

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HENRY

The Henry County Board of Elections and Registration held a Regular Public Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 5th, 2018 in the Conference Room, of the Elections and Registration Building, 40 Atlanta Street, McDonough, Georgia. Notice of this meeting was posted in the entrance foyer of the Elections and Registration Building. The Daily Herald was notified of this meeting. Those present were:

Mildred Schmelz, Chair and Democratic Party Appointee
Dan Richardson, Vice-Chair and Republican Party Appointee
Jon Kirkpatrick, Democratic Party Appointee
Andy Callaway, Republican Party Appointee
Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointee

Also attending was: Tina Lunsford, Elections and Registration Supervisor; Grayson Davis; Yasmin Taylor, Voter Protection Volunteer with the Democratic Party; Phyllis Hatcher, candidate for Senate District 17; Vivian Thomas, candidate for Board of Commissioner District 4.

Call to Order:

Chair Schmelz called the meeting to order.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Schmelz called for the acceptance of the agenda. Board Member Callaway made the motion to accept the agenda; Board Member Kirkpatrick seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of the August minutes

Chair Schmelz called for the acceptance of the August minutes. Vice Chair Richardson made the motion to accept the minutes; Board Member Brown seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of the August Executive Session minutes

Chair Schmelz called for the acceptance of the August Executive Session minutes. Board Member Callaway made the motion to accept the minutes; Board Member Kirkpatrick seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

County Attorney to update the Board on new lawsuits

Chair Schmelz called for this section to be moved to later, due to the county attorney not being present at the time. At the arrival of the associate from the county attorney's office, it was determined to discuss this as the last topic in executive session.

Board discussion and vote on the early voting schedule for the upcoming General/Special Elections

Chair Schmelz asked for the Director to explain the differences between the three proposed early voting schedules. The Director explained the difference between the three options and that the third option included the highest increase in proposed early voting hours. The Board discussed the different schedules and the merits of each one. Board Member Kirkpatrick made the motion to select the third option; Board Member Brown seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Board discussion on drafting an advanced voting policy

Vice Chair Richardson presented an analysis on the population and the estimated future population compared to early voting locations. The Board discussed purchasing a mobile voting unit to provide early voting in the Ola area. The Board decided to bring this topic up during the joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners. Chair Schmelz asked the Director if she had any comments. She explained that following Election Code, we are required to use government facilities for early voting facilities. She explained that the mobile voting location would be acceptable only if the county owns it.

Vice Chair Richardson presented a draft of a policy regarding a standard for early voting times. The Board decided to review the document in order to discuss and vote on it during the next regularly scheduled meeting. Vice Chair Richardson requested for any amendments or areas of questions to be submitted by September, 26th at 1:00 PM.

Update on Business Continuity Plan

Vice Chair Richardson presented a list of the individuals that the Board would need to have discussions with regarding the Business Continuity Plan. He also presented a list of proposed topics to be discussed with them. He then presented the topic of flooding and the potential impact it could have on the voting process. The Board discussed flooding and decided to contact Storm Water Management. The Board decided to postpone this topic until they receive feedback from Storm Water Management.

Supervisor update on the status of the office

The Director explained the status of the ballot, when L&A testing will begin, poll worker training and the applications processed in the month of August. She provided a breakdown of the 15,966 applications. She also mentioned that some locations will receive extra ExpressPolls in order to speed up the voting process.

The Director explained that the Department of Homeland Security contacted the office and requested to set up a walkthrough. The Board discussed and decided to have a representative from each party present; Chair Schmelz and Board Member Callaway were the decided upon members.

The Director explained the status of the department's budget with the Board. The Board inquired as to where the bulk of the budget was being distributed to. The Director described the main items; those were repair and maintenance, signs and poll worker pay. Vice Chair Richardson requested that the Director explain about the signs and their costs. Chair Schmelz requested that the Director explain the procurement procedures.

Board Member Brown inquired whether the polls were adequately staffed. The Director explained the current issues regarding staffing the locations. The Board discussed and provided some suggestions to assist with finding poll workers.

Old Business

Chair Schmelz requested to talk about the joint workshop meeting with the Board of Commissioners. Board Member Callaway updated the Board that the meeting would be in late October. Board Member Callaway informed the Board that he had been in contact with June Wood. He informed the Board that he would let the members know when the date for the joint meeting is set.

The Board also discussed the terms and regulations regarding the seat on the Board appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The topic regarded what the situation would be if the seat was vacant. After discussion the Board decided to inquire about the impact to the county attorney.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

The following people spoke during the public comments section: Vivian Thomas, candidate for Board of Commissioners District 4, regarding the time and operations of early voting and polling locations.

Announcement – Next board meeting on October 3rd, 2018

Chair Schmelz announced the date, time and location of the next meeting.

Executive Session pertaining to pending litigation

The Board went into executive session.

Reconvene

The Board reconvened to the original meeting.

Adjournment

Board Member Callaway made motion to adjourn; Board Member Richardson seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.