

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

November 13, 2018

Monthly Meeting

825 Memorial Drive

10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration (BOER) convened at the Elections and Voter Registration Office, 825 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2018.

In attendance: Chairman Betty Bryant, Vice Chair Margaret Bentley, Secretary Randall Gooden, Board Member Ballard Brooks, Board Member Glenda Henley, Elections Supervisor Marcia Ridley, and Elections Assistant Carla Rapp.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Betty Bryant

Public Comments – Ms. Jewel Walker-Harps representing NAACP stated a concern over hearing that a poll manager made demeaning comments directing staff in an undesirable manner. She stated that that type of attitude will not be tolerated. Race should not matter. People should be treated with dignity. If you don't like people you should not be working at the poll. She further stated that people should not be intimidated going to the poll. She also stated that she saw someone come out of polling place with tears in their eyes and very frustrated. He told her that the lady had no right to speak to me that way. She stated that she will be watching and will take this matter to another level if it is not taken care of here. Chairman Bryant asked if this was something we need to address now. Supervisor Ridley stated that we had already addressed the one incident but will she investigate the second incident with Ms. Walker-Harps. Chairman Bryant thanked Ms. Walker-Harps for speaking.

Review minutes from September 11th Regular Meeting

Chairman Bryant asked the board to review the minutes. Chairman Bryant asked if there were additions or corrections. Secretary Gooden noted that in the last paragraph on the first page should read "Secretary Gooden" instead of "Secretary Randall". Secretary Gooden also noted that on the last page "Chic Fi La" should be spelled "Chick-Fil-A".

Chairman Bryant asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections.

Motion to approve the minutes: Board member Glenda Henley moved to approve the minutes with corrections.

Second: Board Member Ballard Brooks

Minutes approved 5-0

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Update on November 6, 2018 Elections

Chairman Bryant asked Supervisor Ridley for an update on the election. Supervisor Ridley noted that we certified our election yesterday -November 12. She also noted that she has not heard yet if there will be a runoff. It would be December 4. Vice-Chairman Margaret Bentley noted that she heard that a Judge ruled to extend the State of Georgia certification until Friday, December 16. No official communication as of yet. But, it will be a quick and fast election and may have to do some work over the phone.

Update on Voter Registration

Chairman Bryant asked Supervisor Ridley to update the Board on Voter Registration. Ridley provided the following information:

Total number of Voters – 44,244 as of October 9, 2018

Active Voters – 41,046

Inactive Voters – 3,198

Chairman Bryant praised Vice Chairman Margaret Bentley for doing the Deputy Registrar trainings to help with the registration being up from 43,892. When Supervisor Ridley started there were around 43,000.

Vice-chairman Bentley asked Supervisor Ridley about National Voter Registration Day (September 25, 2018). Supervisor Ridley noted that a record number of 115 people registered between in person and online registrations.

Chairman Bryant remarked that when she was helping on Election Day she noted that there were a lot of inactive voters. Supervisor Ridley stated that they can still vote if they are in an inactive status, they just need to show their credentials. They are only canceled when they have not voted in 2 presidential cycles or 8 years. Supervisor Ridley noted that we go a step further using the DDS system to check to see if they opted to register or not.

The voter registration report was accepted.

Vote for 5th Member of the Board of Elections

Chairman Bryant said that the Board needed to vote on the 5th member of the Board. She stated that she spoke to Ballard Brooks the day before and asked him if he would serve another term as the non-partisan member of the board. Board member Brooks agreed to stay on as the non-partisan member. Secretary Gooden asked Board member Brooks to speak on his experiences with the board of elections. He stated that he retired from Los Angeles County registrar office and this is an extension of what he used to do. There is a big difference! This is a lot easier!

Chairman Bryant asked if Board member Brooks needed to be recertified. Supervisor Ridley stated yes and that we need a letter to go to the Clerk's office by December 15. Board member Henley and Secretary Gooden will need an appointment letter from their respective party as well. Then the governor signs it and then Judge Jan Hunt can swear them in.

Motion to select Ballard Brooks as the 5th member of the Board of Elections: Board Member Glenda Henley

Second: Secretary Randall Gooden

Motion approved 4—1 Abstained

Demonstration of Voting Machine by Election System Software

Regional Sales Director Jeb Cameron

Supervisor Ridley introduced Regional Sales Director Jeb Cameron. Mr. Cameron introduced his assistant Kim Carlyle. Supervisor Ridley had previously worked for Mr. Cameron. This voter machine system was piloted in Rockdale County municipal election.

Legislative Update:

Chairman Bryant asked Supervisor Ridley if there was any Legislative update. Supervisor Ridley told the Board that there was no legislative update.

Reports:

Chairman Bryant asked if any board members had anything else to report or comment. No one had any reports.

Chairman Bryant asked Supervisor Ridley if she had any comments. Supervisor Ridley asked when the Christmas Party will be held. Supervisor Ridley noted that it needs to be after the certification of the Dec 4 runoff. Chairman Bryant will hold it at her house. It will be December 14 from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. Supervisor Ridley will let Secretary Gooden know of the date, since he left at 11:00 am.

Next regular meeting – January 8, 2019

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn: Board Member Ballard Brooks
Second: Vice-Chairman Bentley
Motion passed: 4-0

Minutes taken by Elections Assistant Carla Rapp

Minutes approved by 
Randall S. Gooden – Secretary