



Fulton County, GA

Winter 2011

Registration and Elections Elections Corner

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

A Letter from the Director

Greetings from Barry Garner:

Many people ask what we do when we are not conducting an election. Is that a full time job? My first response is we conduct elections every year. Then, I explain although we may not have an election until November in odd numbered years, there is much preparation needed in order to conduct a successful election. This is what I call our offseason. Webster describes "offseason" as "a time of year when a particular activity, typically a sport, is not engaged in."



This offseason is time for us to prepare and plan for the 2012 elections. There will be, potentially, five countywide elections in 2012, beginning with the Presidential Preference Primary in February. The time and effort we put in now, will determine how well we will perform next year.

As a result, we have revamped our training for poll workers. We are scheduled to introduce online poll worker training on March 31, 2011. This will allow the poll official the flexibility to complete a major portion of the required poll worker training at their own pace, at their convenience (24/7), and in the comfort of their homes. The added benefit is that we can monitor both their progress and performance throughout the process. Also, we are planning to have two major mock elections this summer. The purpose of the mock election is to practice and review critical areas where we need to make changes and/or improvements. There is no such thing as a perfect election, but if we continue to work hard and practice, we should minimize mistakes.

Fulton County Registration and Elections will be conducting Municipal Elections in 2011. We met with all the city clerks involved, to discuss the cost and services of conducting their election. All of us want to reduce the cost of elections without hurting the service to the voters. In addition, the meeting was a good opportunity for us to get to know each other.

In our pervious newsletter, I stated how extremely pleased I was of the many accomplishments of the department this year. However, I am most proud of how we saved taxpayers' money. During the 2010 fiscal year, we closed out the year with a surplus of 2.5 million dollars. We accomplished this while conducting four countywide elections; several petition drives and establishing the first Saturday "Family Voting Day" in Fulton County. The innovations we have established here have made us more efficient and effective.

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!

Derrick Gilstrap has been a contributing member of the Voter Registration and Elections team since 2003. Derrick, our gentle giant, standing at 6'7, manages one of the most important functions in the Election's process; vote tabulation. An Alumni of Morehouse College and a native of Atlanta, Georgia, Derrick has an extremely strong IT background and through his expertise, has made the transition to a more automated, virtual Elections and tabulation process far more efficient. We salute Derrick and look forward to his continued commitment to the voters of Fulton County.



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION MONTH!

April brings National High School Voter Registration Month to Fulton County Georgia. In collaboration with the State of Georgia, civic organizations, churches, and schools, the Fulton County



Department of Registration and Elections will launch a massive voter education and outreach campaign in all of the high schools within Fulton County. It is our goal to give every student, who is of lawful age (17 ½) and eligible to be a registered voter in the state of Georgia, an opportunity to complete and submit a voter registration application. Of equal importance, it is our shared mission to educate young voters of the importance of exercising the right to vote so they may begin to understand why it is so vital to the health and productivity of American society. We encourage "all" young voters to explore and decide on their own, where they stand politically and to take an active roll in the process of democracy. During the 2008 Presidential Election, statistics show that for the first time in history, voters under the age of 29 represented the largest segment of the voting population by age. It is our hope that we are able to encourage young voters to not only participate in Federal high profile Elections, but to also take interest in the communities and neighborhoods where they live. We know that it is as important to elect a School Board

Member, City Councilmen or State Representative as it is to elect the President of The United States. As April approaches, we are extremely excited about introducing a new generation of voters to the Elections process and we very much look forward to their coming contributions.

BALLOT-ON-DEMAND



- ✓ **Efficient**
- ✓ **Accurate**
- ✓ **Transparent**

In Fulton County, as we prepare for Elections in the near and distant future, we are well aware that aggressively pursuing advances in technology enables the Department of Registration and Elections to be far more effective in our services while being cost efficient at the same time. As the voting population grows, laws change and the process continues to be far more complex, Ballot on Demand represents one of those technological advances that, simply put, makes us better. We are very aware that as voting

trends change and far more voters are taking advantage of absentee voting, we must be prepared to meet the needs of the Electorate in Fulton County that expect efficiency, transparency and their vote properly tabulated.

Ballot on Demand provides a transportable unit that prints accurate ballots instantly that can be easily tabulated and audited ensuring that the Election process is fair, equitable and extremely efficient. The use of this new technology to Georgia will save money and time while reducing the possibility of human error. Ballot on Demand can be used to print ballots that are used for Provisional Voting, Absentee by mail, Overseas and Military Voting, as well as the duplication of ballots when required. We look forward to great success in the use of this new technology.

