



BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – MAY 9, 2024

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

**The meeting was recorded and is available for your review on
FGTV YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYH7E0jH6HxE-3KTRluH8SQ>

Board Members Present Ms. Cathy Woolard, Chairperson
Mr. William Michael Heekin, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Teresa Crawford
Ms. Julie Adams

Absent Board Member:
Mr. Aaron Johnson

Staff Attending: Mrs. Nadine E. Williams, Director; Mr. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director; Mr. John Ross, Elections Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Election Chief; Mrs. Kathryn Glenn, Registration Manager; Mrs. Jodi Brittian, Absentee Manager; Mrs. Shoshauna Goins, Absentee Supervisor; Ms. Janice Dickenson, Administrative Manager; Mrs. Janell Barganier, Financial Systems Manager; Ms. LaShandra Little, VEO Manager; Mr. Thomas Johnson, Registration Supervisor; Mr. Corey Henson, Elections Equipment Manager; Ms. Regina Waller, Division Manager; Mr. James Reese, FGTV Production Manager; Mr. Darryl Peek, Mr. Tyree Spencer, Mr. James Artis

Legal: Mr. Chad Alexis, Senior Assistant County Counsel; Ms. Ann Brumbaugh, Special Counsel

ACRONYMS:

BRE- Board of Registration and Elections
DRE- Department of Registration and Elections
EHOC- Elections Hub and Operations Center
BOC- Board of Commissioners
ABM- Absentee by Mail
L&A- Logic and Accuracy Testing
VEO- Voter Education and Outreach
REIF- Reporting Elections Systems Issue Form

BMDs- Ballot Marking Devices
SOS- Secretary of State's
SEB- State Election Board
DDS- Department of Driver Services
CERA- Certified Elections Registration Administrator
GARVIS- Georgia Registered Voter Information System

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Woolard entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford**, seconded by **Vice-Chair Heekin**, and carried by a vote of 4-0.

#2- NEW BOARD CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Woolard thanked the DRE, the BRE, and legal for the onboarding and welcoming her back. **Madam Chair** gave a brief overview of how she presided over meetings previously as the former Board Chair. The Chair commonly referred to Robert's Rule of Order and tried to find ways we could have consensus. **Madam Chair** mentioned that she may ask more questions during this meeting to get caught up as much as possible.

#3-COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Communications from the public were recorded. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4N_rMdpf7c

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting- April 11, 2024
- Special Meeting- April 18, 2024

Chair Woolard entertained a motion to approve the proposed minutes of April 11 and 18th, 2024, as presented. The motion was made by **Ms. Adams** and was seconded by **Mrs. Crawford** and carried by a vote of 4-0.

#4- ELECTION UPDATES

Director Williams welcomed back **Ms. Woolard**, we look forward to working with you and your leadership.

Director Williams greeted the Board and provided an update on the State Election Board (SEB) Hearing held on May 7 and 8th. **Madam Director** reported that the 2020 complaint with the vast majority of the claims were unsubstantiated. Our staff cooperation throughout the 2020 investigation underscores our commitment to full transparency. We again, would like to emphasize the investigation confirmed the outcome of the November 2020 election and confirm the multiple reports that Fulton County had no evidence of fraud, intentional malfeasance, or dishonesty. We look forward to the monitoring of the

2024 General Election to help eliminate any false claims. More importantly, we believe this will protect our employees and Election Day workers.

Madam Director provided brief overview of the General Primary, Nonpartisan, and Special Election:

- **36** AV locations open on April 29th and off to great start

MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR APRIL 2024

Deputy Eskridge reported on the activities of the Deputy Director:

- Began working with appropriate departments to construct the departmental Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Worked with Director & Finance Manager to draft communications to Cities in regard to the 2023 Municipal election refunds
- Assisted with drafting an Elections Academy acknowledgement form
- Continued touchpoints with statewide vendors and Purchasing to procure needed supplies for the May Primary election

Mrs. Brittian reported on the activities in the **Absentee Division**:

- Weekly Meetings with the Division’s personnel
- Hired and Trained personnel
- Vendors engaged during **April 2024**
 - Quadient, Tattnall, HBSolutions, and TriTek
- **Secretary of State Absentee by Mail training webinar**

Last day to request an Absentee ballot O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381	MAY 10, 2024
Eligible Military and Overseas Voters (UOCAVA) Ballots must be received by 5pm.	MAY 24, 2024
ABSENTEE BY MAIL STATISTICS:	
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED	3350
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	22
PROVISIONALS BALLOTS MAILED (CURE REQUIRED)	79
TOTAL BALLOTS MAILED	2967
BALLOTS ACCEPTED	46
BALLOTS REJECTED	0

Chair Woolard reiterated if any voter wanted to vote by mail during this General Primary election the deadline is tomorrow and the quickest way to submit a request is via email. Elections.absentee@fultoncountyga.gov

Chair Woolard inquired about the 22 rejected applications.

