

# BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

# **REGULAR MEETING – December 12, 2022**

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, December 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

## Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone. FGTV YouTube Channel

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Presiding: Cathy Woolard, Chairwoman

Other Board Members Present: Mrs. Teresa Crawford, Vice Chairperson Dr. Kathleen Ruth Mr. Aaron Johnson Mr. Mark Wingate (virtual)

**Staff Attending:** Mrs. Nadine E. Williams, Interim Director; Mr. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director; Ms. Shamira Marshall, Registration Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Election Chief; Ms. Mariska Bodison, Absentee Manager; Mrs. Janice Dickenson, Administrative Manager; Mrs. Janell Barganier, Financial Systems Manager; Mrs. Jodi Brittian, Absentee Supervisor; Mr. Thomas Johnson, Registration Supevisor; Ms. LaShandra Little, VEO Manager; Mr. James Reese, Production Manager; Ms. Regina Waller, Communications Division Manager; Patrick O'cconor, Supervising Attorney; Chad Alexis, Attorney; Mrs. Patrise Perkins-Hooker, Legal Counsel

**Guests Attending:** 

# #1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Vice Chair Crawford, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a vote of 5-0.

# **#2– COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE**

## Jason Frazier:

My first question: Is it legal for a member of this board to come to a Precinct where I am working pull the manager into another room and question my integrity. That's exactly what happened when Teresa Crawford came to my location when I was working on Election Day. It made it very uncomfortable for that morning until I was able to explain to him why I have voter challenges. I'm just trying to clean up the fraud in this County. I'm not doing anything wrong; I have tremendous ethics; I've worked elections in the past and I'll work elections in the future. All I'm trying to do is the job that this County should be doing on their own, nothing out of the ordinary. That kind of leads me on to the next thing I just emailed you guys another 6,000 voter challenges these are people mainly that are registered two, three, four, five

times. I sent you 13,000 of these duplicate registrations earlier this year the process hasn't changed. I also sent several people that are registered with missing addresses, missing date of births, missing last names and the issue with this is that leads to people voting multiple times. I've seen people voting multiple times. There was somebody in the general that requested an absentee ballot for both of his addresses because he was registered twice, that leads to fraud whether intentional or on accident. We need to register people one time, have the full information with no typos, no missing birth dates, no changing addresses. One person, one vote. That's all I'm going for not to mention and this tremendous thousands of hundreds of thousands of dollars to have extra people on the rolls that do not exist. Cost to the cities, costs to me, it costs to all of us in wasted tax dollars. Thank you.

### Lucia Frazier:

In elections we are still lacking in a lot of leadership that will enforce Georgia law and create these efficient processes that will save our tax money and protect our ballots so a few things I want to mention there's still occurrences where public observers are being walked out before the poll is open and after the polls closed a lot of people still don't realize that you have to leave the door unlocked and we also really need to have hand count tallies at the precinct level before the ballots leap and we can have all the party observers watching that and then there would be pretty much no issue after that you can verify that the machine is doing what it's supposed to do the voter registration process as you just heard hasn't been corrected we're still finding those duplicate registrations at the precinct level I had a lot of great experiences working with my fellow poll workers however during early voting we still have the issue that people are being told they have to work all 19 days while it's very easy for a poll manager to manage their staffing needs by allowing split shifts and if we could communicate that you would get increased poll worker interest and then you would have sufficient people to have the double staff and create more shifts and not pay any overtime that would save a lot of money if nobody went into overtime in the trainings it's been revealed that inter department communication is so many long-time managers and workers I noticed things came up that they didn't know about and a lot of equipment was being misused and not being taken care of and having to be replaced so that's more tax dollars just simple communication like wiping the screens with no wet cloths people don't know that um and then finally during early voting all week I noticed snapshots on WebEOC that the lines were no wait times in the South but wait times in the North I don't know so just something else to look at. Thank you very much.

