

# DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

## Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2024

Start Time: 4:36 p.m.

End Time: 5:16 p.m.

Board Attendees: Nancy Jester  
Anthony Lewis  
Susan Motter

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Jester called the Board of Registration and Elections meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. She noted that both the Chair and Vice-Chair were absent due to travel and that she would be chairing the meeting. Ms. Austin read the roll by calling each board member by name. A quorum was met.

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter, to approve the minutes of the June 11 scheduled meeting. The motion passed 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](mailto: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:

- Gail Lee
- Bill Henderson

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### A) Director's Report

Director Smith made the following statement regarding questions circulated about Two-Card Ballots:

In State of Georgia elections, the Dominion system maintains various tabulations, including the number of voters who cast ballots and the number of cards on which their ballot is printed. For the May 21, 2024 General Primary, several counties, including DeKalb, had a two-card ballot. Most voters who voted by mail received their ballot on two pieces of paper (cards). Additionally, DeKalb voters who printed their ballot on a touchscreen are listed with two ballots if their corresponding absentee ballot would have had two cards. This feature of the Dominion system only affects the display of summary statistics, not the tabulation of votes for candidates.

Director Smith further stated that the department was going to create FAQs for these types of questions and answers for our voters to access via the VRE website. She stated that the goal is for DeKalb electors to be super voters, empowered with accurate information to ensure they have a good voter experience when they cast their ballots. She then went on to provide operations updates on registration, elections, warehouse, budget, personnel, facilities, and communications activities.

Mr. Lewis asked if moving forward the Board could receive more of the updates in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Motter echoed the same comments as Mr. Lewis. She also commented on the budget noting that compared to the budget presented in May, the largest difference in spending was in salaries due to the June election runoff.

Ms. Jester thanked Director Smith for continuing to present the budget in the meeting packet. She also thanked the Board of Commissioners for investing in the department and funding the budget more accurately. She voiced concerns on whether there is adequate funding left to support the remaining elections. She asked if the plan was to go back to the Board of Commissioners and request a budget amendment. Director Smith assured that the department is actively monitoring the budget, and that VRE is well-positioned to request additional funding, if needed. Ms. Jester expressed her willingness to advocate for funding. She went on to ask for more details on the two-card ballots. Director Smith provided additional information and further discussion ensued.

## **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### A) Special Election || Doraville Annexation

Motion by Ms. Motter, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to call special elections to present questions to certain DeKalb County voters relating to the proposed annexation of unincorporated territory into the City of Doraville as set forth in Senate Bill 558 and Senate Bill 560.

Director Smith stated that the office received notification from the Secretary of State's office that the Governor signed this legislation on May 6 directing the Election Superintendent of DeKalb County to call and conduct a special election to submit the annexations provided for in Acts 627 and 628 for the City of Doraville.

Amendment to the motion to add that the special election is called for the November 5 election. The motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Lewis expressed his thanks.

Ms. Motter thanked the public, the staff, the County attorneys, and other stakeholders.

Ms. Jester echoed Ms. Motter's comments and apologized on behalf of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair for missing the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Motter, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.