Mrs. Brittian responded that various reasons:

- Voter not registered in Fulton
- Voter voted in-person

Ms. Dickenson reported on activities in the Administration Division: Performed routine administrative functions:

- Procuring goods & services.
 - Request PO and process payments of annual maintenance invoices.
 - Processed and made payment for P Card allowable purchases.
 - Processed and made payment for Travel Card expenses.
 - Prepared monthly reconciliation reports for Purchase Card (P Card) and Travel Card (T Card).
- Performed various HR functions:
- Processed payroll
 - Recruitment on hold due to cyber incident

PERSONNEL VACANCIES:		
TITLE	POSITION TYPE	STATUS OF RECRUITMENT
Information Systems Analyst I	New	Requisition processed. Awaiting register from HR to prepare for interviews.
Elections Systems Specialist	Existing Position	Requisition processed. Awaiting register from HR to prepare for interviews.
Absentee Officer	Existing Position	Requisition processed. Awaiting register from HR to prepare for interviews.
Courier (Time limited position)	Existing Position	Requisition submitted for recruitment.
Registration Officer	Existing Position	Recruitment to resume.
Registration Chief	Existing Position	Recruitment to resume.
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE REPORT		
The next campaign contribution disclosure report was due April 30, 2024 (election year candidates), with a grace period deadline on May 7, 2024.		

Chair Woolard inquired about the vacancies and how the public can apply.

Ms. Dickenson responded on the Fulton County website: <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/jobs>

Chair Woolard encouraged college graduates or general public to apply for these vacancies.

Mrs. Benjamin reported on activities with Advance Voting/ Early Voting:

- Advance Voting started April 29th, slow turnout
- **18K** AV voters cast ballots
- Developed and implemented in real-time EV Location monitoring and review system
- Engaged in our continual post-election activities:

Ms. Adams asked about voter turnout so far.

Mrs. Benjamin answered 18K as of yesterday.

Chief Ross reported on the activities in the Election Division and Election Day:

Summary of his division’s key activities:

- Restructured operation for Election Day Call Center Operations.
- Submission of the March 12, 2024, PPP election Reconciliation Report to the SOS.
- Formulated Letters of Instruction for Advance Voting, Election Day poll managers, and Election Check-in managers.
- Coordinated all signage requirements for the May 21, 2024, General Primary Election.
- Signed off on the Ballot project for the May 21st General Primary Election.
- Formulated Provisional, Emergency, and Sample ballot allocations required for the May 21st General Primary.

ELECTION DAY OPERATIONS			
Training started on April 16, 2024, and will end on May 18, 2024. We have trained approximately 693 Poll Workers and are on track to train all poll workers by May 18 th .			
POSITION NEEDED	QUANTITY	# RECRUITED TO DATE	Poll Workers Trained
Poll Manager	177	177	119
Assistant Manager	354	354	125
Clerks	794	794	388
Provisional Poll Workers	177 (Dual Role)	177 (Dual Role)	72
Total Poll workers Trained		632	
Poll workers scheduled to be trained		693	
Election Date:		General Primary / Nonpartisan Election May 21, 2024	

Chair Woolard asked about Election Day training and the number of personnel needing training.

Director Williams mentioned that training is ongoing at 4 locations daily.

Mrs. Barganier reported on the Department’s Finances:

- 2024 Elections and Operations budgets \$34 Million for 4 Elections
- AMS system online and the backlog of invoices are processed

- Tracking Actuals in the budget

2023 Municipal Budget balances rolled into the 2024 Municipal Budget:	
General Election Municipal Budget NOV 2023	\$1.5 Million
General Run-off Election Municipal Budget DEC 2023	\$1.75 Million

Below are the 2024 Elections and Operations budgets:

2024 Budgets as of 01/04/2024:	
Operations Budget	\$5.2 Million
Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) MARCH 12, 2024	\$9.5 Million
Presidential Primary MAY 21, 2024	\$8.75 Million
Presidential Primary Run-off JUNE 18, 2024	\$4.8 Million
Presidential General Election NOV 5, 2024	\$12.6 Million
Presidential General Run-off Election DEC 3, 2024	\$5.8 Million

Vice Chair Heekin mentioned a comment made during public comments regarding the disparity between Fulton and Cobb County.

Director Williams responded that she contacted Cobb County and again their fiscal year differ from Fulton's. **Madam Director** mentioned that comparing Fulton to any other county is unfair, we have more voters and more county miles. Also, they have not approved their budget for the November 2024 Election.

