

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, February 6th, 2019 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

Andy Callaway, Republican Party Appointee

Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointee

Also attending was: Tina Lunsford, Elections and Registration Supervisor; Grayson Davis.

Call to Order:

Chair Schmelz called the meeting to order.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Schmelz called for the acceptance of the agenda. Vice Chair Richardson made the motion to accept the agenda; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Approval of the January minutes

Chair Schmelz called for the acceptance of the January minutes. Board Member Callaway made the motion to accept the minutes; Vice Chair Richardson seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Board final vote on polling place changes after publication

The Director explained that the office had advertised the polling place changes for two weeks in the legal organ, the Times and on the website. She stated that there was an email questioning the reason for the changes and after explaining the citizen was satisfied.

Vice Chair Richardson mentioned a letter received by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda. Chair Schmelz explained the objections brought forward in the letter. The Director explained the reasons for the polling place changes. These reasons were; lack of parking due to crowding at the schools, the locations for voting in the school being moved each election, school events during Election Day, voter confusion about voting while school is in session. The Director stated that most counties have started the process of removing polling locations from schools. Vice Chair Richardson and Board Member Callaway commended the staff on their effort.

Vice Chair Richardson made the motion to approve and accept the changes as advertised; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Supervisor Report

The Director explained the changes in the budget and the items that are having an increase requested. These items included rental, communications, advertising, poll worker pay and paraphernalia that will be needed with the new voting units. The Director stated that she is also requesting two new positions. One being a Program Assistant 1 to help with registration and an Assistant Director. The Board discussed the information provided including; staff compared to other counties, increasing population with a larger workload, the new voting units being required and Board Members to attend the budget meeting. Chair Schmelz stated that she will be attending and requested another Board Member to go. Board Member Callaway agreed to be the second attendee.

The Director explained the status of voter registration applications. The office has processed thirteen thousand applications in the last six weeks. There have been 2,421 new registrations and 2,816 transfers into the county. The others have been addresses and updates to the voter records. She stated that there are still 711 DDS applications and close to 800 hand written applications to be processed.

Old Business

Vice Chair Richardson brought up the subject of the delivery and pick up of machines. He stated that he had contact with a county resident who owns a moving business. The Board discussed and decided to search for other possible companies and have those willing to come talk to the Board at a future meeting.

Chair Schmelz mentioned the NAACP voter forum she participated in. She stated that it was a very useful forum and helped with voter education. She requested other Board Members to consider doing more voter outreach. Chair Schmelz also requested for Henry County to incorporate the Student Ambassador Program to recruit poll workers.

Chair Schmelz brought up the proclamation previously drafted by Vice Chair Richardson. The Board discussed and decided to sign one copy and have official copies made to be sent out to the related parties.

New Business

Chair Schmelz requested for additional Board Members to attend the conference in March. She requested for the new Board Member that will be sworn in to participate in the conference.

Public Comments

The following people spoke during the public comments section: Kevin Sinha, representative of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, regarding the changing of polling locations.

Executive Session

Vice Chair Richardson made the motion to enter executive session; Chair Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session.

Announcement – Next board meeting on March 6th, 2018

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

Adjournment

Vice Chair Richardson made motion to adjourn; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.