BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – May 12, 2022

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
FGTV YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYH7E0jH6HxE-3KTRluH8SQ

Presiding: Cathy Woolard, Chairwoman

Other Board Members Present:
Ms. Dr. Kathleen Ruth, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Teresa Crawford
Mr. Aaron Johnson
Mr. Mark Wingate

Staff Attending: Mr. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director; Ms. Nadine E. Williams, Elections Chief; Mr. Dominic Olomo, Information Systems Manager; Ms. Shamira Marshall, Registration Manager; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Manager; Ms. Janell Barganier, Financial Systems Manager; Mrs. Cheryl Ringer, County Attorney; Mr. Thomas Johnson; Ms. LaShandra Little; Mr. James Reese, Production Manager; Regina Waller, Senior Public Affairs Officer

Guests Attending: Susie Trotochaud, David H. Hubert, Jason Frazier, Kathy Whitehouse, Earl Ferguson, Lucia Frazier

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Carrie Heffner:
Hello, I'm writing to you as a Fulton County voter who encountered issues with the SOS website. I wanted to get an early start last month researching primary candidates, but when I pulled up a sample ballot from the My Voter Page it only contained the nonpartisan races and none of the primary candidates. There was no message saying, "in progress, please come back on X date for the full list." The sample ballot was also linked in tiny print in the middle of the page and thus hard to find. Additionally, just this morning I looked for a list of early voting locations and sorted

it to find the location nearest me. The top three locations were streets I'd never heard of because they are not actually close to me. I had to manually search for locations I remembered from voting previously. This is a poor experience for the average voter. One should not have to doggedly search, click, and squint to find basic voting information. I ask the BOE to continue being clear about which issues you are working on, and which issues are the SOS failing to implement a usable voter website. Thank you so much for all you do!

Kathy Whitehouse:
My name is Kathy Whitehouse and I live up in Roswell and I'm here to remind all of us how important you all are because everyone is looking at Georgia. I've been poll watching, very impressed with the people who've been working at the polls, but I know that some folks have some concerns about what's going on. So, I'm here to share a very passionate plea that we pay attention to their concerns. For example, I work in real estate, we had someone not sell their house this week because a $600,000 wire was intercepted by a hacker. What does that have to do with today? Our vote is priceless and I'm hearing stories about that there are more scan votes than actual body counts of people who came in to vote. I'm hearing stories that after the voting polls are closed the scanners are still on. I'm hearing that the people who work at the libraries work longer hours and therefore people outside of the voting could have access to the scanners and commit fraud and I want our votes to be fair and accurate. So, I've got some other friends of mine who are going to be talking about some specifics because I'm new to poll watching but I just want us to listen and understand how important it is that our elections are fair. Thank you.

Lucia Frazier:
Good morning, Lucia Frazier. In this current election, I was obstructed from recording seal numbers. The poll manager literally walked up as I was standing at the scanner and covered the seals with her hands. I laughed because I thought she was joking with me since we had a good relationship last year and she showed me all her books last year and showed me the process. Very good at explaining it and so last year, I collected the counts and seal numbers at mini precincts so why suddenly is this a problem? She would not give me an answer. So, I'd like you guys to address that today in you conversation. This physical obstruction makes me suspicious. In fact, last year a different poll manager advised me that making sure those seal numbers don't change is one of the most important things I need to do as a poll watcher. So, there are certain seals on the BMDs and the scanners that should never change through all of early voting the seal on the scanner memory card port and the seal on the admin port should never change. Cutting that seal means someone can take out the memory card which stores people's votes. The memory card is only one of two things in an election's existence that represents people's votes. The other item is the papers that are in the scanner. If someone from the public is obstructed from verifying the seal has not changed the memory card is now outside that chain of custody and cannot be used to tally the votes. The seals on the scanner bin protect access to the paper version of people's votes. Cutting those seals means that someone can put in unauthorized paper votes to the bin. One of the seals on the BMD protect the software. If that's cut someone can access the software and change it to reprogram the QR code. You have a lot of money for the selection and so far, it's not any more secure that just using a million dollar and just use paper, pencil, and hand counting.

