



Registrations and Election Elections Corner

Summer 2010

“News for & about the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections”

A Letter from the Director

Greetings from Barry Garner:

Time really does fly when you are having fun! It's been just a little over one year since I relocated here from Miami to begin my journey with Fulton County Registration and Elections. My enthusiasm was high, yet I recognized a huge challenge ahead for our team to positively turn things around. I believed in our team and the potential within our team to overcome any obstacles.

The first thing on the agenda was to establish internal goals toward organizing and administering the best Fulton County elections ever. Overall, the goal was for our department to be abundantly productive for the purpose of propelling to new registration and elections heights. It was my sincere hope that the public would have a renewed sense of faith and trust in our department.

It is my pleasure to inform you the hard work and dedication of the past year is starting to pay off for our team. Much work is still left to do. However, we are starting to experience small victories. Our recent July 20, 2010, General Primary/ Special Election is being touted as a success. 97,294 voters cast their ballots for the candidates of their choice. Voter participation is currently up to 19.17%.

In addition, we implemented our first ever Family Voting Day on Saturday July 10, 2010. It was a huge success! This day was designed to give families an opportunity to come out to vote together. It was our belief that we would increase voter turnout if we expanded voting opportunities beyond our normal Monday – Friday, Early and Advance voting hours. The Board of Commissioners praised our efforts and stressed their desire for us to expand our Saturday Family Voting Days in the future, if our budget allows.

Because poll workers are the heart and soul of our Election Day, an online training curriculum is in the development stage. Let me publicly acknowledge my appreciation for our hard-working, detailed-oriented and dedicated team of Election Day Poll Workers we have throughout our 333 precincts.

Our Registration and Elections team is not successful without the support of a concerted Fulton County team effort. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the following departments who support our election efforts: Office of County Manager, Office of Communications, Fulton County Library, County Attorneys, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Purchasing, General Services, Finance, and Information Technology.

Last and certainly not least, a HUGE thank you to my Registration and Elections team, for your commitment and dedicated efforts to create “JUST outstanding RESULTS!”



MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure that the registration and elections process is efficiently and effectively provided to eligible citizens of Fulton County according to applicable laws and rules.

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!



Melodye Hagood has served the citizens of Fulton County for over 18 years, 13 of which have been as a Registration Officer in Registration & Elections. Melodye currently works at the South Service Center located at 5600 Stonewall Tell Road, where she remembers the voter count being 85 during one of the major elections, many years ago, in comparison to the thousands it has today. She also remembers the old upstairs office being redesigned by Commissioner Edwards into the Employee Break Room. Melodye has seen the department go through many changes. She associates that to a phrase her mother used to say, “the only thing constant is change.”



Voter Education and Outreach

Voter Education is an essential, non-partisan, comprehensive approach to providing the citizens of Fulton County with vital information and data for the purpose of enhancing voter experience. By providing information to as many voters as possible, we are able to reduce many of the issues that voters face while registering to vote and exercising their right to vote in the manner in which they choose. Through our efforts, we intend to increase voter awareness, confidence, trust and participation.

On Election Day each year, the Voter Registration and Elections Department receives tens of thousands of calls from voters with questions about their voter status which include:

- **Am I registered?**
- **When and where do I vote?**
- **Can I vote at any location?**
- **What's on the ballot?**
- **What do I need to bring with me to the polls?**
- **How do I vote absentee?**
- **What's a provisional ballot?**

Through the use of media outlets, public presentations in neighborhoods, schools, and churches, visibility at community events and virtual communication options, many of these questions can be answered well in advance of Election Day by the Voter Education and Outreach team.

If you are interested in more information on the Voter Education and Outreach Program, contact our office at 404-612-7020 or visit us on the web at www.fultoncountyga.gov/registration-elections.

Saturday Voting

Saturday Voting is back in Fulton County to stay!!!

