



DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections Special Called Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2026

Start Time: 4:43 PM || End Time: 6:20 PM

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

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Swift called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Bowden made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lowman and passed unanimously.

Chair Swift moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on August 3, 2026, and special called meetings held on August 28, 2026 and August 31, 2026. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Abhiraman and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cheryl Dudley
Liz Troop
William Freeman
Kendra Bugowski
Jachtung Abrezi
Andrea Smith
Earl Furgeson
Jan Appling

ADJORNMENT

Ms. Lowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Abhiraman.

MOTION TO RECONVENE

Chair Swift called for a motion to reconvene the meeting at 5:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Abhiraman.

PUBLIC COMMENT continued....



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Janet Grant
Debbie Fisher
Jim Duffy
Bill Henderson
John Arnold
Nancy Arnold
Ray Martinez
Katherine Gaunt
Bethann Frillman

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Director's Report

Director Smith reported on the successful coordination and facilitation of three elections and three subsequent runoffs in 2026. She stated that the work required significant planning, collaboration, and operational support. Director Smith further reported that the department has transitioned to preparing for the November election while continuing to manage the day-to-day priorities of the office.

Director Smith provided an update on total number of registered voters, voting methods, and unique voter statistics as of September 3, 2026. She also shared the results of a successful Risk Limiting Audit from the August Runoff election where thirty-seven ballots were selected for review, and no differences were identified between the audited ballots and the tabulated counts.

Director Smith discussed preparations for the upcoming pre-election and post-election activities for the November 3rd, General/Special Election. She confirmed that ballot proofing has begun, absentee ballot applications are being received, UOCAVA applications will be emailed on September 19th, supplies and material are being prepared, and staff are training warehouse technicians for Logic and Accuracy testing that will begin on September 21st.

In addition, Director Smith announced that Living Grace and Wade Walker are being added to the complement of early voting locations to the last week of early voting. She also announced that an upcoming community event "Registered & Ready Block Party" being held outside at the VRE Headquarters on September 26, 2026. She explained the purpose is to register new voters and to increase awareness about how, when, and where to vote.

Director Smith provided an overview of the budget report for the period of January through August 2026. She states that the budget continues to be closely monitored with a focus on maintaining appropriate expense controls and ensuring resources are aligned with the department's priorities. Ms. Smith states that the budget will continue to be monitored ensuring resources are aligned with the department's priorities. She provided the actual expenditure and a sum of what's currently available.



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Ms. Lee raised concerns regarding the proximity of three advance voting locations, which were located within approximately 2.5 miles of one another. She also referenced Bessie Branham as an area of concern.

Ms. Lee asked about the rental equipment line item, which was approximately \$26,000. The Director explained that the expense related to a Quadient mail machine leased in 2020. The lease is expected to end in December 2026.

Vice-Chair Abhiraman commended the Department for adding the two additional early voting locations. He asked about the number of voter registration applications remaining to be processed and the Department's plan for addressing the backlog before the start of early voting.

Director Smith explained that the Department was working to process the remaining applications and had extended registration team hours to address the backlog. She reported that approximately 6,000 applications were expected to be processed by the end of the following week. Vice Chair Abhiraman agreed that processing voter registration applications should remain a priority. He thanks the department for their hard work and invited the community to the upcoming registration block party and to attend Logic and Accuracy Testing.

Mr. Bowden stated that he had no questions and thanked Director Smith and the Department's staff for their work and for transparency when responding to Board inquiries.

Ms. Lowman states that she's glad to see the continual work being done to adding more early voting site.

Chair Swift thanked the office for adding additional early voting locations. She flagged a comment that was made that referenced multiple early voting locations in one area. She discussed geographic and population differences with different levels of density. She stated that she continues to support providing as many early voting locations as reasonably possible within the Department's budget.

Chair Swift asked Director Smith to clarify what DDS applications means. Director Smith explained that anytime you go to Driver Services to apply for a driver's license, change information, address, name, what have you on your driver's license, if you don't opt out, the department receives an application that registration team then pulls from the site and processes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Assistant County Attorney Waite advised that an Executive Session was not necessary.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Lee provided comments.



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Ms. Lowman provided comments.
Mr. Bowden provided comments.
Vice Chair Abhiraman provided comments.
Chair Swift provided comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chair Swift moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowden and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.