget inconsistencies and inquired about the decrease in outreach expenses. Director Smith explained that certain professional services had been reclassified into a different category. Chair Swift commended the Director for preparing an accurate and detailed budget.

B) Legislative Update

Mr. Petty provided an update on legislative activity related to election-related bills. He noted that while numerous bills have been introduced, no formal action has occurred to date. The City Attorney then presented a bill-by-bill overview, outlining the purpose of each measure.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

A) Temporary Polling Place Changes for May and June 2026

Director Smith provided an overview of the proposed changes and the approximate distance adjustments for each location.

Ms. Lee asked whether notice would be sent to all affected individuals. Director Smith stated that, upon Board approval, signage would be printed and posted. Mr. Bowden and Ms. Lowman indicated they had no further questions. Vice-Chair Abhiraman asked how many changes would have occurred if there had been no runoffs, and Director Smith replied that none would have been necessary. Chair Swift asked whether the identified sites were the only locations available that met the required criteria, and Director Smith confirmed that they were.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman moved to approve the proposed changes, and Ms. Lowman seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

B) Early Voting Sites for the May 19th General Primary

Ms. Lee asked whether there were any additional locations in the New Bethel area and inquired about the concentration of sites near Bessie Branham Recreation Center. Director Smith explained that the clustering reflects the high number of registered voters in that area. Ms. Lowman added that walkability was also taken into consideration.

Ms. Lee moved to approve the early voting locations and times, and Mr. Bowden seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

C) Soil and Water Conservation Commission Election

Director Smith presented a form requesting Board authorization to enter into a memorandum of understanding related to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission Election. Board members had no questions.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman moved to grant Director Smith permission to sign the MOU, and Mr. Bowden seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Lowman thanked Director Smith and staff for their work supporting the Board and managing elections. She emphasized the importance of accurate public communication about how elections are administered and the roles of state and local election officials.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman expressed appreciation for staff and community efforts in preparing for the special election. He acknowledged the challenging environment surrounding election

administration and emphasized the importance of thoughtful policymaking and technical understanding.

Mr. Bowden thanked staff and attendees and encouraged continued public engagement in the election process. He also highlighted the importance of election security and voter confidence.

Ms. Lee thanked the Director and staff for their work identifying polling locations and acknowledged community members who raised concerns about voter access and safety.

Chair Swift expressed appreciation to staff, legal counsel, and attendees. She reflected on the importance of collaboration and thoughtful decision-making in supporting the administration of elections.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:03 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bowden. Seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman. The motion passed unanimously.



DeKalb County Voter Registration & Elections

Board of Registration and Elections
March 16, 2026

*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

A teal rectangular box containing a white icon of a hand pointing to a button labeled 'VOTE' and the text 'Voter Experience' to its right.

Elections Integrity

A teal rectangular box containing a white icon of a seal with a checkmark and the text 'Elections Integrity' to its right.

Technology & Innovation

A teal rectangular box containing a white icon of a globe with network nodes and the text 'Technology & Innovation' to its right.

Staff Training

A teal rectangular box containing a white icon of a lightbulb above three people and the text 'Staff Training' to its right.

Operational Efficiency

A teal rectangular box containing a white icon of a checkmark inside a square and the text 'Operational Efficiency' to its right.