Jason Frazier:
Hello, my name is Jason Frazier from Roswell. Similar to what Lucia said, I heard her story, and I was very suspicious about that branch. So, I went there the same evening that she was not allowed to see the scanner locks serial numbers. I just say in the lobby just to be observant. Next morning, I went there as a member of the public to observe the opening of the polls. That did not go so well as I'm sure many of you know now. I've submitted a formal complaint. I could speak all day of what happened there but essentially long and short of it as I went there, I was told that I could not go in there as a member of the public. I asked to stand outside. They locked the doors which locking the doors is not supposed to happen. Then they called the police on me. I would consider that intimidation. The police officer, I handed her the statute which clearly stated that the public can observe the opening of the polls. The police officer with the statute in had said "that's not relevant because I was not a poll officer" that sure does seem like obstruction and I know if I were that police, if the shoe were on the other foot and I said "I'm going to break the law but I don't know the law" they would say "ignorance of the law is not an excuse for breaking the law". She had the law in her hands, she cannot claim that she was ignorant of the law, so the poll manager did not let me in. They had the doors locked, they asked me to go outside. I waited outside. I got there at about 8:56am; I waited outside until 11 o'clock just in case she wanted to be an upstanding person and come outside to talk to me because she said she was going to call her manager. She never returned. All of this is on the camera, it's all on my complaint. I hope something changes. I plan to go back to Roswell and be a poll watcher and hopefully some things are different, and I don't get arrested.

Susie Trotochaud:
My name is Susie Trotochaud, I am a voter in Fulton County and other than my college years, I have lived in Atlanta my entire life. I want to thank the board for your tireless work on behalf of the Fulton County voters, but I mostly want to thank all of those working in the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections. You are the ones

that do the work every day to make sure that we, Fulton County residents, are able to vote for the candidates we want. Your work for this election began long ago but now it's crunch time. Thank you for working carefully and thoroughly to make sure that every vote is counted and that no votes that should be counted are disregarded. You are under a lot of scrutiny, so you need to be extra vigilant in your duties, we the voters are counting on you. I ask the board to help you by making sure that you have the resources you need to do your jobs, that they support your work and the work of the poll workers. I encourage all of you to work hard to process the ballots in a timely manner and do all that you can to help voters with any issues they have in their applications or ballots. We need you to make sure that our votes count. Thank you.

Earl Ferguson:
Hello, I'm Earl Ferguson. I'm a resident and voter in Fulton County and I'm working as a poll watcher and I'm doing it in a number of different locations. I've been to six so far and I'll have a couple more before it's over and I have some observations I'd like to share. Now, I'm not an expert on poll stuff obviously and I'm reminded of the official definition of an expert – an ex is a has-been and the spurts that drift under pressure; that was supposed to be a joke. At the locations that I have been, all the locations I've been to so far there was more staff than was needed for the voter turnout and I hope you'll give that some consideration because we have, we're going to have the follow-up elections/run-off elections and the turnout will probably be even lower. Next comment the Sunday turnout was an absolute disaster. Once location had three people all day and the total average was way down from what it was. My suggestion is that maybe the Sunday poll period should be started after church is over and run a shorter period during the afternoon. Just that would save us a lot of time, money, and anguish. Not all I saw was bad and most of the operations were very clean but there's one location that I would like to special single out for comment. The New Beginning Senior Center serves an elderly clientele who wouldn't be able to vote otherwise, that place is outstanding. Don't ever close it and if you can find some more like it, I would suggest that we reopen them.

OLD BUSINESS

#3- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

> - **Regular Meeting – March 10, 2022**
> - **Regular Meeting – April 14, 2022**
> - **Special Meeting – April 21, 2022**
> - **Special Meeting – May 3, 2022**
> - **Special Meeting – May 5, 2022**

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the Regular and Special meeting minutes from March 10, April 14, April 21, May 3, and May 5, 2022. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

#4- MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR APRIL 2022

Ms. Williams reported**:**
- ❖ Elections Division
  - ▫ House District 45 Special Election
  - ▫ Supplies and Logistics
    - Supply deployment for the May 24th Election
    - Daily supply request support for early voting
    - May 24th, election day supply packing
    - Absentee drop boxes – staff onboarded and supporting operations

- Rental vehicles are in place for transport
  - ☐ Recruitment and Training
    - Poll worker recruitment is on target.
    - Concluding training and ensuring all positions are staffed for election day.
  - ☐ Advance Voting – Reported by Sharon Benjamin
    - As of May 2nd – 30,000 voters processed.
    - Challenges presented but an action plan has been developed and implemented.
    - Zoom meetings for advance voting team
    - Individual one-on-one site visits to troubleshoot problems
    - Daily phone check in for poll opening

Mr. Johnson asked about the status of eNet and ballot issues regarding redistricting.