During the July Primary Election, Mr. Garner, Director of the Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections reintroduced Saturday voting to the Fulton County citizens as **"Family Voting Day!"** The pilot initiative was an overwhelming success and yielded the highest turnout of any early and advanced voting day during the July Primary. Family Voting Day gave Fulton County voters the opportunity to come out on Saturday, at locations within each Fulton County Commission District and exercise their right to vote. Voters were able to bring their children and introduce them at an early age to the Elections process. This new initiative came at no additional cost to taxpayers. During the General Election in November, the Department will provide voters with two opportunities to vote on Saturday between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm during Early and Advance Voting. The dates and locations are as follows:

Saturday, October 16th

Government Center

141 Pryor Street SW
Suite. 4064
Atlanta, GA 30303

South Fulton Service Center

5600 Stonewall Tell Road
Suite. 105
College Park, GA 30337

North Fulton Service Center

7741 Roswell Road
Suite. 251
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Saturday, October 23rd (in addition to the sites previously mentioned)

Ocee Branch Library

5090 Abbotts Bridge Road
Johns Creek, GA 30005

Roswell Regional Library

115 Norcross Street
Roswell, GA 30075

Adamsville Recreation Center

3201 Martin Luther King Drive
Atlanta, GA 30311



International Relations

During the Spring Elections cycle, the department had the honor of hosting two international delegations. The first was a student group from Taiwan and the second was a delegation of researchers from Germany. Mr. Garner, the Director of Registration and Elections, greeted our guests and spoke to them about the importance of the right to vote in this country. He explained that those of us who work in elections are the guardians of democracy. The right to vote remains the greatest right we have as American citizens and it should always be equitable and well preserved. The guests had an opportunity to view and participate in several demonstrations showing how the process has improved and become more cost efficient through advances in technology. We look forward to other groups who would like to come and witness what we believe to be the most important function in government.

POLL WORKER TRAINING

On average, the Elections Department will conduct 70-85 training classes per election cycle depending upon the number of poll workers needed to conduct the election. The classes for the upcoming General Election will start in early September. The classes will take place at the North Service Center, South Service Center, Election Preparation Center and Johns Creek.



Not only will we conduct the in-person training, but for the **FIRST TIME**, there will be an online training course provided. This course will be available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day for poll worker convenience.

If you are interested in becoming a poll worker, you may print the application from www.fultoncountyga.gov/registration-elections or you may contact our office at 404-612-7020.

Goodbye Ira!



Ira Turnipseed has been part of the Fulton County Department of Registration & Elections team since 1988. He retired from the position of Elections Equipment Manager in January, 2010. He was a great asset to our family and will be greatly missed.



WELCOME Evelyn & Shauna!

As we go through the 2010 Election Cycle, we would like to give a warm welcome to the newest members to the R&E family, **Ms. Evelyn Goodloe** and **Ms. Shauna Dozier**.

Dates to Remember

Nov 2, 2010	General Election
8/31/2010	Determine Poll Worker requirements
9/1/2010	Deadline to determine number of Poll Worker classes
9/9/2010	1st Poll Worker training session
9/20/2010	Begin mailing absentee ballots
9/20-10/22	EARLY VOTING
10/4/2010	Last day to register to vote for the General Election
10/16/2010	Saturday "Family Voting Day" (3 Locations)
10/25-10/29	ADVANCE VOTING
10/23/2010	Saturday "Family Voting Day" (6 Locations)
10/29/2010	Last day to request an absentee ballot
10/29/2010	Last day to mail absentee ballots
11/2/2010	ELECTION DAY - General Election
11/2/2010	Begin opening absentee ballots at 7:00 am
11/3/2010	Begin processing provisional ballots
11/4/2010	Deadline for processing provisional ballots
11/5/2010	Deadline to receive UOCAVA ballots
11/6/2010	Election certified
11/22-11/24	Advance Voting for Run Off Election (if required)
11/30/2010	Run-Off Election (if required)

Did You Know That...?

William Ewen was the first president of the [Council of Safety of Georgia](#) during the [American Revolution](#). He is considered the state's first [chief executive](#), although the first chief executive under a proper constitutional government (the "Rules and Regulations" of 1776) was [Archibald Bulloch](#), and the first person to hold the title of (non-royal) "governor" was [John A. Treutlen](#).

Remember to...

verify your registration before the October 4, 2010 deadline.



Election Information Websites

Secretary of State
www.sos.state.ga.us

Fulton County
www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/elections
www.myfultoncountyga.com

State of Georgia
www.georgia.gov

Federal Voting Assistance
www.fvap.gov

Federal Election Assistance Commission
www.eac.gov

Federal Election Commission
www.fec.gov



CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Elections 404-612-7020

South Fulton Service Center
 404-612-3050

North Fulton Service Center
 404-613-7675

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