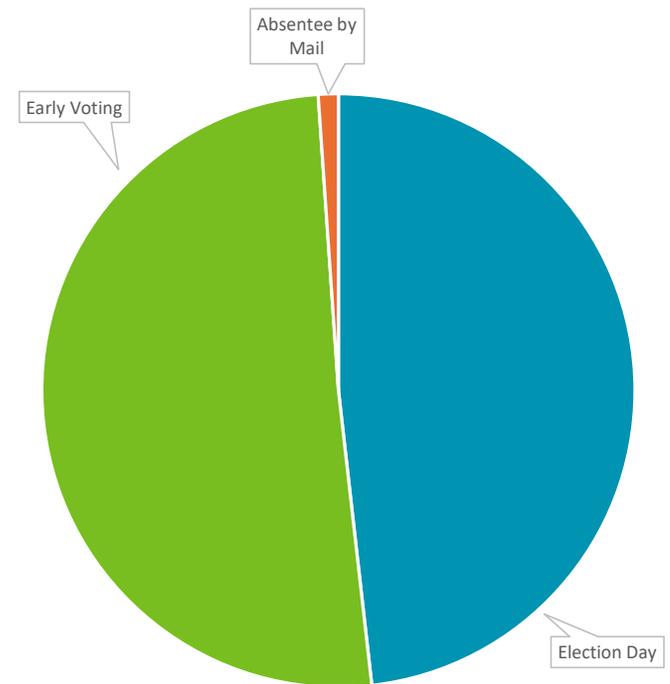
Post-Election Report

March 10, 2026 Special Election

TURNOUT

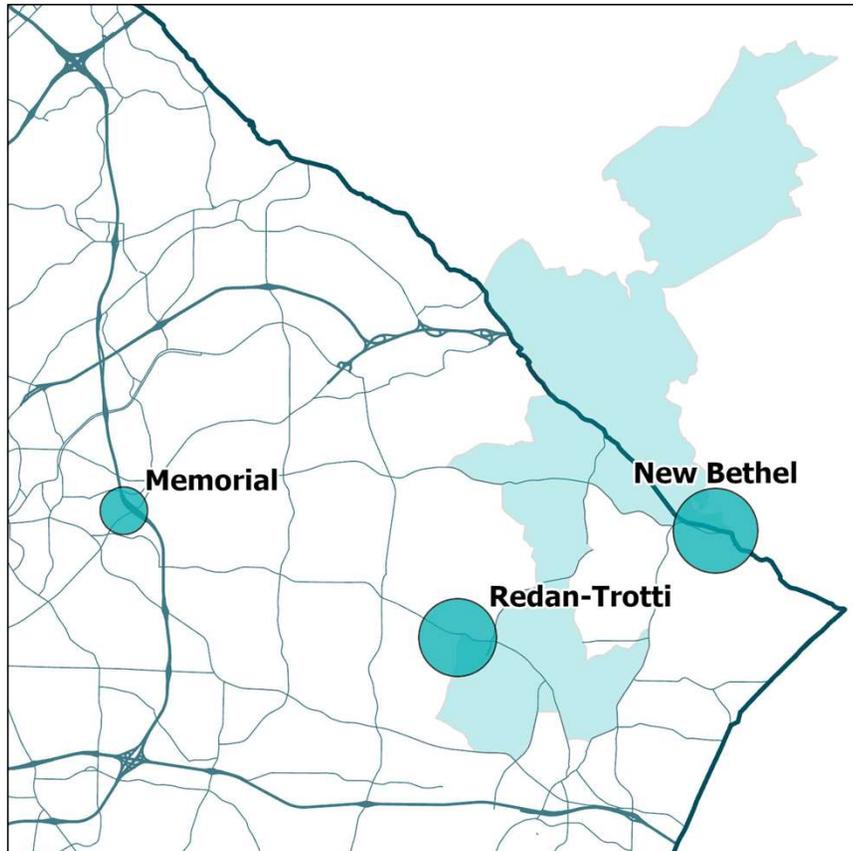
Registered Voters	18,047	(Active)
Ballots Cast	1,658	
Overall Turnout	9.19%	

Election Day	799	48.19%
Early Voting	841	50.72%
Absentee by Mail	18	1.09%
Provisional	0	0.00%
Total	1,658	100.00%



EARLY VOTING

Voter Registration & Elections
DeKalb County, Georgia



New Bethel AME Church was the most popular Early Voting location.

ABSENTEE BY MAIL

Voter Registration & Elections
DeKalb County, Georgia

Ballots Accepted	18
Domestic	18
Overseas	0
Rejected/Spoiled	0
<hr/>	
Total Received	18

