



## MINUTES

### BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING – JULY 14, 2016

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, July 14, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room 128, 130 Peachtree Street, SW, Suite 2186, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Presiding:** Ms. Mary Carole Cooney, Chairperson

**Other Board Members Present:** Mr. Stan Matarazzo, Vice Chair  
Mr. David Burge  
Mr. Luther Beck

**Absent:** Ms. Rukiya Thomas

**Staff Attending:** Mr. Richard Barron, Director; Mr. Ralph Jones, Registration Chief; Ms. Pamela Coman, Registration Manager; Ms. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Elections Chief; Ms. Brenda McCloud, Administrative Coordinator II; Mr. David Lowman, Staff Attorney and Ms. April Majors, Office of Communications.

**Guests Attending:** Mr. Richard Lankford, Candidate for Sheriff; Mr. John Mattox; Mr. David Ross; Ms. Rhonda Johnson and Mr. Chris Walker, City of Atlanta Office of the Municipal Clerk; Ms. Elizabeth Poythress and Ms. Sally Fitzgerald, League of Women Voters of Georgia; Ms. Minnie Ruffin, BPANA/GCPA and Ms. Penn Payne.

#### **#1 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Vice Chair Matarazzo moved to approve the agenda for this regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beck and carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

#### **#2 – COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RESPONSE**

**Mr. John Mattox** stated his disappointment during early voting for the General Primary and Nonpartisan Runoff Elections because most of the people voting were Democrats and the poll workers at the South Fulton Annex were distributing the incorrect ballot. A nonpartisan ballot was given to voters and Richard Lankford was not reflected on the ballot as a Democratic candidate for Fulton County Sheriff. He emphasized the need for correction of this issue prior to Election Day.

**Mr. Richard Lankford**, candidate for Fulton County Sheriff, reported on a voter's complaint given to him during the Early Voting period at the South Fulton Annex. Mr. Brower said a report was issued to Investigator Howard at the Secretary of State's Office (SOS).

**Mr. Barron** gave a brief explanation from the poll worker.

## **OPERATIONS REPORT FOR MONTH OF JUNE 2016**

Mr. Barron reported on the following:

- There are two organizations (The New Georgia Project and Community Voter Project) delivering a significant number of voter registration applications to our office. The New Georgia Project has submitted over 64,000 voter registration applications. Both organizations have reduced or eliminated in their submissions voter registration applications which belong to other counties. They are doing a better job of filtering the applications.
- There were four late or non-filers of their campaign contribution disclosure reports.
- The Elections Officer/Investigator position is in the process of being filled.

**Vice Chair Matarazzo** asked was there a timeframe for staff to complete the processing of the 50,000 voter registration applications.

**Mr. Barron** said the date is in October, but we plan to complete the processing earlier.

**Mr. Jones** explained the reason for the early processing was because the bulk of the voter registration applications will come in October and we cannot be behind going into the General Election.

### **#6 – UPDATE ON FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT**

**Vice Chair Matarazzo** provided to the Board a report from the Budget Analyst Monthly Activity as of May 31, 2016. He is still trying to obtain a month-to-month budgeting reporting for 2017. Vice Chair Matarazzo asked Mr. Barron about his expectations for the rest of the 2016 year.

**Mr. Barron** stated the department will be okay; however, part of it depends on whether we have the December 2016 and January 2017 elections. The November 2016 election is a big expense; however, it is in line with the budgeted amount already in place.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **#7 – UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR JULY 26, 2016 GENERAL PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION**

**Mr. Barron** reported as follows:

- There are three early voting polling locations open and 1,477 voters have voted as of July 13, 2016.
- Additional early voting sites (four locations) will be opened beginning July 15, 2016.
- Polling locations for Elections Day – 207 with approximately 1,100 poll workers.
- Low voter turnout is expected because the Democratic races are the only countywide races on the ballot. There is one Republican race for eight precincts in District 80.

### **#8 – APPROVAL TO CONDUCT THE 2016 SPECIAL ELECTIONS (BOND REDERENDUMS) FOR THE CITIES OF MILTON AND UNION CITY**

**Mr. Barron** explained the Board has the resolutions for the cities of Milton and Union City and the contract for the City of Union City. The City of Milton is in the process of approving and submitting their contract.

They requested the Board pre-approve their contract; which is the same format as for the City of Union City; this would expedite and prevent delay in processing.

**Vice Chair Matarazzo moved to approve the resolutions and contracts to conduct the cities of Milton and Union City special elections to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beck and carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

#### **#9 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR – TERM BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2016 THROUGH JULY 31, 2017**

**Vice Chair Matarazzo moved to nominate Mr. Luther Beck to serve as vice chair for the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections during the term beginning August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burge and carried by a unanimous vote of 3-0.**

Mr. Beck accepted the nomination and the position of vice chair.

#### **#10 - APPROVAL OF PRECINCT BOUNDARY LINE CHANGES - PROPOSAL NUMBERS 01/16D AND 01/16A THROUGH 08/16A**

Mr. Brower explained each proposal to the Board and stated the changes will be in effect for the General Primary Runoff Election on July 26, 2016.

Mr. Burge noted the maps presented for Proposal Number 01/16D were incorrect.

Mr. Brower stated he will review the maps and make necessary corrections.

Vice Chair Matarazzo stated the majority of the annexations reflected no change in the number of voters in the before and after proposals.

Mr. Jones explained the majority of the annexations involved corporations because residential voters had to have been in their legal residence. He was not sure if all of the voters were non-resident and he will review the proposals.

After further discussion, the Board determined the proposals needed to be tabled, reviewed and resubmitted to the Board at a later date.

**Vice Chair Matarazzo moved to table approval of Proposal Numbers 01/16D and 01/16A through 08/16A – Precinct Boundary Line Changes for needed corrections to be made and to place stated proposals on the agenda for the regular meeting of the Board scheduled for August 11, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beck and carried by a majority vote of 3-1.**

**Votes cast as follows: Yeas – Chairperson Cooney, Vice Chair Matarazzo and Mr. Beck  
Nay – Mr. Burge**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session was held.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no other items requiring the Board's action, **Chairperson Cooney** entertained a motion to adjourn.

**Vice Chair Matarazzo moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beck and carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Prepared by,

Shirley L. Arnold  
Secretary of the Board