



DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections Regular Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2026

Start Time: 4:38 PM || End Time: 6:02 PM

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

Other Attendees: Keisha L. Smith, Executive Director
Michael Petty, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tristen N. Waite, Assistant County Attorney

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Abhiraman called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Bowden moved to approve the agenda, and the motion was seconded by Chair Swift.

Ms. Lee moved to amend the agenda to add a Resolution for Decision titled "Pledge of Allegiance."

Vice Chair Abhiraman called for a vote on the motion to amend the agenda. The motion failed by a vote of 2 yeas (Bowden, Lee) and 2 nays (Abhiraman, Swift). Ms. Lowman was absent for the vote.

Vice Chair Abhiraman then called for a vote on the original motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chair Abhiraman called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Ms. Lee moved to approve the May 22, 2026 Special Called Meeting Minutes, June 18, 2026 Special Called Meeting Minutes, and the June 23, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowden and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Austin read the Public Comment Policy into the record.

Public Comment Speakers:

Cheryl Dudley
Janet Grant
Michael Beach
Betsy Shackelford
Bethann Frillman
Liz Troop



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ITEMS FOR DECISION

A. Early Voting Times and Locations for the November 2026 General Election

Executive Director Smith presented the staff recommendation for the proposed early voting schedule, including 20 early voting locations, dates, and hours of operation. She requested Board approval of the recommendation as presented and authorization to add additional locations, if identified.

Vice Chair Abhiraman called for a motion.

Ms. Lowman moved to approve the proposed early voting dates, times, and locations for the November 3, 2026 General Election and to authorize the Executive Director to add locations as they become available.

Ms. Lee offered a friendly amendment to modify Sunday voting hours to 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The motion, as amended, was seconded by Ms. Lee and passed unanimously.

B. Vendor Agreement

Vice Chair Abhiraman called for a motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

Chair Swift moved to approve the agreement, contingent upon approval by the Board of Commissioners, and to authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract in a form acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lowman.

The motion passed 4–1, with yeas: Abhiraman, Bowden, Lowman, and Swift; nay: Lee.

C. Special Elections

Vice Chair Abhiraman called for a motion to authorize the Executive Director to conduct the special elections and execute all necessary documents.

Ms. Lowman moved to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lee and passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Risk Management Update

Finance Department Deputy Director Larry Jacobs presented an overview of the methodology used to calculate the County's workers' compensation budget allocation.



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B) Director's Report

Executive Director Smith presented the Board with a comprehensive General Operations Update, including voter registration totals and processing status, an overview of the operating budget, and updates on stakeholder engagement and public affairs initiatives.

C) Legislative Update

Senior Assistant County Attorney Petty provided an update on the Special Legislative Session and Senate Bill 189 (SB 189). He reported that the General Assembly passed legislation delaying implementation of the QR code requirement until January 1, 2028.

Vice Chair Abhiraman requested that the Board schedule the July 28, 2026 Special Election Pre-Certification Meeting for Thursday, July 30, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., with Friday, July 31, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. identified as an alternate date, subject to DCTV scheduling availability.

BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Swift offered no comments.

Mr. Bowden provided comments.

Ms. Lowman provided comments.

Ms. Lee provided comments.

Vice Chair Abhiraman provided comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Assistant County Attorney Petty determined that an Executive Session was not necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, Mr. Bowden moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lee and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.