State Ethics Commission- Now has New Name

The State Ethics Commission is now called **The Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission** (also known as the Commission). Along with the new name several other changes have occurred; all local filings of Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports (CCDR) and the Personal Financial Disclosure Reports (PFD) (**county and municipal**) are now made with the Commission. Local filing officers will no longer be required to maintain Campaign Finance Commission filings which are made after 1/10/2011. Local filing officers will continue to maintain filings which were made previous to 1/10/2011. This change makes electronic filing mandatory for all campaign disclosure reports by candidates and campaign committees. All filers are now required to provide a current e-mail address to the Commission. If there are changes to the email address, the Commission must be notified within 10 days of the changes to the email

NEW!! State Verification Process

In accordance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA 42 USC § 15483(a)(5)), the Secretary of State and The Department of Driver Services play a major role in determining the eligibility of a person trying to register to vote.

The process begins when a newly registered voter is entered into the state registration system for the first time. There is an overnight (24 hour) verification process at the state level. Your information, such as driver's license number, date of birth and social security number, is then compared against the databases of the Social Security Administration and Department of Driver Services to ensure that

the information provided is correct.

If any of the information comes back with discrepancies, a report is generated, daily, for staff review and you will then be notified, by mail, that there was an error with the information that was provided originally and further documentation is required in order to complete the processing of your voter registration information.

Once all information has been verified, your name will be added to the list of electors and a precinct card will be issued to you, providing you with your voting location, as well as the districts in which you live.

Online Poll Worker Training

In March 2011, Fulton County Elections & Registration Department will launch its Online Poll Worker Training Program. Online Poll Worker Training is a virtual mirror of what is taught in the existing training class.

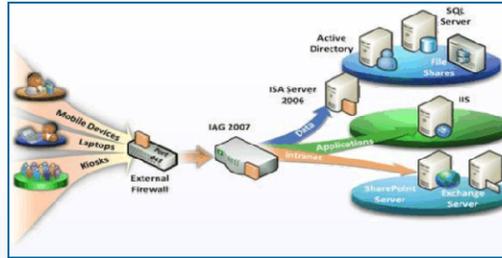
The web-based curriculum will teach poll workers about polling place procedures, pre-election and post-election day, in a self paced setting. Pamela Coman, State Certified Instructor, states, "We are excited about expanding our training program. Poll Workers will find the training to be convenient and efficient. Our expectations are to strive to enhance the way we train by giving poll workers the tools they require to be exceptional on Election Day."

Each poll worker will be required to attend a lab for hands on training on the voting equipment. The online training features poll worker training material, video demonstrations, pop quizzes, and an exam. Upon passing the exam, poll workers will receive a Certificate of Completion.



SECURE SOCKETS LAYER Upgrade

The 2010 Election Cycle has come to an end and the 2011 Election year started with the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Software Upgrade,



as well as acceptance testing on our Global Election Management System (GEMS) Server, R6 and TSX Touch Screen Voting Units. Currently, Fulton County houses 3,108 of the 26,500 statewide Touch Screen Voting Units.

Upgrades will be conducted statewide and Fulton County was one of the first counties in the state to receive the enhancements. The software upgrade was conducted by The Center for Election Systems of Kennesaw State University.

What is this, you may ask. SSL technology is used to authenticate the identity of the election management software server and the touch screen units when they are exchanging encrypted information. An SSL certificate contains information that enables the voting system to detect that the server is loading a ballot file onto a memory card or a touch screen unit that is uploading cast votes to a server is communicating with trusted entities.

The SSL certificates in the Premier Election Solutions system used in Georgia are set to expire July 3, 2013 and the constraints of the 2011/2012 election cycle is the driving force to perform this upgrade during the first six months of 2011. The upgrades for GEMS and the Touch Screen Voting Units must be completed statewide by June 30, 2011. Fulton County's upgrade and acceptance testing was completed by February 8, 2011.

Did You Know That...?

Erected in 1777, the legislative branch of Georgia's state government, known as The General Assembly, is older than the U.S. Congress. The location of the General Assembly has always resided in the state's capital, which hasn't always been Atlanta. The Assembly's first location was Savannah, which served as the capital from 1776-1778, when the British captured the city; it was relocated to Augusta until 1779, when the British captured the city. Between the years of 1779 and 1866 the General Assembly served out of Savannah & Augusta, simultaneously; Louisville, which was Georgia's first planned capital and site of the first capitol building; and Milledgeville, where in 1861 the state joined the Confederacy by passing the Secession Act. Finally, the General Assembly settled in Atlanta under then governor, John Pope.

Election Information Websites

Secretary of State

www.sos.state.ga.us

Fulton County

www.fultoncountygga.gov/county/elections

www.myfultoncountygga.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

**Registered Voters
as of Feb. 21, 2011**

Active: 528,654

Inactive: 98,055



CONTACT INFORMATION

Government Center Tower (main)

Registration 404-730-7072

Elections 404-612-7020

South Fulton Service Center

404-612-3050

North Fulton Service Center

404-613-7675

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