

## **State of Georgia**

### **County of Henry**

The Henry County Board of Elections and Registrations board meeting was held on September 8, 2021, at 1:00 PM at Henry County Administration Building in the community room located at 140 Henry Parkway, McDonough, GA 30253. Notice of this meeting was posted in the entrance foyer of the Elections and Registration Building and on the County website. The Daily Herald was notified of this meeting. Those present were:

Mildred Schmelz, Chair and Democratic Party Appointee

Donna Crumbley, Vice Chair and Republican Party Appointee

Andy Callaway, Republican Party Appointee

Deidrea Collins, Board Appointee

Also in attendance: Director Ameika Pitts, Staff Crystal Cates, and County Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Interim Chair Schmelz called the meeting to order.

#### **II. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Interim Vice Chair Crumbley asked to amend the agenda and add the following: under 'new businesses' add discussion of Secretary of State Liaison. Chair asked for any additional changes.

#### **III. Acceptance of the board August Minutes**

Interim Chair Schmelz made the motion to accept August 4, 2021 board minutes. Board member Callaway accepted and Ms. Crumbley seconded. The motion carried.

#### **IV. Director Report**

- A. Director Pitts stated there are 183, 449 active and inactive voters combined. 174, 976 of those voters are active. We have received 56 absentee applications for the county and 27 for municipal with a total of 83.
  
- B. There were no board requests to report.

#### **V. Old Business**

Interim Chair Schmelz asked the board if they have any nominations for the Chair. Board Member Callaway nominated Donna Crumbley for chair. Board Member Schmelz asked if there were any other nominations. Donna Crumbley was elected board chair. Interim Chair Schmelz congratulated Ms. Crumbley on becoming Chair. Chair Donna Crumbley thanked and appreciated the opportunity. Chair Crumbley welcomed Deidrea Collins to the board. In addition, our Board Member Omega Finney is out and we wish her well. Chair Crumbley would like to have a motion to appoint Vice Chair Schmelz to that position. Board Member Callaway motioned and seconded by Board Member Deidrea Collins.

- a. Facility updates Director Pitts stated the drawings and permits were approved and for the interior demolition to start in a couple of weeks. Vice Chair Schmelz asked if the move-in date of occupancy has changed. Director Pitts stated she did not receive a different date originally; it can take nine to twelve months before the new facility is ready. Chair Crumbley asked since the design and drawing

of the new facility were done in-house what is the new budget for the new facility. Director Pitts stated she does not have that information and would request it. Chair Crumbly also requested a budget for our department. Director Pitts said she would send her one as soon as possible.

- b. Director Pitts read the early voting schedule. Chair Crumbly stated that Board Member Finney purposed to add a Sunday. Director Pitts purposed Sunday, October 17, 2021, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. Chair Crumbly made a motion to approved Board Member Collins motioned and Board Member Schmelz seconded. Motion approved.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A.**

- a. Director Pitts stated training for November General Election would start September 20 thru 25 and September 28. We will provide 7-9 poll workers for early voting and 6-7 poll workers for Election Day.
- b. Director Pitts wanted to remind everyone the last day to register to vote is October 4, 2021, and the last day to request an absentee by mail is October 22, 2021. Chair Crumbley mentioned while in training at Jekyll, seeing a machine that opens letters. Would anyone like to address that? Vice Chair Schmelz found it fascinating that machines can open and sort absentee by mail application instead of having a person. Vice Chair stated, she would provide Director Pitts with three of the vendors she spoke with. Director Pitts stated she spoke with Tri-teck and Sonoline. Chair Crumbley asked if it would be in our budget or if we can get a quote. Director Pitts stated she and the vendors did not talk numbers but they would be happy to come to visit.
- c. Director Pitts stated the political body or candidate party that gathers poll watchers are responsible to make sure poll watchers

receive training provided by the state and would have to sign an oath stating they received training to be a poll watcher.

- d. Director Pitts stated she is currently working on finding someone to help with our social media to post on our website, Facebook, and newsletter. Vice Chair Schmelz mention previously the board had a relation with the water authority where they had public service announcements and would like to continue that relationship. Board Member Collins made and suggestion about sending out a mass mailing to the voters with information on the early voting schedule and to see if it would work within the budget. Vice Chair Schmelz, mention looking into the Henry County Chamber Of Commerce to see if they can do a public service announcement.

B. County Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter stated he has two cases; one is from 2018 that involved two different instances and has a consent order to resolve both cases that he will be presenting at the next meeting. The State Election Board has asked for the payment of \$750.00 fine with no finding at fault no wrongdoing. Mr. Jaugstetter continued with there is a new case at the state election board in August with a voter privacy issue. Mr. Jaugstetter stated as of to date he has not received anything back from the election board.

- C. Mr. Jaugstetter stated that he did not see a need for our board to have a parliamentarian. Vice Chair Schmelz agreed with Mr. Jaugstetter.

- D. Chair Crumbely asked Director Pitts who is our Secretary Of State liaison. Director Pitts stated the Secretary of State is reconstructing our liaison. As of right now, reach out to Robin Carr until we have one assigned.

**VII. Public comments**

A member of the public had a question, what is in place for the political party to communicate as far as being a poll watcher or poll worker? Vice Chair Schmelz stated there would be no answering public comments during meetings. The public is welcome to ask questions to any of the board members after the meeting is over.

**VIII. Board Comments**

Board Member Collins congratulated both Chair and Vice Chair.

**IX. Announcement of Next Meeting**

Chair Crumbly announced October 6, 2021, is the next board meeting

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Crumbly called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Callaway motioned and Board Member Collins seconded. The motion carried.