Ms. Williams stated that the department has implemented a workaround regarding eNet using spreadsheets and that voters are informed to inform a poll manager if they believe their ballot is incorrect. The call center is also available and that this should be done before casting their ballots. Once a ballot is cast, no changes can be made. The department has been cross checking to ensure voters are placed in their proper districts.

Mr. Johnson asked how a voter would know if their district had changed. Inquired the department's process to alert voters prior to receiving their ballots.

Ms. Williams stated the posters and flyers were created and have been available since the first day of advanced voting. The posters have a scannable QR code that leads to a redistricting map. The map allows voters to put in their address and informs them of their district information. A laptop with the redistricting map is also available at every advance voting location so that voters can conduct research.

Mr. Johnson asked if voters were being alerted to the tools available upon walking in.

Ms. Williams stated correct. That there are posters in each precinct and flyers are handed out by line monitors. They are also informed verbally that if there are any questions concerning redistricting, the QR code will assist.

Mr. Johnson inquired about MyVoter Page's status specifying that it is understood that it is the Secretary of the State's responsibility.

Ms. Williams stated that there is a disclaimer on MyVoter Page stating that voters must check every tab due to the larger ballot size. If information is missing, they are advised to contact their county elections office.

Mr. Johnson clarified his question asking whether the districts were correct on MyVoter Page because they weren't previously.

Ms. Williams stated that she did not have the answer to that question because the MyVoter Page is a secretary of state asset but if the voter believes their ballot is incorrect, they should contact the county office to verify.

Dr. Ruth asked how many voters were thought to be impacted by not receiving the correct information.

Ms. Williams stated that the department is conducting research by district to determine the numbers and at the time all numbers are not known. The districts that have been researched, the number is minimal, and the number would not affect the outcome of an election. The exact numbers will be sent to the board no later than the end of the week.

Ms. Crawford asked about the poll workers for election day concerning the recruitment numbers being short.

Ms. Williams stated that the department was actively recruiting and there's no doubt that the positions will be filled by election day.

Ms. Crawford thanks Ms. Williams and the poll workers for the wonderful work they have been doing for early voting.

Mr. Wingate commented about an issue concerning APO7A/B/C, a voter who is now in APO7C should receive a ballot that reflects house district 49; a voter went to APO7C and received a ballot reflecting house district 47. The understanding that those seven occurrences are not allotted a redo; they cannot go back to do another ballot. I'm assuming this issue also transcends into absentee ballots.

Ms. Williams stated that precinct was a result of a data entry error. The voters were not moved to that precinct. The depart can pull exactly who voted from the first day of advanced voting to see exactly how many people those affected. An exact number is not available but a rough estimate of less than 30 were affected. The issue has been corrected and other voters will not be affected. That precinct has over 2000 voters in that district, it affected 30 voters.

Mr. Wingate asked if the 30 affected voters voted for a candidate outside of their district, would that be considered an illegal vote.

Ms. Williams stated that research would need to be conducted and that the department would have to confer with the secretary of state.

Dr. Ruth inquired about the issue with Commissioner Arrington's ballot. Asked the department to review that location as well.

Ms. Williams stated as a precaution, all races were being reviewed.

Ms. Woolard thanked the staff for the tremendous amount of work put in by the staff concerning redistricting and software changes. The work and time are appreciated.

Mr. Eskridge reported**:**

- ❖ Administration Division
  - ▢ Welcome Administrative Manager
    - Janice Dickenson
  - ▢ Vacancies
    - Registration Manager
      - ○ Scheduling interviews

- Elections Officer
  - Not yet posted
- Voter Education Outreach Specialist
  - Not yet established
- Poll Worker
  - Credentials and badges for poll watcher
- Reports
  - Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report
    - Due 30 April 2022
    - Grace Date: 6 May 2022
    - All reports will be sent to the state finance commission
- Election Preparation
  - Preparation for November and December election and run-off
- Intergovernmental Agreements
  - IGAs received for the Cities of Atlanta, East Point, South Fulton, and Hapeville.

Mr. Wingate asked how the vacant positions were impacting the department during this time of the year.

Mr. Eskridge stated that the positions are needed but the department always finds a way to work as best as possible within the parameters of conducting the election as well as still operating and fulfilling the administrative duty. The department is actively working to get the positions filled expeditiously.

Mr. Wingate asked if the vacancies cause issues with other tasks, making them more difficult.

Mr. Eskridge replied that it does, but the department finds a way to work through it.

Mr. Wingate stated that the positions need to be filled as soon as possible.

Mr. Eskridge concurred stating that the positions are needed to be filled. The postings are dependent upon the availability of other departments.