### Kevin Muldowney:

It's clear that Fulton BRE needs to clean house and refresh in everyone's mind the shamble of the runoff election that supposed to be certify today. The election where the early voting lines have been horrendous. Average wait times on the North side have been one to two hours early voting with three hour waits commonly recorded on the last two days of early voting some have claimed voter suppression. The new stations would have been running with that narrative where the case on the South Side by the way the South side lines were quite a bit shorter or it could have been just ineptness on the part of Fulton County. The runoff had 33 percent less voted early voting locations combined this with an early voting window that was less than one half the available voting days of the recent General and we can see the Genesis of the disaster we were subject to. Then we had over 200 precincts open on Election Day with an average wait time of a few minutes terrible planning and execution. Ocee Library again on the north side as of this past Friday had not reconciled their early voting and did not expect to have it completed before Wednesday of this week. I suspect the scenario at this early voting location was not a complete outlier sounds like we're trying to certify again with incomplete data. If we asked Dominic who will tell you as he has before I'll get back to you on the incomplete data. Speaking of Dominic, I understand who's recently purchased a brand-new Range Rover with the Mercedes he purchased last year put that together with his home mortgage it's hard to understand how we can afford on his approximately seventy thousand salary. Looks like he may have a pretty hefty income or getting some nice cash flow from his country of citizenship Nigeria. As I stated above, we need to clean house Nadine Williams seems like a wonderful person, but it also seems like Richard Baron 2.0 she cannot be appointed as the permanent Director and Dominic Olomo should also be shown the door, thank you.

### Christine Propst:

Good morning my name is Christine Propst and I'm from Sandy Springs as a poll manager and a poll Watcher in Sandy Springs. I saw 70% of our voters in the wrong precinct during the Primary 50% for the General and up to 20% with the last Runoff. I escalated the issue after the Primary and was told voters would receive precinct cards and that did not happen. No cards, no mailers, no radio, no TV, no nothing. There was over \$1.7 Million dollars in the budget for election marketing head of household letters and precinct card mailers where did that money go it certainly wasn't spent in our area. I reviewed the Voter Education Outreach events and here's what I found out of 498 events only 19% were in North Fulton 6 events were outside of Fulton altogether 5 of those were in DeKalb why are Fulton tax dollars paying for outreach events in DeKalb? There were 75 Voter Registration drives only 8 were in North Fulton the events the week before the election were in 90 plus Democrat precincts. I think there were like 16 events the week of early voting all but one was in a Republican it was in a Democrat precinct and those numbers were not 74 percent. I know this is a Democrat County! There were over 2,300 connections to organizations including Fair Fight, NAACP and Trans of Anarchy why are Fulton tax dollars spent on Democrat Outreach based on budget line items at least 470,000 is allotted

for Voter Education and Outreach Division, this is not money well spent. This Board needs to audit that department and stop spending money on Democrats get out the vote.

#### Julie Allen:

I voted early in Fulton County for the Senate runoff election I respectfully offer my feedback and experience I'd been watching The Fulton votes app all week to determine when how to vote I drove past Milton and Alpharetta libraries on Tuesday no way did I have time to wait in those lines on Friday we drove past Ponce de Leon Library three block wait. We then drove 26 minutes to South Fulton service center where the wait was shown to be zero minutes. When we arrived at the same time the wait was shown to be 180 minutes at the Milton Library that's three hours. There really only 10 early voting locations in North Fulton on Wednesday somebody fainted at the Alpharetta Library Thursday, the same at Roswell both required EMS to show up. The person at Roswell stated they were lightheaded due to lack of food each County runs elections individually the responsibility for this debacle is on interim elections director Nadine Williams alone wait times of 120 minutes every day at the Milton Library Alpharetta Library screams of voter suppression. Four voting locations with wait times of zero to twenty minutes all within close proximity within the city of South Fulton is great what happened to the rest of Fulton my experience suggests undeniably that Fulton County Georgia voters are being driven to mail-in ballots early voting is promoted everywhere Atlanta votes early signs are everywhere however early voting locations have been reduced in the runoff election High Museum Johns Creek Environmental Center are examples of reliable highly used early voting locations that were not used in the runoff election. Voters are being herded like cattle to mail-in ballots by making voters miserable who vote then the voter can't even verify for whom their ballot was cast. Every voter has the unacceptable election day challenge regarding the fact that no human can verify their vote within the two-dimensional barcode unlawfully printed on the ballots and used by the ballot tabulator to count the votes. QR codes need to go, voting machines need to go, voting centers need to go we need local precinct voting early voting needs to go mail-in ballots need to go except for verifiable need-based examples such as the military and those who are ill or unable. Democracy dies in time this needs to stop thank you.