ABSENTEE BY MAIL

Voter Registration & Elections
DeKalb County, Georgia

Provisional Absentee Ballots

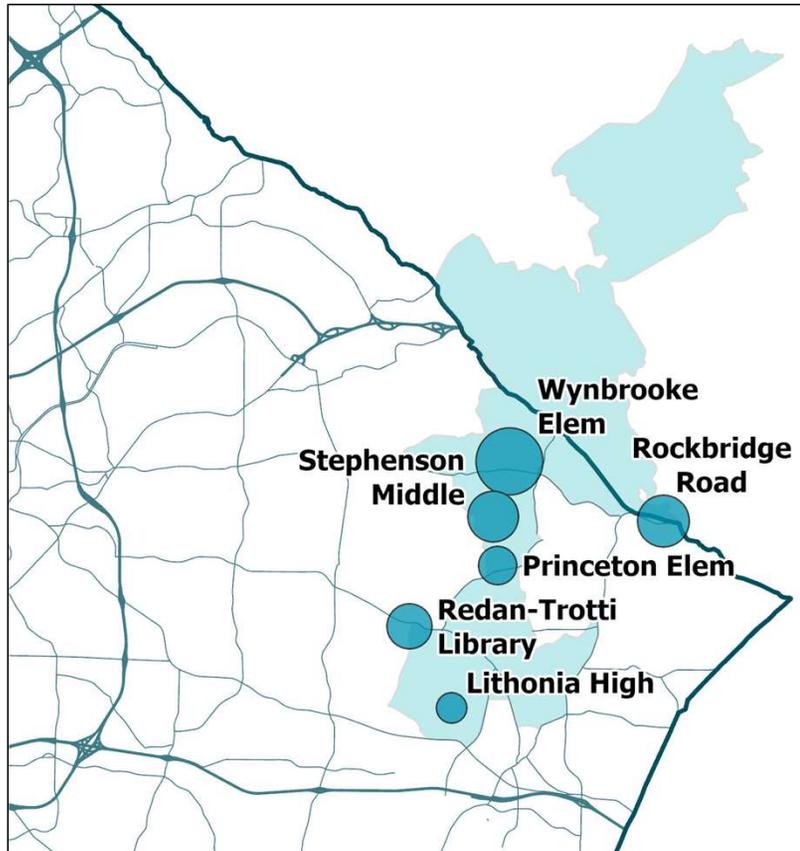
Electronic Signature	0
Missing Signature	0
Incorrect DOB	0
Missing DOB	3
Incorrect ID	0
Missing ID	0
<hr/>	
Total	3

Cured Provisional 3

Rejected Absentee Ballots

Missing Signature	0
Incorrect ID	0
Missing ID	1
<hr/>	
Total	1

Cured Rejected 1



Wynbrooke Elementary School was the most popular Election Day polling place.

Precincts	6
Polling Places	6
Poll Workers	43
Equipment Tested & Deployed	
Poll Pads	18
Touchscreens	54
Scanners	9

ELECTION DAY PROVISIONALS

Voter Registration & Elections
DeKalb County, Georgia

	Accepted	Rejected	Total
Out of Precinct		0	0
Registration in C		0	0
Missing ID		0	0
Other		0	0
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0

No in-person provisional ballots were cast in this election.

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



DeKalb County
G E O R G I A

Election Summary Report

General Election

DeKalb

March 10, 2026

Summary for: All Contests, State House 94, All Tabulators, All Counting Groups
Unofficial and Incomplete

Electors Group	Counting Group	Ballots	Voters	Registered Voters	Turnout
Total	Election Day	799	799	18,047	4.43%
	Advance Voting	841	841		4.66%
	Absentee by Mail	18	18		0.10%
	Provisional	0	0		0.00%
	Total	1,658	1,658		9.19%

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

Registered Voters: 1,658 of 18,047 (9.19%)

Ballots Cast: 1,658

State House of Representatives - District 94 (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	799	841	18	0	1,658 / 18,047	9.19%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Kelly Kautz (Dem)		119	112	3	0	234 14.16%
Audrey Taylor Lux (Dem)		56	78	4	0	138 8.35%
Venola Mason (Dem)		453	475	11	0	939 56.84%
Ikenna Ugwumadu (Dem)		168	173	0	0	341 20.64%
Total Votes		796	838	18	0	1,652
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	

House District 94 Special Election Runoff
EARLY VOTING

LOCATIONS

**DeKalb Voter Registration
& Elections Office***

4380 Memorial Dr., Suite 500
Decatur, GA 30032

Redan-Trotti Library

1569 Wellborn Rd.
Lithonia, GA 30058

New Bethel A.M.E. Church

8350 Rockbridge Rd.
Lithonia, GA 30058

* Drop Box Locations

TIMES

Monday – Thursday (March 30 – April 2)
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Absentee ballots can be hand-delivered to the Voter Registration and Elections Office during operating hours or to any Early Voting location listed above. For more information, visit dekalbvotes.com or call **404-298-4020**.



Check
Wait Times

Election Day ¹⁹ April 7, 2026