Mr. Wingate asked if the department is receiving enough qualified candidates for the vacancies.

Mr. Eskridge stated it depends upon the position. Once the announcement closes, the department receives the registry and then can determine whether the pool that was received may prolong the recruitment process.

Ms. Crawford Stated as the department entered the end of the last year the vacancies were close to 20 so the department has made significant progress and it is much appreciated. Hiring is both an opportunity and a contact sport; It's good to keep the eyes open for good talent whatever they may be. Ms. Crawford implored people to consider elections as a career Because it is an incredible opportunity to help further the democracy of the country and good people are needed.

Ms. Marshall reported**:**

- ❖ Voter Registration Division
  - ☐ Voter Registration Applications
    - 41,364 applications – 2022
      - ○ Department of driver services
      - ○ Online voter registration portal via SOS
      - ○ Third-party party vendors
      - ○ Mailed
      - ○ Dropoff
    - 15,965 – applications received in April
    - 2,500 – in progress for processing
  - ☐ Registered Voters
    - 844,909 – total
      - ○ 742,844 – active
      - ○ 102,065 – inactive
  - ☐ Vacancies
    - 3 registration officer vacancies
    - Registration Manager has been posted and closed
    - Supplemental staff recruitment via Ark Staffing Agency
  - ☐ Training
    - Statewide calls with the SOS
      - ○ ESRi
      - ○ Redistricting
    - Poll worker training
  - ☐ Future Tasks
    - Processing applications
    - Reviewing duplicate records
    - Street audits and maintenance

Ms. Crawford asked Tip there has been an uptick in registrations since the driver's license format for registering to vote had been fixed.

Ms. Marshall stated not now; if a voter goes in to update their voter registration it will show to the department the next business day. The voter registration deadline has passed, and a lot of people are aware so there has not been a significant increase. On the dashboard there are 5606 applications that need to be processed but they were received after the deadline.

Mr. Johnson asked if the process had return to the opt out option as opposed to the opt in option.

Ms. Marshall stated that Research would need to be conducted. A report was received from one voter that the department of driver services still asked if they would like to update as if there was an option. Currently, there is no confirmation available.

Mr. Johnson stated that his understanding is that the state has returned to the opt out option. That when a voter updates their driver's license, it automatically updates their registration.

Ms. Marshall stated that is understood but if a voter calls in stating they received a different option, it is not certain if the process has changed. The option is to reach out to the department of driver services to determine if the process has changed.

Mr. Johnson asked if the updated voter registration card had been mailed out.

Ms. Marshall confirmed that they hadn't been mailed.

Mr. Johnson asked if the department was still waiting for the secretary of state's office.

Ms. Marshall stated yes; an inquiry for an update was submitted to the SOS. Ms. Williams has suggested to inform the SOS that if they would complete the cards, the department would pick them up from the vendor to QC and get them mailed out immediately.

Ms. Crawford stated that at this point partial boxes would be accepted.

Ms. Marshall stated that is correct.

Mr. Wingate asked if the opt-in/opt-out process was a directive from the SOS.

Ms. Marshall stated that it is believed to be. The department receives the applications from the Secretary of State's office onto the dashboard via eNet.

Dr. Ruth asked regarding GIS and redistricting, how often the department needed to change or update the spreadsheet.

Ms. Marshall stated that the spreadsheet isn't ever updated or revised. The department ensures accuracy with GIS prior to having the ballots built. The ballot builder and poll pads are correct, so no updates are required to the spreadsheet. When a voter calls in with a discrepancy, the department communicates with GIS that there is an issue. GIS is then requested to provide all street segments for that precinct and then every voter record is reviewed to ensure accuracy.

Dr. Ruth clarified stating that the department is reviewing to ensure every voter record is accurate and that they are in the correct location.

Ms. Marshall confirmed in the affirmative.

Dr. Ruth stated that she is aware of the tedious process and thanked the team for their hard work and diligence.

Mr. Wingate asked about the scanner on/ scanner off issue communication received from Director Evans at the secretary of state's office. The communication specifically mentioning turning the scanners off at night. Inquired the secretary of state's position regarding turning the scanners off or leaving them powered on at night.

Ms. Williams stated that the department presented a plan to the SOS and it has been accepted. The scanners are left on, but they are secure; they are sealed at night. The poll managers are instructed to check the count at night after sealing, in the morning the count is checked again. The managers also have to run a status tape that provides the actual count. The process is completely secure and has been approved by the SOS. The email communication will be forwarded to the board.