#### Mary Jo Peed:

Good morning good morning my name is Mary Jo peed and I'm a voter of Fulton County. I had the unique experience of being a volunteer for the Democratic party and received observations from poll observers from throughout the county. We had over 300 during early voting and on Election Day. I worked every shift, and we didn't have any major issues reported to us and except for a long line of course and that has to do with the reduced period of time that we were allowed to vote for early voting. I'd like to congratulate the department for a good election a well-run election. The Observers were very impressed with the poll workers the professionalism and the courtesy and the caring of the poll workers and I'd like to thank you all for a tremendous effort and continued good luck in the next year.

#### Foris Webb, III

Good morning Foris Webb, III, City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk. First and foremost, I'd like to congratulate the Department of Registration and Elections for a successful election. I know it's challenging and there are no perfect elections, but I do commend you all for a successful election. I also would like to thank the Board for equipping the Office of Registration and Elections with the necessary resources in order to successfully conduct the elections. I would also like to go a little bit further and congratulate and thank the **County Commission** as well as the **County Manager** for providing the resources for this particular Department. Specifically, **Chairperson Pitts** who under his leadership not just this year but last year and the year before took it upon himself to actually take the lead in this particular Department. I know that these are partisan appointments and it's very difficult when you have to make nonpartisan decisions. On behalf of the citizens of Atlanta and Fulton County, I thank you for doing that. Last but not least, I'd like to strongly recommend **Nadine Williams** she has worked her way up to this particular position. She started at the entry level, she's very familiar with the entire County, she's very familiar with the operations and I think it's only fair to allow her the opportunity to serve this County as the Election Superintendent. Thank you so much for a successful election again.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **#3- APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- > Special Meeting- November 8, 2022
- Regular Meeting November 15, 2022

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the Special Meeting- November 8, 2022 & Regular Meeting – November 15, 2022. The motion was made by Vice Chair Crawford and was seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

# **#4– - MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2022**

**Mrs. Williams** greeted the Board and called on Division Leadership to provide their report to the Board.

Mrs. Dickenson reported:

- Positions Vacant:
  - o Director, Registration Manager, and Registration Officer, Executive Assistant
  - Processed and submitted invoices for payment
  - Processed campaign contribution disclosure reports
  - Preparation of the 2022 Elections

**Ms. Bodison** reported for the Absentee Division:

- Participated in the Risk Limit Audit (RLA)
- Absentee Ballot mail out began November 21<sup>st</sup>
- Drop boxes opened November 28<sup>th</sup>
- **21,699** Ballots were mailed
- **15,459** ballots were accepted
- Continuing to retain all Absentee records from the General & Runoff Election

Mr. A. Johnson inquired as to how many Absentee ballots were returned after Election day.

Ms. Bodison responded approximately 370 ballots were returned after 7pm on Election Day.

Mr. A. Johnson asked was those rejected ballots postmark date prior to Election Day

**Ms. Bodison** replied that no one reviewed that, but we can research it; the issue is that voters confuse Absentee with Voter Registration. The election code allows the postmark dates for Registration but not for Absentee, absentee must be received on Election Day at 7pm or rejected with the UOCAVA exception.

Dr. Ruth inquired about the reason for 1,298 canceled ballots

**Ms. Bodison** responded either the office would cancel it, or Miss. Benjamin and her staff would cancel it at the Early Voting location to vote in person. The voter will surrender their ballot, or they signed an affidavit attesting to destroying, discarding, or that they never received the ballot.

