

## **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 6, 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:

Andy Callaway, Chairman and Republican Party Appointee  
Arch Brown, Vice-Chairman and Board of Commissioners Appointee  
Mildred Schmelz, Democratic Party Appointee  
Jon Kirkpatrick, Democratic Party Appointee  
Richard Craig, Republican Party Appointee

Also attending was: Tina Lunsford, Elections and Registration Supervisor, Brook Schreiner, Grayson Davis, Pete Peterson and Casey Carol.

Chairman Callaway called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Board Member Craig made a motion to approve the agenda; Board Member Kirkpatrick seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

#### **Approval of the August Minutes**

Board Member Craig made the motion to approve the minutes; Board Member Kirkpatrick seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

#### **Board Discussion on roles and responsibilities of members**

Chairman Callaway mentioned having the county attorney attend a meeting to discuss the guidelines, duties and responsibilities of board members. Board Member Kirkpatrick asked if a discussion over these topics required the county attorney. Chairman Callaway stated that he thinks it's a good idea to have the county attorney give advice to new board members. Board Member Craig asked about any specific examples. Chairman Callaway stated that he believed reviewing the rules and regulations would be a good idea. Board Member Schmelz questioned the need for this meeting. Chairman Callaway stated that the information would be useful for new board members. Board Member Schmelz asked if this has been done before. Tina stated that she is unaware of it being done before. Board Member Schmelz stated that she thinks having someone from the Secretary Of State's office would be

a better choice. Board Member Brown stated that it would be a good idea. He stated that there are situations the board needs to be aware of. Board Member Craig states that he thinks this would be a good idea. Tina stated that she will contact the state liaison to set up a meeting. She also mentioned that Paulding County has a new board member training manual and that she will ask if Paulding County will share the materials. Board Member Schmelz asked if the manual has been approved by the Attorney General or Secretary of State. Tina stated that Paulding County is one of the counties the Secretary of State's contact for pilot programs, because they function at a high level. Chairman Callaway asked for Tina to contact our liaison. Chairman Callaway asked to leave the topic at having Tina obtain more information and to have the subject again at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tina stated that a meeting over the rules and regulations will most likely have to wait until after the municipal elections.

### **Municipal candidates and election**

Tina stated that the cities had qualifying last week and provided a list with all of the candidates that qualified. She stated that there are no challenges and all qualifications check out. Board Member Kirkpatrick asked about the process. Tina stated that as a part of the intergovernmental agreement, the city does the qualifying and then we take over. So as of Monday, the board is officially the election superintendent for all four municipalities.

Board Member Craig asked if members could support a candidate by putting a sign in a yard. Board Member Schmelz stated that it is advised not to. She stated that it is best to prevent any appearance of a conflict of interest. Chairman Callaway stated that he agrees. Board Member Craig asked what the law states. Tina stated that the law says you cannot identify as a member of the board and do campaigning at the same time. Board Member Callaway stated that you don't have to identify directly as people can know you are a board member.

Board Member Brown asked if there is a challenge. Tina stated that there aren't. She stated that there was a question about residency, but the candidate in question provided a lease.

### **Update Board on status of BOC appointee**

Tina stated that September 14<sup>th</sup> is the first meeting of the committee. They will meet and hopefully the Board of Commissioners will be able to vote at the next meeting after the committee meets.

### **Open Discussion**

Board Member Schmelz asked Tina about the process of how the state selects counties for demonstrating new election equipment and processes. Tina responded

that the state usually selects a county with a large, medium and smaller population size to get a fair representation. Rockdale has about 80,000 and are normally chosen. Cobb, Fulton and DeKalb are cycled as a representatives of a large county. She stated that Henry is within approximately 10,000 of Clayton, Cherokee and Chatham, and that the state rotates among these counties for medium range.

She stated that one vendor has approached Henry about being a pilot county for their equipment. If this happens, it will be in the latter part of next year. Chairman Callaway asked if this would involve any additional cost on our end. Tina replied no. Board Member Schmelz asked how many counties are doing these pilot programs. Tina stated that she think there are 8. She stated that Henry was one of the pilots for the voter registration system implemented in 2012. Chairman Callaway asked that if we are selected, will it put an extra workload on our department. Tina stated that it wouldn't. She stated that previously the state trained the counties well. Board Member Schmelz stated that she believes it would be an honor to be selected. Tina agreed.

Board Member Schmelz asked about the new voting units being demonstrated and the procurement of them. Tina stated that Georgia has a law for uniform voting systems. She stated that these companies are showing the equipment, but the State of Georgia decides which units to use.

Board Member Kirkpatrick asked if there had been a voter registration drive recently. Tina stated that New Georgia Project is out actively registering people. She stated that the office typically attends one on government day. The office will also attend drives during city government week and visits high schools. She stated that now that there is online registration, mobile apps and the DDS, voting drives are becoming obsolete.

Board Member Schmelz stated that she is interested in applications for mail-out absentee ballots. She asked how we can ensure that the elderly and disabled are able to vote. Tina stated that she places a packet of 100 applications in each qualifying packet, and that groups are able to request for more. She stated that a group from Hampton brought back in 168 requests. She stated that the office used to send applications to nursing homes. This process led to some irregularities occurring. These irregularities were from the staff at the nursing homes. To ensure the integrity of the election, this process was stopped. Board Member Kirkpatrick asked what the next step is to ensure that these electors can still vote. Tina stated that at the beginning of an election cycle the office reaches out to churches, the paper and the county website to provide the information. Board Member Kirkpatrick asked if there are any other avenues. Tina stated we also reach out to organizations that promote voting and assist in distributing applications. She also stated that one

request will ensure that the elderly and disabled will receive a ballot for an entire election cycle.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Adjournment**

Board Member Craig made the motion to adjourn; Board Member Kirkpatrick seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.