Mr. Gilstrap reported on the activities in the Information Systems (Elections Division):
May 21st General Primary Election:

- **Logic & Accuracy Testing** – Logic & Accuracy Testing began on April 8th and will continue through May 16th. The Information Systems staff started and continue to conduct Logic & Accuracy Testing and program all equipment for Election Day. The Information Systems staff will conduct Logic & Accuracy testing and complete updates on all Poll Pads used at Election Day sites and have these Poll Pads completed by May 19th.
- **Technical Support** – The Information Systems staff will provide technical support for Advance Voting, which starts on April 29th and ends on May 17th. Systems Specialists will also provide technical support for all Election Day sites on Election Day, May 21st.
- **Sunday Pick Up** – Provide Poll Pads, seals, precinct supply bags, and precinct binders to the Poll Manager for Election Day on Sunday, May 19th.
- **Election Night** – Closing out advance voting tabulators. Uploading memory cards from each Advanced Voting and Election Day precinct and tabulate. Display results and send reports to the SOS.
- **Post-Election** – Receive all voting equipment that was used in the General Primary Election. Conduct final tabulation and prepare reports for certification

Ms. Adams asked will the DRE Early Tabulate on Election Day.

Director Williams responded yes, the DRE will early tabulate, and the start time has been advertised and posted on the County’s website.

Mrs. Glenn reported on the activities of the Voter Registration Division:

The primary activities the VR staff worked on in February:

- Researched street issues
- Conducted redistricting changes in GARViS
- Processed all applications received before the voter registration deadline in preparation for the General Primary
- Registration staff continue processing all items on the county’s GARViS (**GeorgiA**
- **Registered Voter Information System**) dashboard and auditing and updating the voter roll

REGISTRATION STATISTICS:			
	April 1, 2024	April 30, 2024	
VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED		16,588	
ACTIVE VOTERS		736,287	
INACTIVE VOTERS		133,793	
TOTAL OF REGISTERED VOTERS		870,080	
APPLICATIONS TO BE PROCESSED		3,805	
NEW REGISTRATIONS TO FULTON COUNTY		5,673	
TRANSFERS TO FULTON COUNTY		7,220	
TRANSFERS FROM FULTON COUNTY		1,759	
REMOVALS FROM FULTON COUNTY		2,875	
FRONT DESK OPERATIONS			
	April 1, 2024	April 30, 2024	
Reason for Visiting Voter Registration			Total Number of Yellow Tickets
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION			11
TEMPORARY VOTER ID CARD – APPLICATIONS			70
REGISTER TO VOTE – WALK-INS			157
PRECINCT CARD REQUESTS			49
VOTER STATUS ISSUES (CANCELLATION, INACTIVE, ETC.)			2
3 RD PARTY/VOTER DRIVES (APPLICATIONS)			3
LETTER RESPONSE			1
OUT OF COUNTY / OUT OF STATE INQUIRIES			8
VOTER LIST/STATS			1
OTHER – RANGES FROM VOTERS WANTING TO CHALLENGE OTHER VOTERS, DROPPING OFF THEIR ABSENTEE BALLOT/APPLICATION, OR GENERAL QUESTIONS			56
		TOTAL:	358
List Maintenance Update			
76 Felon Challenge Letters mailed 1,834 ERIC-Deceased 58- Moved Out of State			
86- NGE 74 – Voter request 3 – Not verified			
REIF – Reporting Elections Systems Issue Form			

Mr. Henson reported on the activities of the Supplies and Logistics Division:

- Prepared the Advance Voting Supply boxes for all the May 21, 2024, General Primary Election Advance Voting Precincts.
- Prepared all the signs and other supplies for the Advance Voting locations for the

- May 21, 2024, General Primary Election.
- Delivered all the Advance Voting Supplies and Equipment to every Advance Voting location for the May 21, 2024, General Primary Election.
 - Provided support and assistance with setup for Advance Voting Precincts during delivery and after.
 - Provided logistical and supply support to all the Advance Voting polling locations by sending any supplies or other assistance as requested by the Advance Voting Precincts.
 - Provided absentee ballot drop box support by picking up any absentee ballots dropped into the 7 absentee ballot droboxes and transferring them to the Absentee Ballot Division during the May 21, 2024, General Primary Election.
 - Completed preparation of all the Election Day supply boxes for the May 21, 2024, General Primary Election.
 - Started preparing all the other Election Day supply bags and signs so they will be ready for Sunday Poll Manager Pickup for the May 21, 2024, General Primary Election.
 - Completed preparations and confirmations for Election Day equipment deliveries for the May 21, 2024, General Primary Election.