**Mr. Wingate** inquired about the reported differences in numbers of the Absentee Monthly report states 17,000 plus accepted absentee ballots but if I look at the unofficial results is 14,340 absentees by mail. Can you explain that difference or discrepancy?

Ms. Bodison responded that it was a discrepancy and provided the correction

**Mr. Wingate** stated unless you've updated that then I believe what you're going to be asking us to approve 14,340, am I incorrect on that? You're unofficial and incomplete report that you sent

to the board when looking at the numbers submitted

**Ms. Bodison** responded are you referring to the results sir? What we accepted in ElectionNet is what I'm reporting, not the scanned and reported ballots in the results.

Mr. Wingate inquired which absentee by mail vote cast are you asking the board to certify?

Ms. Bodison responded I am giving the Monthly Operations Report for November

**Chairwoman Woolard** stated we'll answer the question when we get to the certification part but first complete the Operation report. Does this number need to be revised on this chart that you've given us and what does that number need to be?

Ms. Bodison responded 15,511

**Mrs. Williams** interrupted may I note that the Operation report is usually behind the current date because we draft that before we get to this meeting that's why those numbers might be off from what's being certified

**Chairwoman Woolard** stated I do think we've had this conversation about the lag of these reports, and I think that there are places where we have counts that we're considering in real time that need to be addressed at the beginning of the report. Even if they're not changed in the documentation it would just be better for us all to have that correct number as we go.

Ms. Marshall reported for Voter Registration Division:

- Registered Voters 862,713 total
- 757,230 active
- 105,483 inactive
- 15,977 applications
- 3,184 new registrations
- 6,557 transfers to Fulton county
- Records were updated to ensure the correct precinct and combo numbers
- Attended a series of training conducted by the Secretary of State's office
- November 8<sup>th</sup> challenge hearing held
  - 8 voters attended and challenges removed

Ms. Little reported on Voter Education and Outreach Division:

- No new deputy registrars trained- newest team members **490** for the year
- 39 voters registered, 2,359
- 2 poll workers to assist with runoff, **958** for year
- **16** voter id cards, **66** for year
- **63** absentee applications, **435** for the year
- **100** connection, **2436** for year
- 2,000 interevent interactions giving us over 22,000 for the year
- 10 media inquiries, 41 for year

The Voter Education and Outreach Team also spent the month of November planning and coordinating events to make sure people were educated about the runoff and the registration for the federal deadline which was November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. A. Johnson** stated I want to talk a little bit about how these events are scheduled. Do you create the events, do you reach out or are these events request related?

**Ms. Little** responded 85 of the events are requested and 15 my team Outreach efforts, but most of our overall events are requested

**Mr. A. Johnson** stated I know that there are two Commissioners in particular that when they have events around their districts, they reach out to the department to have the Voter Education team with them. Is that true for all Commissioners or is it leaning towards some Commissioners asking for your support and others not?

**Ms. Little** responded more Commissioners will ask than others out. I had meetings with all the Commissioners except for one and made sure that they knew to keep me aware and abreast of what events VEO can assist with. For the most part we've had events in every commissioner's district

**Mr. A. Johnson** stated you also reached out to each Mayor of every city in Fulton County to talk about doing events in their respective cities and to offer your services or offer your team's ability to come out in every city in Fulton County correct? Of that how many took advantage of that or how many consistently requested you?

**Ms. Little** responded every city took advantage of that except for one out of the 15 cities. Alpharetta and city of South Fulton and College Park Mayors were very consistent and involved in making sure that we were out in those areas.

**Mr. A. Johnson** stated so you did go across all the parts of Fulton County to make sure that everybody in Fulton County had an opportunity. Some took greater opportunities than others, but you still went to every city in Fulton County. Now let me ask you this I noticed there are a couple of dots outside of Fulton County, apparently there were events outside. How did you get outside of Fulton County?

**Ms. Little** responded two of the events was the Inman Park Festival which is on the border of Dekalb and Fulton county. We went to that Festival twice and that was early on during the Primary and then early on in January or February because Director Barron was still here. There was a request from Disability Link to have us come there and the headquarters is located in Dekalb County. However, their population of members were all Fulton County it was probably **85%** Fulton County. I was given permission to do four events with them because the bulk of their members were Fulton County registered voters.

