

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, July 15th, 2020, held on Zoom. 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:

Donna McBride, Chair and Democratic Party Appointee
Andy Callaway, Vice Chair and Republican Party Appointee
Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointee
Dan Richardson, Republican Party Appointee
Mildred Schmelz, Democratic Party Appointee

Also in attendance: Director Ameika Pitts, Terrika Davis, and Brook Schreiner.

I. Call to Order

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order.

II. Acceptance of the Agenda

Board Member Callaway made the motion to accept the agenda; Vice Chair McBride seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

III. Board approval of the minutes

Board Member Callaway made the motion to accept the June minutes; Vice Chair McBride seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

IV. Chair Remarks

Chair Richardson made his remarks.

V. Election

- A. Board Member Schmelz nominated Vice Chair McBride to be the next Chair of the Board of Elections, Board Member Brown seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0. Board Member Callaway nominated Board Member Brown as the next Vice Chair of the Board of Elections and Board Member Brown declined the offer. Chair Richardson nominated Board Member Callaway as the next Vice Chair of the Board of Elections, Board Member Brown seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Board Member Schmelz abstaining.

VI. Old Business

- A. Chair McBride spoke on the Disaster Recovery Plan. She continued stating that she noticed some items were not complete and asked Director Pitts to elaborate. Director Pitts stated that it was a tentative plan and that this was a template to follow. She continued stating that Risk Management extended help out to the office in completing the plan. Board Member Richardson stressed that the Disaster Plan should include more than just Election Day, and some items he feels it should cover include: utility outages, cyberattacks, equipment failure, natural disasters, riots, protesters, academics, and pandemics. The Board discussed further and Chair McBride requested this plan be done by the next Board Meeting.
- B. Chair McBride presented the Early Voting schedule for the August 11, 2020 run off, with the added Saturday for voting.
- C. Chair McBride discussed complaints from the June 9, 2020 election. She mentioned some complaints which were late openings, lack of machines, and long lines. Board Member Schmelz mentioned a few complaints she received about a voter receiving the wrong Absentee Ballot, voters feeling that the Absentee Ballot drop box is not secure enough, and lack of machines at the precincts. She continued commending the office staff and

felt that the staff did an excellent job. Board Member Richardson mentioned a complaint submitted on June 29, 2020 about the conditions of the Elections office and the process of opening and counting the Absentee Ballots. Vice Chair Callaway echoed Board Member Richardson on the adjudication process of the Absentee Ballots. Board Member Brown asked if the County Manager is going to hire custodial staff to clean the office and stated that they've been invited over to the office before and they know that it is not a quality building. Chair McBride stated that she will get with Director Pitts and stay on top of this matter. Director Pitts stated that due to social distancing, a limited number of machines were sent out to stay within the guidelines of social distancing which in turn created longer lines alongside the matter of voters requesting Absentee Ballots and still going to vote in person. She continued stating that the precincts that did open late, they are now being informed in the training classes that they can open on time and offer provisional. Director Pitts went on to state that the office will have back up poll workers for the upcoming election. She continued stating that as for the Absentee Ballot drop box, maintenance came out and secured the drop box and installed a security camera. She mentioned that the tallying of the Absentee Ballots was a brand new process, and feels a guide should be made for that process. The Board discussed in further.

VII. Supervisor Report

- A. 1) Director Pitts said that L&A started July 6, 2020, all of the early voting machines have been tested, and started election day machines and plan to finish by the following week.
- 2) Director Pitts said that training began July 6, 2020 and mentioned that the training classes have been successful. She continued stating that a training class was offered on Saturday, July 11, 2020 just in case poll workers weren't available during the week.
- 3) Director Pitts said that 100% of the precincts were in place and ready to go for election day.
- 4) She also stated that all poll workers are in place, but still trying to get back up workers in place. Chair McBride stressed that poll managers should confirm with the poll workers 24 hours before election day that they are coming. Board Member Schmelz mentioned that the State said they would provide a program for Counties who need poll workers. Director Pitts

stated that she has spoken with the liaison from State that morning about providing back up poll workers. Chair McBride asked if there was a deadline and Director Pitts she would find out.

5) Director Pitts said that on July 6, 2020, the State started the mail out of the rollovers which are the Elderly and/or Disabled voters who submit the Absentee Application one time and automatically get an Absentee Ballot sent to their homes. She continued stating that the State is not sending out applications. The state sent out 5,716 Absentee Ballots. The office began July 1, 2020 and sent out 170 Absentee Ballots, and as of Tuesday, July 14, 2020, the office received back 461. Board Member Richardson mentioned a protocol that if a voter requests an Absentee Ballot for a general election that they automatically receive a ballot for the run off. Director Pitts stated that that is a misunderstanding, voters who are not elderly and/or disabled have to request a ballot each time. Chair McBride asked Director Pitts if she knew the percent of how many of the Absentee Ballots sent out from State were elderly and/or disabled. Director Pitts said she will get that percent of elderly and/or disabled.

VIII. New Business

- A. Chair McBride spoke of Resolution 2020-0002 in recognition of Tina Lunsford. Board Member Schmelz made the motion to accept the Resolution 2020-0002 in recognition of Tina Lunsford, Board Member Richardson seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

IX. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

X. Board Members Comments

The Board members made their remarks.

XI. Announcement- Next board meeting is on August 5,2020

Chair McBride announced that the next board meeting will be held on August 5, 2020 through Zoom.

XII. Adjournment

Board Member Schmelz made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chair Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.