

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2024
Start Time: 4:44 p.m.
End Time: 5:00 p.m.

Board Attendees: Karli Swift, Chair
Vasu Abhiraman, Vice-Chair
Nancy Jester
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter

Other Attendees: Keisha Smith, Executive Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Shelley Momo, Supervising Attorney
Michael Petty, Assistant County Attorney
Tristen Waite, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Swift called the Board of Registration and Elections meeting to order at 4:44 p.m. Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. A quorum was met.

Motion by Ms. Jester, seconded by Ms. Motter, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Austin read the rules for public comment:

Public comments may be made in person or submitted by sending an email of one printed page or less at a minimum font of 12 to electionspubliccmnt@dekalbcountyga.gov which must be received between 35 and 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting. The body of your email must include your first and last name. By submitting an email for public comment, you agree to have your name and the email broadcast on the UStream and entered into the record and minutes. The DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections reserves the right, at the DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections' sole discretion, to (1) add your email to the record/minutes without reading any of it into the broadcast or (2) read all or a portion of your email into the record/minutes. All public comments will be limited to 2 minutes. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language, holding up signs, clapping, yelling, standing, or laying in the aisles to show support for or opposition to a speaker will not be permitted, but a show of hands or quietly standing in place will be permitted to show support for or opposition to a speaker's position.

The following citizens provided public comment:

- Liz Throop

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A) Pre-Certification Report

Director Smith began by expressing her gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this election another proud moment of democracy in DeKalb County and recognized the VRE staff, county partners and poll workers. She acknowledged the multiple threats that aimed to shake the confidence of DeKalb voters and poll workers and expressed a special thank you to DeKalb County Police Chief Ramos and other law enforcement groups that worked swiftly to secure every targeted polling site, allowing every voter and worker to finish this election safely and confidently. Director Smith also expressed a special thank you to the Board of Registration and Elections for their commitment behind the scenes to ensure a secure and transparent election. She stated that preliminary items related to the General Election would be discussed as the department worked toward finalizing certifications next week and that the purpose of the meeting was to present unofficial and incomplete tallies by precinct of ballots cast in the November 5 General Election and the number of unique voters who are credited with casting those ballots. She further stated that if the number of ballots cast from any precinct exceeds the number of unique voters, SEB Rule 183-1-12-12 requires the Board to determine the method of voting in which the discrepancy exists and to investigate the discrepancy. She said that investigating and, when possible, correcting the discrepancy is part of the regular canvassing process which was currently underway. Relating to the reconciliation process that was also taking place, Director Smith stated that in-person voters who are unable to check in to the electronic poll book are added to a paper numbered list and credit is manually added to GARVIS. It is investigated whether the poll pads correctly forward the credits to E-Pulse and whether E-Pulse forwards the credits to GARVIS and whether the numbered list credits have all been correctly entered. She further stated that the numbered list credits had largely been entered but their contents were still being reconciled. She then presented the report to the Board.

Ms. Jester asked Director Smith to provide more detail on the first precinct which showed -1 for absentee by mail and 2 for advance voting for a net discrepancy of 1. Director Smith responded by stating that for this precinct, there was 1 absentee ballot that was accepted but not scanned and then the 2 for advance voting could have been, for example, the wrong precinct but research would be conducted to investigate all the discrepancies. Ms. Jester also asked if another report would be produced once the discrepancies were reconciled. Director Smith replied affirmatively and stated that it is included in the 30-day report that is sent to the Secretary of State after each election.

Chair Swift stated that no vote was needed as these were preliminary results and the final results would be presented at the following Board meeting for certification.

Ms. Momo stated that the reconciliation report is basically a comparison that is required and then the statute requires that the Board, through the Department, continue to investigate the discrepancies, which is done through reconciliation. She reiterated that the reconciliation results are part of the 30-day report, which is already part of the process.

BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Swift thanked the staff and also thanked the county for all of the assistance that was received to execute on this election.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Vice-Chair Abhiraman, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.