Mr. Wingate asked for public understanding, if any of the equipment could be connected to the internet in any capacity.

Ms. Williams stated that is was not possible. The false information was sent via email be a poll clerk regarding scanners. No scanners not BMDs can be connected to the internet in any capacity. None of the staff has done any work or maintenance to any of the voting equipment in any location after hours, after the poll managers have closed the polls. That information is inaccurate.

Mr. Wingate asked if there was internet connectivity to the poll pads.

Ms. Williams stated that they are not able to connect while at the polls. When they are established, they are connected when being programed. Mr. Olomo can further explain how that process works.

Mr. Wingate asked even if the scanners are left on, the poll managers and assistant managers are still doing their tallies.

Ms. Williams stated yes during opening and closing.

Mr. Wingate asked what the process is if the opening shows a nefarious act as far as reconciliation.

Ms. Williams stated that the managers have to check their accounts whether the machine is on or not. If there is a discrepancy, they are to report it immediately.

Mr. Wingate stated he just wanted to clarify to prevent voters calling asking how the department knows whether the machines have been hacked.

Ms. Williams stated the department can control that the equipment is secure and sealed. The department cannot control rumors spread.

Dr. Ruth asked if an explanation could be provided to help the public understand why the scanners were being left on.

Mr. Olomo stated that the scanners were being left on because an issue arose during logic and accuracy testing. Fulton County has approximately 473 precincts. The scanners could not process that large amount of data, so they were shutting themselves down. When the split occurred to the precincts for the city and the county, two scanners were to every location. We the department conducted the L&A testing; the ballot processing time was around two minutes. The testing results did not account for longer wait times on the scanner during early voting, when the reports came in from the locations specifically Sandy Springs library that there was a long queue for the scanner, the department conducted another round of L&A testing of the county scanners insider the warehouse. The department reached out to the SOS and received information concerning ballot styles and scanning. Scanning the same ballot style on a scanner goes quicker because the scanner can cache that ballot style. The decision was made moving forward to lead the scanners on because the moment the scanners are shut down the cache clears. The process is not the permanent solution it's just to accommodate the long wait times at the polling locations.

Dr. Ruth stated that this should not be a problem on election because during early voting any one can go to any early voting location to cast their ballot. Election day, voters have to go to their specific precinct and the scanner will only have to remember the ballot style for that precinct.

Ms. Woolard asked if the county had 300 ballot styles.

Mr. Olomo stated that Fulton County is very large with over 470 precincts for the election files then over 363 ballot styles, so the data is a lot. The scanners do not have the ability to match that information that quickly which is why it's taking longer. As Dr. Ruth stated, on election day, the scanners will have a smaller amount of data to process.

Ms. Woolard asked Mr. Olomo to describe the process of L&A for the listening public.

Mr. Olomo stated that L&A is logic and accuracy testing. The process by which the department tests the election equipment prior to it being sent out to the voting locations.

Mr. Wingate asked if during L&A testing process errors are seen such as the error where DOBs are defaulting to 1121.

Mr. Olomo stated that he personally reached out to KnowInk, the poll pad vendor. KnowInk has stated that the DOB is criteria that needs to be put in the project package. For election day, the voter gets processed via their ID. For advanced voting, the ballots are received via combo numbers. When the project was developed for advanced voting, a generic date of birth was input.

Ms. Williams clarified that the DOB is not an error. It is the default that is put into the system.

Mr. Wingate asked as the voter, if the information could be updated to have a complete voter record when checking in to vote.

Mr. Olomo stated during early voting, the voter information is generated via eNet and there is no way to interconnect the two platforms.

Mr. Wingate stated that it doesn't make a difference.

Mr. Olomo stated that is correct. No difference because the poll pad is generating a ballot style.

Ms. Little reported**:**
- ❖ Voter Education and Outreach Division
  - ▢ 74 new deputy registrars trained, 274 deputy registrars' total
  - ▢ 200 voters registered, 618 for the year
  - ▢ 51 poll worker recruitments, 321 for the year
  - ▢ Voter identification cards created (20) through the mobile education unit
  - ▢ 65 voter outreach events, 130 for the year
  - ▢ 70 absentee applications, 70 for the year as numbers were not tracked prior to April.
  - ▢ 500 connections with organizations, residents, and community throughout the county, 1700 connections for the year
  - ▢ 1400 voter machine demonstrations, 3600 for the year
  - ▢ 4 media inquiries, 10 for the year
  - ▢ Senior citizens interaction increase
  - ▢ Poll worker recruitment
  - ▢ Election outreach toolkit developed with the public affairs office
  - ▢ Future event planning

- Fulton County schools
- Atlanta Public Schools
- High school student voter registration
- Municipality events
- Fulton County libraries

Ms. Crawford stated that she spent a little over an hour with the VEO team. Their work is impressive and that it was disappointing that no one came to register to vote.

