



BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 18, 2024

During this Meeting, the Department experienced an audio outage.

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

**The meeting was recorded and is available for your review on
FGTV YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYH7E0jH6HxE-3KTRluH8SQ>

Board Members Present Mrs. Patrise Perkins-Hooker, Chairperson
Mr. William Michael Heekin, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Aaron Johnson
Mrs. Teresa Crawford
Ms. Julie Adams

Staff Attending: Mrs. Nadine E. Williams, Director; Mr. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director; Mr. John Ross, Elections Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Election Chief; Mrs. Kathryn Glenn, Registration Manager; Mrs. Jodi Brittan, Absentee Manager; Mrs. Shoshauna Goins, Absentee Supervisor; Ms. Janice Dickenson, Administrative Manager; Mrs. Janell Bargarier, Financial Systems Manager; Ms. LaShandra Little, VEO Manager; Mr. Thomas Johnson, Registration Supervisor; Mr. Corey Henson, Elections Equipment Manager; Ms. Regina Waller, Division Manager; Mr. James Reese, FGTV Production Manager; Mr. Darryl Peek, Mr. Tyree Spencer, Mr. James Artis

Legal: Mr. David Lowman, Supervising County Counsel; Mr. Chad Alexis, Senior Assistant County Counsel; Ms. Ann Brumbaugh, Special Counsel

ACRONYMS:

BRE- Board of Registration and Elections
DRE- Department of Registration and Elections
EHOC- Elections Hub and Operations Center
BOC- Board of Commissioners
ABM- Absentee by Mail
L&A- Logic and Accuracy Testing
VEO- Voter Education and Outreach
REIF- Reporting Elections Systems Issue Form

BMDs- Ballot Marking Devices
SOS- Secretary of State's
SEB- State Election Board
DDS- Department of Driver Services
CERA- Certified Elections Registration Administrator
GARVIS- Georgia Registered Voter Information System

#1– APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Perkins-Hooker proposed an amendment to the agenda to move item 6 (new business) the Certification of the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) to item #4 after the Election Update.

Chair Perkins-Hooker entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was made by **Mr. Johnson**, seconded by **Mrs. Crawford**, and carried by a vote of 5-0.

#2-COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Ms. Christine Propst provided feedback on her experience as a Poll Watcher and observations reported by other Poll watchers:

OLD BUSINESS

#3– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

➤ Regular Meeting – February 8, 2024

Chair Perkins-Hooker entertained a motion to approve the proposed minutes of February 8, 2024. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Vice-Chair Heekin** and carried by a vote of 5-0.

#4- ELECTION UPDATES

Chair Perkins-Hooker congratulated the Department on a successful election.

Director Williams greeted the Board members and provided a brief overview of the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP):

- **178** Election Day polling locations opened on-time
- **16,000+** electors voted on Election Day
- **36** AV locations open 19 days and **4** Outreach locations on college campuses
- **40,000+** electors voted during Advance Voting
- **1,200+** Absentee by Mail ballots processed
- Preparing for the upcoming After- Action Meeting

Chair Perkins-Hooker mentioned not hearing any concerns regarding election equipment and she asked Director Williams about what was reported during public comment.

Director Williams answered that the DRE will review the feedback from the Republican Party and WebEOC to determine the accuracy of the feedback received. This process is part of our After- Action Plan. She indicated that she could not confirm the numbers reported because they did not come from the Department.

Chair Perkins-Hooker inquired about the equipment allocation.

Mr. Gilstrap provided on Election Day the equipment allocation:

- 3,000 BMDs
- 800 Scanners

Director Williams added that despite allegations that less than few machines were not working, this observation did not impact or prevent voters from voting.

Mr. Johnson requested a report of the Director's assessment of the After-Action Plan.

Director Williams responded that she would provide a summary.

Vice-Chair Heekin suggested contacting the Chair of the Democratic Party to request any feedback that they have received from their assigned Poll Watchers.

#5-CERTIFICATION OF THE MARCH 12TH, PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY (PPP)

Chair Perkins-Hooker announced that she communicated with neighboring counties regarding documentation that the BRE members received prior to completing the certification of results. Those documents included: Statement of Votes Cast (SOVC), Election Summary, and Consolidated Return Sheets (this require BRE and the Director's signatures)

Prior to the Board voting on the certification of the PPP, **Ms. Adams** read written remarks as a Point of Personal Privilege. A copy of her prepared remarks is attached to these minutes.

Vice-Chair Heekin expressed his biggest concern is Chain of Custody. This is the weak link of Elections. Vice Chair quoted Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/cisa-insights_chain-of-custody-and-ci-systems_508.pdf

Madam Chair asked the Director does the Election Results Summary provide a true and correct count of the votes cast in Fulton County for the candidates in the

Republican Presidential Preference Primary. (A copy of the Election Results Summary is attached to these minutes.)

Madam Director responded yes.

Chair Perkins-Hooker entertained a motion to approve the Certified Election Results from the Republican Presidential Preference Primary. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Mr. Johnson** and carried by a vote 3-2; Nay votes by **Vice- Chair Heekin** and **Ms. Adams**.

Madam Chair asked the Director does the Election Results Summary provide a true and correct count of the votes cast in this County for the candidates in the **Democratic Presidential Preference Primary.** (A copy of the Election Results Summary is attached to these minutes.)

Madam Director responded yes.

Chair Perkins-Hooker entertained a motion to approve the Certified Election Results from the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Mr. Johnson** and carried by a vote 3-2; Nay votes by **Vice- Chair Heekin** and **Ms. Adams**.

#6- MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Deputy Eskridge reported on the activities of the Deputy Director:

- Worked with Director to draft Poll worker newsletter
- Touchpoints with external departments to escalate various supply and procurement requests for needed election items for the PPP
- Comprised the departmental election's blackout calendar for 2024 cycle
- Worked with Managers to establish GARVIS contingency SOP's
- Worked with Director to draft communications to Municipalities requesting a review over redistricting changes for the upcoming May 2024 Primary

Mrs. Brittian reported on the activities in **Absentee Division:**

- Weekly Meetings with the Division's personnel
- Processed all applications and ballots received
- Vendors engaged during **February 2024**
 - Quadient, Tattnall, HBSolutions, and TriTek

GARViS

- (REIF) Reporting Election-Systems Issue Form:
 - Unable to flag outgoing Provisional ballots
 - Ballot received date error

Attended

- **Secretary of State Absentee by Mail training webinar**

SOS DEADLINE DATES:	
Earliest Day to apply for Absentee by Mail for the May 21, 2024, General Primary and Special /Nonpartisan Election	March 4, 2024
ABSENTEE BY MAIL STATISTICS: See the Official and Complete Election Results	

Ms. Adams asked for clarity on Mrs. Brittian's comments about rejected ballots.

Mrs. Brittian explained that the ballots received after Election Day require processing in the GARViS database. The ballots are rejected and retained.

Ms. Dickenson reported on activities in the Administration Division: Performed routine administrative functions:

- Requisitions limitations due to cyber incident
 - Process P-Card purchases and T-Card travel / training expenses.
- Performed various HR functions:
- Processed payroll
 - Recruitment on hold due to cyber incident

PERSONNEL VACANCIES:		
TITLE	POSITION TYPE	STATUS OF RECRUITMENT
Information Systems Analyst I	New	Requisition processed. Awaiting register from HR to prepare for interviews.
Elections Systems Specialist	Existing Position	Requisition processed. Awaiting register from HR to prepare for interviews.
Absentee Officer	Existing Position	Requisition processed. Awaiting register from HR to prepare for interviews.
Courier (Time limited position)	Existing Position	Requisition submitted for recruitment.
Registration Officer	Existing Position	Recruitment to resume.
Registration Chief	Existing Position	Recruitment to resume.
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE REPORT Submitted late and non-filers report for the January 31, 2024, reporting period to the State Finance Commission.		
QUALIFYING DOCUMENTS – 2024 ELECTIONS Prepared Qualifying Notice and Qualifying Candidate Information packets to qualify candidates during the qualifying period of March 4, 2024, to March 8, 2024.		

Mrs. Benjamin reported on activities with Advance Voting/ Early Voting:

- Advance Voting election event went well
- Engaged in our continual post-election activities:

- Reconciliation which is an audit of the AV location operations for compliance with state and county policies and procedures.
- Conducted a review and assessment of the newly implemented Poll Pad voter processing system
- Updated our training materials and training curriculum for implementation in the next election

Mrs. Crawford asked can she receive an invite to the Roundtable,

Mrs. Benjamin responded yes.

Chairperson Perkins-Hooker asked about the comments made during Public Comment regarding possible Advance Voting Tabulation violation.

Director Williams responded that there were no concerns during tabulation, every vote was counted and tabulated. The complaint was drafted by the Republican Party and the DRE will review the information received.

Chief Ross reported on the activities in the Election Division and Election Day:

Summary of his division's key activities:

- Restructured Election Day Call Center Operations.
- Formulated Letter of Instructions for Election Day poll managers and Election Check-in managers.
- Coordinated all signage requirements for the March 12, 2024, PPP elections
- Communicated with SOS Elections Project Coordinator regarding May 21, 2024, General Primary Election Projects.
- Formulated Ballot Build Survey for May 21, 2024, General Primary Election.
- Communicated with municipalities for Contest/referendum for the May 21, 2024, General Primary Election Ballot.

Attended:

SOS Webinar:

- Risk Limited Audit (RLA) Training
- Ballot Proofing Training

National Certification Course, Certified Election Registration Administrator (CERA):

Course 3 Planning and Budgeting in Election Administration and Voter Registration

ELECTION DAY	
Today's Date: March 4, 2024	
PREPARATION FOR ELECTION / WORK SUMMARY:	
Recruited all Poll Managers, Assistant Manager, Clerks, Technicians and Provisional for the March 12, 2024, Election. The last of the low total of 88 comprise of Clerks, Provisionals and Technicians has been scheduled for March 9, 2024	

Election Date:		March 12, 2024	
POSITION NEEDED	QUANTITY	# RECRUITED TO DATE	
Poll Manager	178	178	
Assistant Manager	356	356	
Clerks	794	794	
Provisional Poll Workers	178 (Duplicate)	178 (Duplicate)	
Reserves	75	75	
Technicians	178 (Duplicate)	178 (Duplicate)	
Total	1403	1403	
Total Trained			1315

Mrs. Crawford expressed concerns on overstaffing of polling locations.

Ms. Adams suggested that a financial analysis be conducted of the outreach locations. No motion was made by any board member to authorize this request.

Ms. Little provided an overview of the College Campus Outreach locations.

Madam Chair expressed concerns about the underutilization of those locations during this election. She mentioned the mobile voting that was implemented by the DRE and soon after the Georgia Legislator voted to prohibit the use of the same. She indicated that this was a more cost effective way of allowing these students to vote.

Ms. Adams asked about the Chain of Custody documents and the amount of poll workers that returned to reconcile their paperwork.

Director Williams answered that reconciliation is currently on-going and she did not have any totals at this time of the numbers of poll workers who had to finalize any elections documents.

Mrs. Barganier reported on the Department's Finances:

- 2024 Elections and Operations budgets \$34 Million for 4 Elections
- Due to AMS we do not access to our Financial System (workarounds in place)

2023 Municipal Budget balances rolled into the 2024 Municipal Budget:	
General Election Municipal Budget NOV 2023	\$1.5 Million
General Run-off Election Municipal Budget DEC 2023	\$1.75 Million

Below are the 2024 Elections and Operations budgets:

2024 Budgets as of 01/04/2024:	
Operations Budget	\$5.2 Million
Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) MARCH 12, 2024	\$9.5 Million
Presidential Primary MAY 21, 2024	\$8.75 Million
Presidential Primary Run-off JUNE 18, 2024	\$4.8 Million
Presidential General Election NOV 5, 2024	\$12.6 Million
Presidential General Run-off Election DEC 3, 2024	\$5.8 Million

Chairperson Perkins-Hooker expressed concerns on whether poll worker payments were being delayed due to the cyber incident.

Mrs. Barganier responded that the Finance and Purchasing Department implemented workarounds, payment processing is slower not closed. Finance announced recently that the systems will be back online this week.

Mr. Gilstrap reported on the activities in the Information Systems (Elections Division):
March 12th Presidential Preference Primary Election:

- **Logic & Accuracy Testing** – Logic & Accuracy Testing begin on January 16th and will continue through March 7th. The Information Systems staff started and continue to conduct Logic & Accuracy Testing and program all equipment for Election Day. The Information Systems staff will conduct Logic & Accuracy testing and complete updates on all Poll Pads used at Election Day sites and have these Poll Pads completed by March 10th.
- **Technical Support** – The Information Systems staff will provide technical support for Advance Voting which starts on February 19th and ends on March 8th. Systems Specialists will also provide technical support for all Election Day sites on Election Day, March 12th.
- **Sunday Pick Up** – Provide Poll Pads, seals, precinct supply bags, and precinct binders to the Poll Manager for Election Day on Sunday, March 10th.
- **Election Night** – Closing out advance voting tabulators. Uploading memory cards from each Advanced Voting and Election Day precinct and tabulate. Display results and sent reports to the SOS.
- **Post-Election** – Receive in all voting equipment that was used in the Presidential Preference Primary Election. Conduct final tabulation and prepare reports for certification.

Chair Perkins-Hooker asked did we receive all the memory cards to upload.

Director Williams responded yes, all memory cards including zero memory cards must be uploaded prior to certification. However, three zero memory cards were late being dropped off at Elections Center due to a misunderstanding by the Poll Manager that all cards needed to be presented, not just the ones with votes on them.

Mrs. Glenn reported on the activities of the Voter Registration Division:

The primary activities the VR staff worked on in February:

- Researched street issues
- Conducted redistricting changes in GARViS, researching street issues,
- processed all applications received before the voter registration deadline in preparation for the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary (PPP)
- Registration staff continue processing all items on the county's GARVIS (**Georgia**
- **Registered Voter Information System**) dashboard and auditing and updating the voter roll

REGISTRATION STATISTICS:			
February 1, 2024		February 29, 2024	
VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED		13,299	
ACTIVE VOTERS		729,684	
INACTIVE VOTERS		137,004	
TOTAL OF REGISTERED VOTERS		866,688	
APPLICATIONS TO BE PROCESSED		9,204	
NEW REGISTRATIONS TO FULTON COUNTY		2,337	
TRANSFERS TO FULTON COUNTY		3,785	
TRANSFERS FROM FULTON COUNTY		989	
REMOVALS FROM FULTON COUNTY		570	
FRONT DESK OPERATIONS			
February 1, 2024		February 29, 2024	
Reason for Visiting Voter Registration		Total Number of Yellow Tickets	
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION		0	
TEMPORARY VOTER ID CARD – APPLICATIONS		15	
REGISTER TO VOTE – WALK-INS		185	
PRECINCT CARD REQUESTS		39	
VOTER STATUS ISSUES (CANCELLATION, INACTIVE, ETC.)		31	
3 RD PARTY/VOTER DRIVES (APPLICATIONS)		1	
LETTER RESPONSE		1	
OUT OF COUNTY / OUT OF STATE INQUIRIES		0	
VOTER LIST/STATS		0	
OTHER – RANGES FROM VOTERS WANTING TO CHALLENGE OTHER VOTERS, DROPPING OFF THEIR ABSENTEE BALLOT/APPLICATION, OR GENERAL QUESTIONS		79	
TOTAL:		351	
List Maintenance Update			
127 Felon Challenge Letters mailed			
REIF – Reporting Elections Systems Issue Form			

Mr. Henson reported on the activities of the Supplies and Logistics Division:

- Prepared the Advance Voting Supply boxes for all the March 12, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary advance voting sites.
- Prepared all the signs and other supplies for the Advance Voting sites for the March 12, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary.
- Delivered all the Advance Voting Supplies and Equipment to every Advance Voting location for the March 12, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary.
- Provided logistical and supply support to all the Advance Voting polling locations by sending any supplies or other assistance as requested.
- Provided absentee ballot drop box support by picking up any absentee ballots dropped into the 7 absentee ballot droboxes and transferring them to the Absentee Ballot Division during the March 12, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary.
- Completed preparation of all the Election Day Supply boxes for the March 12, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary.
- Started preparing all the other Election Day supply bags and signs so they will be ready for Sunday Poll Manager Pickup for the March 12, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary.
- On-boarded 23 new Couriers which included training on loading and unloading the carriers correctly and safely.
- Picked up and checked all the incoming signs that are going to be put up at the locations that had Precinct Changes.
- Completed preparations for Election Day deliveries for the March 12, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary.

Ms. Little reported on the activities of Voter Education and Outreach (Administration Division):

- Focused on outreach to senior centers, high schools, libraries, and recreation centers
- Contacted all county mayor, city council member, and city clerk, alerting them of the beginning of early voting, the locations, and updated collateral for the 2024 election cycle
- Partnership with the High Museum of Art on outreach events at the facility to promote the 2024 election cycle
- Focused on collateral material for the 2024 election cycle for outreach events
- Conducted Deputy Registrar Training for all new staff members and offering training to the public
- Participated in legislative meetings as needed to discuss all bills introduced that impact the elections department and attends committee meetings to listen to the hearings on all election bills

VOTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES		
Activity	Total for the Month	Year Total
Deputy Registrar Training	75	Total active = 517
Voter Registration	155	258
Poll Worker Recruitment	n/a	191
Voter Identification Cards	18	18
Outreach Events	74	111

Absentee Application	190	311
Deputy Registrar Events	10	18
Connections for VEO.	250	605
Event Interactions	3442	5442
Media Inquiries	8	18

Mrs. Crawford commended the VEO Team.

NEW BUSINESS

#7- CONTINUATION OF RECONSIDERATION OF THE CHALLENGE DECISION

➤ Earl Ferguson (December 11, 2023)

Mr. Ferguson provided the BRE with more information and outlined his previous challenge that he is currently disputing the decision. Highlighting the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and what he calls ambiguous.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Ferguson for the time he spent on this challenge. **Mrs. Crawford** outlined the list maintenance process on removing electors from the voter rolls.

Vice Chair Heekin expressed concern on the legal response of his inquiry regarding dual registration in multiple states.

Ms. Adams requested the legal authority on the information **Vice-Chair** requested previously.

Madam Chair recapped for legal to provide the memo regarding the **Vice-Chair's** initial inquiry on dual registration.

Chair Perkins-Hooker introduced the new BRE Special Counsel Ms. **Ann Brumbaugh** to the board members and personnel.

Madam Chair asked does the GARViS database alert counties that a person has moved or registered in another state.

Mrs. Glenn stated yes if that state is registered with **ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center)**. The State of Georgia's partnership with **ERIC** assists in maintaining accurate voter rolls, it allows various states to share registration information and update their database.

For more information on **ERIC**: <https://ericstates.org/>

At the conclusion of the presentation by Mr. Ferguson and the discussion of the members of the BRE, no motion was presented for the BRE to change their initial decision.

#8-APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS (IGAs)

➤ **City of:** Atlanta, College Park, East Point, and Fulton County School Board

Director Williams provided a brief overview of the IGAs being a standard agreement to conduct their elections at no cost because their election is in conjunction with a Federal Election.

Chair Perkins-Hooker entertained a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreements. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Ms. Adams** and carried by a vote of 4-0.

#9- APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS (MOA)

➤ Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Director Williams provided a brief overview of the MOA being a standard agreement to conduct their election at no cost during the November 2024 Election.

Chair Perkins-Hooker entertained a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Ms. Adams** and carried by a vote of 4-0.

#10- APPROVAL OF ADVANCE VOTING (AV) LOCATIONS FOR THE MAY 21ST, GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Director Williams informed the BRE that one of the locations is no longer available and the Advance Voting location may be reduced to 35 locations and 4 outreach locations with the same operational hours.

Madam Chair disagreed with the reduction of AV locations.

Madam Director requested authority to find an alternative AV site to maintain the 36 locations and 4 outreaches.

The Board gave **Madam Director** permission to seek an alternative location and to update them at the next meeting.

Chair Perkins-Hooker entertained a motion to approve the Advance Voting Locations (36) and (4) Outreach Locations with the authority for the Director to locate a replacement AV location. The motion was made by **Mrs. Crawford** and was seconded by **Ms. Adams** and carried by a vote 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not convene into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Chair Perkins-Hooker** entertained a motion to adjourn. **Vice- Chair Heekin** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Ms. Adams** seconded the motion. There being no further business on the agenda, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.
The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:

Mariska Bodison, Board Secretary