**Chairwoman Woolard** stated great thank you for your hard work. I started my career as a Grassroots organizer and having that personal touch with people and talking to people is incredibly rewarding but it also is very hard work. I appreciate it and **Mr. Johnson** I appreciate you calling out the differences between North and South and the City of Atlanta. Atlanta is the biggest city in our County and takes a lot of resources. I did some math I wouldn't ask

anybody to hold me to it but it looked like there were about 93 events in the northern part. If you'd leave out Atlanta it's about 110 in the southern part. I didn't account for any of the virtual events so they're close. I would encourage anybody who wants to have an event to contact the office they will go where they are asked to go and have been proactive about trying to go places where maybe people haven't been inviting them. I don't know of any situation where they've not gone where they've been requested to go, and it takes a lot of time. As we get closer to an election people are interested and it gets a little tougher to schedule at everybody's convenience. Starting next year let's start having those events and thank you so much for your hard work appreciate it clearly it paid off given the turnout that we had.

Mrs. Williams concluded the monthly operations report

# NEW BUSINESS

# **#5–CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS FOR THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION** ON DECEMBER 6, 2022

Municipalities: Atlanta, East Point, Fairburn, Milton, Roswell, & South Fulton

Mrs. Williams greeted the board and briefly discussed the results of the Official General Runoff

**Mr. Wingate** expressed concerns about the Absentee by mail reported numbers versus the numbers recorded to be certified. Mr. Wingate added the ABM results 14,340 should have 1,512 added to the total for overall ballots cast.

**Chairwoman Woolard** inquired to **Mr. Wingate** as to which version of documentation he was looking at, as it appears his numbers are different from the rest of the **BRE** members.

Mr. Wingate provided his report statistics which differed from in-person BRE members

Ms. Little forwarded updated results to Mr. Wingate

**Chairwoman Woolard** stated that the meeting will recess to give staff time to resolve discrepancies in the results

Collectively, the Board agreed to take a short break to resolve ABM discrepancy

Collectively, the Board agreed to resume the meeting and skip Agenda Item **#5** and allow the System Specialist to review the EMS System

## #6- 2023 BRE MEETING SCHEDULE

**Chairwoman Woolard** suggested the Board was okay with leaving the dates to the second Thursday in each month. I think there's a couple suggestions that have been made one is perhaps we should continue to have our regular monthly meeting on the day of our regular monthly meeting regardless of proximity to

certification don't combine those things so that the discussions are very specific to those situations. That is an additional burden on staff and on us for that matter, but I think we've kind of run into a little bit of that each time we've had four to six of those situations in the last year with runoffs and elections. I think that the problem is as push comes to shove everybody's really tired during an election and nobody wants to have two meetings within the course of a week, but I think the meetings will be more specific and probably faster if we were to do that, so we'll just hold that under advisement. We probably won't have that many of these situations next year because we don't have State or Federal Elections and we may or may not be administering any Municipal elections. I would like to ask **Dr. Ruth** if you wouldn't mind spearheading this with our **Vice Chair** to talk to the staff as well as other board members and take a close look at these monthly reports and let's scrub through how the numbers are presented and set some guidelines for the clarification. We'd like to see on them what's useful numbers, what's not, sometimes there's numbers on there that just aren't useful and then they get to be a point of conversation because we can't quite figure out what the context is. Get feedback from the staff, I'm sure they'd like to propose some changes too and then maybe when we come back to our January meeting and we might finalize it in terms of how we want to see those reports or not.

**Mr. A. Johnson** mentioned previously we've always done our certifications separate and honestly the certification meetings used to be 10 minutes. We come in Saturday morning 10 a.m. certify elections then everybody was on their way. I agree that would really help in the sense that you know you're here for certification and staff can focus just on certification numbers and certification information.

**Chairwoman Woolard** reiterated we'll stick with the regular meeting schedule for 2023 unless we decide otherwise, second Thursday at 10 A.M. **Dr. Ruth** and **Mrs. Crawford** will lead a discussion among staff and **BRE** members about changes to the monthly report and some of it's just format changes in terms of dates.

# **#7 REVIEW OF COST TO MUNICIPALITIES TO CONDUCT THEIR ELECTION**

**Mrs. Williams** stated before 2019 a resolution was drafted that municipalities paid a certain amount per voter. The cost of the election since that time in 2020 with the new voting equipment and SB 202 guidelines that were implemented. This increased the cost of elections so we're proposing to revise a resolution for a different cost per voter. If we do not exceed that amount, we will offer the municipalities a refund of their money for what is not spent. The elections are averaging over roughly nine million dollars so it'd be \$11.48 per voter and if we do not exceed that amount, we will refund the municipalities and municipalities again do have a choice they do not have to have us conduct their elections. Municipalities have the option to go paper, they have the option to contract it out or lease equipment from us and conduct their own election. In order for the county not to absorb the costs we're asking for the resolution to be revised and a new cost per voter for the municipalities be approved.

**Chairwoman Woolard** stated you mentioned that the cost was over \$11 but the resolution says \$9.53.

Mrs. Williams stated we did a revision this morning I do apologize for that there was a delay

with us getting some verifications about who pays regarding School Districts and Municipalities. It would be \$11.48 per voter for a regular municipal election and for a runoff election it would be \$5.72.

**Mr. A. Johnson** stated it would go up considerably from \$2.96 to \$11.48. For each City or each Municipality that's around \$85,000 per 10,000 voters. Have we looked at alternatives or various ways to mitigate such a significant increase?

**Mrs. Williams** answered in 2023 that's what we will be working on. There are some things that are beyond our control because of the size of the equipment that has cost us more money with needing more trucks, needing to have three drivers versus two drivers because of the equipment size, moving companies coming. Some things we can't control but what we will do while we have down time. Review again and see where we could do cost savings and then again that'll help them with the price savings. We are going to be looking at all those things in all aspects advanced voting, election day and after. We are asking the approval of the resolution with the edit of the \$11.48 and then the \$5.72 for the runoff cost.

**Mr. A. Johnson** inquired if we do this today does this becomes our new rate? So, this rate would be in effect for the next Municipal elections? Are there any Municipal elections anticipated before February? I would recommend that we take some time to actually look at do we need \$11.48 or does it need to be \$8.57 or \$9.26. The earliest a Municipality can have an election is March for whatever reason (a council person left tomorrow) the earliest would be March. Then you would need enough time for you to review it, give it to the **BRE** to review the numbers and then it goes to the Board of Commissions for approval.

**Mrs. Williams** stated there's no rush on our end I think some of the municipalities are asking for the total for their budgeting so they can plan accordingly

**Mr. Wingate** asked what formula are you planning to work with that would in essence then figure out a net cost to the city?

**Mrs. Williams** answered if we look at a total cost for election, we take that amount and divide by the number of registered voters. If we were to change nothing at this point how that would be reduced if let's say for instance a city does not have an election that we would subtract those there will be fewer polling sites that need to be manned on Election Day. That reduces the cost so let's say for instance we have 249 pulling sites right now if the city of Sandy Springs which is not having an election that gets removed from the total of that reduces sites, it reduces poll workers, reduces deliveries and those type of things to start chipping away at the cost. Nine million dollar is based off a county wide election of every city is having an election, but the cost goes down from there depending on how many Advanced voting sites we open how many cities are having an election, but the cities are charged for the number of registered voters and that's where that total comes from.

Mr. Wingate asked what you would be doing is that if a Municipality chooses to use us for their

election process, you're going to have a reconciliation as to what the actual costs were for that Municipality.

**Mrs. Williams** stated if you look at the example from 2021 the approved budget was \$7 Million dollars but after all expenses it ended up being \$5 Million dollars. If we were to approve this, they would get a refund. Unfortunately, at the cost of \$2.96 it cost the county over \$2 Million dollars for the Department to conduct a Municipal Election. The resolution that was drafted and approved in 2019 before the new voting equipment was implemented and before SB 202 was passed by Georgia Legislatures; so those two expenses are not accounted for in the current resolution.

<u>Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion made by Mr. Johnson to move the Review of Cost to</u> <u>Municipalities to Conduct their Election to January, the motion was seconded by Dr. Ruth. The</u> <u>motion passed 4-1, Vice Chair Crawford Nay.</u>

# **Continued-** #5–CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS FOR THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION ON DECEMBER 6, 2022

Municipalities: Atlanta, East Point, Fairburn, Milton, Roswell, & South Fulton

Mr. A. Johnson commented on the North versus South wait times:

I personally hate the North versus South all the time and everything because it all depends on where you live and where your emotions are and the reason why I say that is because I look at the people that came this morning and they continually talked about wait times in North Fulton County and there were no wait times in South Fulton County.

- I voted in South Fulton County and I had to stand in line.
- Senator Warnock voted at Metropolitan Library, he waited
- Congresswoman Williams went to East Point library and she waited for hours
- Commissioner Arrington said that he was at Wolf Creek and waited for hours
- South Fulton Commissioner Khadijah said that she had 1.5 hour

These are elected officials that are on record talking about their wait times and they're in South Fulton County.

Mr. A. Johnson asked Mrs. Williams to expound on the wait times throughout all of Fulton County

**Mrs. Williams** explained that\_unfortunately there were wait times in North and South Fulton because this election had such a high voter turnout; although, we opened 24 locations plus some Outreach locations there was major voter involvement. The **DRE** compared wait times in neighboring counties and the wait times were similar

**Mr. A. Johnson** mentioned hearing comments questioning why we did not use Mega-sites from 2020 such as: State Farm Arena, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, or Georgia International Convention Center.

**Mr. A. Johnson** noted the complaints about being able to even use those specific Mega-sites, now we're not using them, and we're being vilified for not using them

**Mrs. Williams** agreed with **Mr. Johnson's** comments. **Mrs. Williams** explained that voters have to remember those facilities were available due to the Pandemic, those are revenue generating facilities and normal business has resumed. There are some places that still help us like High Museum of Arts was awesome, but they were not available for the Runoff Election they had an Exhibit they could not reschedule; therefore, they declined usage.

**Mr. Johnson** complimented that Madam Chair because she always implores our citizens to reach out to their elected officials to advocate for better laws. **Mr. Johnson** asked when Alpharetta Library had the lines for hours or Metropolitan Library when you found out that there was a big voter rally going on at a church a block away. If we could have taken our mobile voting units up there to help alleviate the lines that could have been helpful?

**Mrs. Williams** answered yes it would relieve pressure off the facility because of the long lines but those days are gone do the **SB 202**. The mobile buses were equally distributed throughout the county for the January 2021 election; unfortunately, it's not available anymore for voting because of **SB 202**.

**Dr. Ruth** agreed that there were wait times in the North or the South the only few places that didn't have wait times Union City and Palmetto which was understandable. **Dr. Ruth** discussed her voting experience and expressed the importance of making sure the information posted is accurate and updated more frequently (Wait times updated to reflect on all available outlets)

**Mrs. Williams** stated the absentee totals are 15,395. They caught that something did not get uploaded, they uploaded again and that's the only number that has changed on this report. It took some time because they were reconfirming all other results at the same time.

**Mr. Wingate** inquired about undervotes out of all the four various races in total? I asked for that validation because the Roswell city council post if I'm looking at your report correctly in total there were 3,217. I just asked that because that number is relatively high compared to the other three races.

Mrs. Williams explained which means the voters chose not to vote on that race

**Chairwoman Woolard** explained an undervote could reflect that they either didn't vote in the Senate and or they didn't vote in the Council race.

Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the certification of the election. The motion was made by Ms. Crawford to certify the General Runoff December 6, 2022 election and was seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

# EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene into executive session.

# ADJOURNMENT

# Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the <u>meeting. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion</u>. Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 12:26 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by

Mariska Bodison, Absentee Manager Jasmine Johnson, Executive Assistant