Mr. Johnson stated that he also ventured out with the VEO team during the Commissioners Family Fun Day. The team is doing an exceptional job.

Ms. Bodison reported**:**
- ❖ Absentee Division
  - ▢ Updated statistics
    - Processed 6422 application
    - Accepted 1760 applications
    - Rejected 440 applications
    - 304 duplications
    - 17 ballots rejected
      - ○ 7 cured
      - ○ 10 rejected
  - ▢ Notices are mailed and voters are responding quickly
  - ▢ Vendor communications
    - Opecs
    - HP Solutions
    - BlueCrest
  - ▢ Absentee ballots mailing
    - 5 April – UOCAVA voters
    - 25 April – General Public
    - 13 May – Last day to request ballot

Dr. Ruth asked for clarification on the vendor roles in reference to absentee ballot processing.

Ms. Bodison stated that Opecs is the ballot cutter. The ballots are no longer opened by hand. To use the machine, the department wanted to conduct maintenance. The vendor also has some other products it would like to introduce to the department, such as a workstation that would allow scanning as a formal record. The department is still in conversation with that. HP solutions was contacted because to use the BlueCrest machines, the envelops needed to be adjusted to utilize the automation features. BlueCrest is the automation system. There's an inserter where the mailing goes out and a sorter for when mailing comes in.

Dr. Ruth asked if the department was using a tracker where people could track their ballots or whether the department is considering using a tracker in the future.

Ms. Bodison stated that the tracker will be used for the general election but not for advanced voting.

Dr. Ruth stated that the department has received commendations from the state election board on the elections process.

Dr. Ruth asked Ms. Benjamin how the department can improve tension between the poll watchers and poll managers when it comes to information gathering at the polling locations. The SOS is said to be releasing an advisory concerning poll watcher conduct.

Ms. Benjamin replied that communication is needed. Ms. Williams did reach out to Mr. Evans to clarify the language in the poll watcher guide referring to their conduct. The basics are known; the Secretary of State needs to give clarification on the technical aspects to ensure that conduct is understood. Once it is clarified, it can be implemented, and staff will be trained on the guidelines. It is also a concern of people respecting each other at the polling locations and to ensure everyone is safe.

Mr. Johnson stated that communications must be held on both sides. The situation can go from a simple communication where one believes they are most correct to a confrontation. All parties need to understand that each side has a responsibility and respect is necessary. With the coming information, how the information is expressed not only to staff but to citizens that have an interpretation of what they think the law is as opposed to what the law says is something that should be worked on.

Ms. Benjamin stated that is what is being clarified with the state. The department is also working with external affairs to ensure the information is available before the run-off and general election.

NEW BUSINESS

#5- BYLAW AMENDMENT

Ms. Woolard stated that the bylaws are how the board conducts business as the Board of registration and elections it is not by laws about how the board administers the elections per say. Under Article 3 Section 1 the language currently states that the board will certify elections at 10:00 AM on the Saturday following an election. What the board has found is that there are times 10:00 AM on Saturday is not the time when the elections are able to be certified for several reasons, either the results are not ready, or a quorum cannot be found. In an abundance of caution and to ensure that the bylaws reflect the board's intent the recommendation is to change the language that says "the board shall meet ... And at 10:00 AM on the Saturday following any such election to certify results" to "the board shall meet...no later than 6:00 PM on the Monday following the election to certify election results or on a date that complies with legal requirements for certifying the elections of any specific election". This amendment came up in the context concerning Memorial Day weekend. Finding Fulton County buildings are closed, that some of the board members are not available, and other circumstance. The board will be certifying the election Monday afternoon in compliance with the law, but it is important to ensure that our bylaws register our practice and our intent. It does not change anything about the specifics of how we certify. The board has received their notification of this in due time, if any of the board members have any suggestions, corrections, or if they would like to adopt this a motion is needed.

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the bylaw amendment as written. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairwoman entertained a motion to move to executive session for personnel matters and/or discussion of litigation. The motion was made by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Dr. Ruth, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Chairwoman entertained a motion to move to regular session. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Crawford, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:35 a.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Jessica M. Robinson, Board Secretary