



## DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections Regular Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2026  
Start Time: 12:10 PM  
End Time: 1:59 PM

Board Attendees: Karli Swift  
Vasu Abhiraman  
Travis Bowden  
Gail Lee  
Dele Lowman

Other Attendees: Julietta Henry, Deputy Director  
Dr. Jesse Harris, Deputy Director  
Michael Petty, Assistant County Attorney  
Clark E. Candler, II, Assistant County Attorney

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Swift convened the meeting of the Board of Registration and Elections at 12:10 p.m.

Ms. Austin conducted the roll call and confirmed the presence of Board members by name. A quorum was established.

Mr. Bowden moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abhiraman and passed unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A) April 8, 2026 Special Called Meeting
- B) April 13, 2026 Special Called Meeting

Mr. Bowden moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meetings held on April 8th, 2026, and April 13th, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lee and approved unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cheryl Dudley  
Janet Grant  
Kiley Carr  
Betsy Shackelford  
Jocelyn O'Neal  
Michael Beach



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### ITEMS FOR DECISION

#### A) Certification of the May 19, 2026 General Primary/Nonpartisan General Election

Deputy Director Henry presented the post-election report for the May 19, 2026, post-election report. She also provided updates regarding total voter turnout, voting methods utilized, and unique voter statistics associated with the May 19, 2026 election.

Ms. Lowman asked what a cured ballot means for the benefit of the public.

Deputy Director Henry said a cured ballot in which a person has to provide additional information where it's an ID or a signature. Once they have done so, that ballot is considered cured and counted.

Ms. Lee asked if with the high attendance on the last couple of days if there were long lines?

Deputy Director Henry said no.

Chair Swift thanked staff and asked for a motion to approve certification of the election.

Mr. Bowden moved to certify the election results of the May 19, 2026 election. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abhiraman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bowden moved to recess the meeting so the certification documents could be signed by the Board members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abhiraman and carried unanimously.

Following the recess, Mr. Abhiraman moved to resume the regular order of business. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lowman.

#### B) Proposed Early Voting Times and Locations for the June 16 General Primary Runoff

Chair Swift shared the list of voting locations and that one location: Living Grace Church was removed for 19 total locations.

Mr. Bowden asked where the Living Grace Church was located. Staff answered it was Tucker.

Mr. Abhiraman and Chair Swift asked if the proposed times could be extended to account to the numbers of voters. Deputy Director Henry answered that it was based on past experiences and the department would be open to extending hours. Mr. Abhiraman said he was agnostic for the primary but for the general he would like to see extended hours on the first day.



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Ms. Lowman said she agreed with the whole line of thinking. Ms. Lowman recommended making Sunday 12 pm to 6 pm.

Chair Swift clarified the scheduling for the primary election and stated her agreement with the extended hours for the general location. Chair Swift thanked the staff for securing the locations. Chair Swift asked Deputy Director Henry for more information on the criterion for securing a voting location. Deputy Director Henry said we cannot use schools due to school hours and churches are allowed. Chair Swift asked for a motion to approve.

Ms. Lowman made a motion to approve the proposed location and early voting times Sunday June 16, 2026 general primary runoff.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### (A) Director's Report

Deputy Director Henry provided an overview of the work completed since the previous meeting, noting that staff had performed at a high level in preparation for the May elections. Director Smith reported that, as of the previous Thursday, the county had 568,239 registered voters and presented a breakdown of additional voter registration categories. She also updated the Board on the status of pending voter registration applications.

Chair Swift inquired about the timeline for processing the approximately 12,000 pending voter registrations. Deputy Director Henry stated that the applications would be processed in time for the runoff election. Chair Swift then asked whether those newly registered voters would be eligible to participate in the election.

Deputy Director Harris provided an overview of the department's budget. Ms. Lee asked for clarification regarding the allocation of the \$525,000 adjustment. Deputy Director Harris explained that the funds had been reallocated to properly fund the appropriate budget line item.

Mr. Bowden requested clarification regarding the \$77,048 reversal reflected under Account 592101 (Group Insurance), noting that it appeared to be a reserve adjustment. Deputy Director Harris explained that the adjustment had been made by the Budget Department and noted that the department's authority is limited to budget line items within categories 52, 53, and 54.

Deputy Director Harris also provided an overview of the communications strategy for the upcoming elections, which includes the distribution of a voter mailer.

Ms. Lowman asked whether there was any precedent for mailing sample ballots directly to voters. Deputy Director Harris stated that discussions had taken place with Director Smith regarding the

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development of either a sample ballot or a voter guide. He further indicated that a draft would be prepared and submitted to the Board for review and approval. Ms. Lowman also raised questions regarding voter education efforts aimed at reducing confusion surrounding nonpartisan ballots.

Ms. Lee asked Dr. Harris about his reference to distributing informational flyers ahead of the November election and inquired whether candidates would be invited to submit statements. Deputy Director Harris confirmed that candidates would be responsible for providing their own statements and explained that existing policy limits statements to 300 words, prohibits derogatory comments about other candidates, and requires content to focus solely on the candidate's own campaign.

### (B) Legislative Update

The Assistant County Attorney said the Governor called a special legislative session on June 17, 2026.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Bowden made a motion to enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Abhiraman. Passed unanimously.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Abhiraman provided an opinion that nonpartisan elections should not be on the same ballot so as not confused the voter.

Mr. Bowden thanked all attendees for their participation and the staff for the dedication and hard work. Mr. Bowden said they are looking forward to discussing election security and integrity.

Ms. Lee stated that she had submitted a resolution regarding the implementation of a backup system. She noted that the Board would monitor the outcome of the election and make a determination based on any actions taken by the legislature.

Ms. Lowman At the end of the meeting, Ms. Lee expressed her pride in the professionalism of the DeKalb County elections, noting that the staff's preparation was so effective that the election felt seamless, comparing their efforts to 'ducks paddling underwater' where the hard work is not visible above the surface. Ms. Lowman concluded by saying it makes her proud to say she is from DeKalb.

Chair Swift thanked the staff for their hard work and concluded her remarks by thanking everyone for attending and emphasizing the importance of remaining focused on the successful administration of the May election.



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**ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:59 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bowden. Seconded by Ms. Lowman. The motion passed unanimously.