Ms. Little reported on the activities of Voter Education and Outreach (Administration Division):

- Focused on outreach to senior centers, high schools, libraries, and recreation centers
- Contacted all county mayor, city council member, and city clerk, alerting them of the beginning of early voting, the locations, and updated collateral for the 2024 election cycle
- Partnership with the High Museum of Art on outreach events at the facility to promote the 2024 election cycle
- Focused on collateral material for the 2024 election cycle for outreach events
- Communicated to the Fulton County Delegation members and the Mayor, City Council, and City clerks across all cities with updated election collateral in preparation for the May 21st election
- Conducted Deputy Registrar Training for all new staff members and offering training to the public
- All bills introduced that impact the elections department have been signed

VOTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES		
Activity	Total for the Month	Year Total
Deputy Registrar Training	57	Total active = 600
Voter Registration	315	777
Poll Worker Recruitment	0	198
Voter Identification Cards	1	24
Outreach Events	56	235
Absentee Application	39	470
Deputy Registrar Events	6	43
Connections for VEO.	200	715
Event Interactions	3500	12,510
Media Inquiries	10	35

Chair Woolard asked how citizens can request the VEO Team to attend their event or conduct training?

Ms. Little directed the **Madam Chair** to the Fulton County's website or call the office.
<https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/inside-fulton-county/fulton-county-departments/registration-and-elections/voter-education>

Vice Chair Heekin asked **Director Williams** about the status for allowing public comments via Zoom.

Chair Woolard responded that's a Board decision that we should discuss and place it on as an agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS

#6- BRIEF DISCUSSION OF LEGAL OPINION

#7- PROPOSAL FOR INDEPENDENT ELECTION MONITORING DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION

Mrs. Ann Brumbaugh gave an overview of her findings from the 30 years old local legislation and 10-year-old Bylaws:

45:00-1:07

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4N_rMdpf7c

Ms. Adams asked Secretary Bodison about Bylaw records.

Secretary Bodison explained that the 2014 Bylaws pre-dates my tenure in the DRE.
(Original copies were found on May 14, 2024, and submitted)

Chair Woolard highlighted the process of amending Bylaws and explained that she's open to collaborating with **Vice Chair Heekin**.

Chair Woolard explained that during an election she prefers that the staff concentrate on conducting elections.

Ms. Adams made a motion for this board to resume their legal responsibilities as the Superintendent with all the authority to this election (Financing, Training, real time election results). The motion was made by **Ms. Adams** and was seconded by **Vice Chair Heekin** and carried out by a vote of 2-2. The motion failed (2 Yays- Heekin and Adams and 2 Nays Crawford and Woolard).

Mrs. Ann Brumbaugh gave an overview of the SEB Hearing.

1:08-1:18

SEB CASES:

- 2 Dismissed
- 4 Letters of instruction
- 2023-0025 Letter of Reprimand, contingent on the BRE accepting a Monitor
 - the outline is vague of this cycle of monitoring
- Code does not give the SEB the power to force the county to take a monitor

Chair Woolard outlined during her last tenure the DRE was being monitored by a few entities

- Performance review Panel (SEB)
- Carter Center

Chair Woolard mentioned that the DRE and the BRE general posture is always to permit.

Attorney Brumbaugh recommended that the BRE accept the request for monitoring by a mutually agreeable monitor.

State Election Board (SEB) Rules:

Attorney Brumbaugh provided an overview regarding rules two Fulton Board members submitted to the SEB as proposed changes to SEB rules. (proposed rules attached to these minutes)

Chair Woolard asked that both members make an effort to work as one body to get things done.

Ms. Adams and **Mr. Heekin** explained these proposed changes were done in an individual capacity, not as Board members.

Chair Woolard disseminated a list of items that all members will have at 8am for the Certification meeting. **Madam Chair** asked if there were any items the BRE would like to remove?

Ms. Adams asked could some of this information be provided electronically a couple of days in advance.

Chair Woolard replied no.

Vice Chair Heekin asked about documents that show $A+B+C=D$ (ballot recap sheets).

Director Williams explained that Ballot recap sheets will not be available until after the certification meeting.

Ms. Adams asked about seal verification of Advance Voting during Early Tabulation.

Director Williams replied yes and due to comments during the last election there will be an emcee outlining the details of the Election Day process in the Hub.

Chair Woolard asked the BRE what time they want to get started.

Ms. Adams replied that looking at these documents for a few hours is pointless.

Chair Woolard entertained a motion to conduct the certification meeting at 8am to review documentation and to certify by 3pm. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford**, seconded by **Vice-Chair Heekin**, and carried by a vote of 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Chair Woolard** entertained a motion to adjourn. **Mrs. Crawford** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Ms. Adams** seconded the motion. There being no further business on the agenda, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary