

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

December 28, 2020

Emergency Called Meeting

835 Memorial Drive

The meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration convened at the UGA Extension Office, 835 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA at 10:00 am on Monday, December 28, 2020.

In attendance: Chairman Margaret Bentley, Secretary Glenda Henley, Board Member Betty Bryant, Board Member Vera McIntosh, Board Member Roy McClain, Elections Assistant Carla Rapp, Attorney Clayton Kendrick, and Attorney Stephanie Windham on speaker phone.

Meeting called to order by Chair Margaret Bentley at 10:00 am.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Bentley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Board member **Vera McIntosh** moved to adopt the agenda, **seconded by Secretary Glenda Henley**. **Motion carried 5-0.**

New Business

Chairman Bentley stated that it has come before us a list of challenged voters by Michelle Knight to ascertain if they are registered in Spalding County. Board Member Betty Bryant stated that we should deal with this on a case by case basis and she believes Supervisor Marcia Ridley should be attending the meeting.

Board Member Vera McIntosh suggested that we accept the request, but she noted that she believes the board does not have enough material to support the challenge. Board Member Roy McClain stated he had a memorandum from the county attorney asking to have Supervisor Ridley in attendance. Chairman Bentley stated that we are in the middle of Early Voting and started opening ballots today and she needed to be in the office. Board Member McClain reiterated that he expects Supervisor Ridley to be here. Board Member McIntosh stated that the burden of proof is not on Supervisor Ridley.

Secretary Glenda Henley noted that the date of the vetting process, Chairman Bentley stated that since this is a Federal race, any challenges must be made 90 days prior to an election, and we are in the middle of an Election. Board Member McClain restated that Supervisor Ridley should be here to answer questions.

Chairman Bentley recessed the meeting at 10:10 am.

Chairman Bentley resumed the meeting at 10:15 am.

Supervisor Marcia Ridley joined the meeting. Chairman Bentley asked Board Member McClain to state his question. McClain replied that the memorandum states that Ridley should respond to the challenges. Ridley noted the code 21-2-230 that the burden of proof is on the challenger. She also noted that she had not seen the memorandum. Attorney Kendrick gave Ridley a copy of the memorandum. McClain asked Ridley about the last time an update was done on registrations. Ridley replied that the NCOA (National Change of Address) was done by the state and given to the counties was in May of 2019. It is an on-going process of entering in returned mail and confirmations are mailed to the voters to get them to update their addresses.

Secretary Glenda Henley noted the 21-2-452(g) states that if a voters' right to vote has been challenged, the elector shall not be permitted to vote on the voting machines but shall vote by ballot. She further stated that the state has procedures in place to handle challenged electors. Supervisor Ridley said it's the voters' responsibility to change their address. She noted that voters do not realize that just changing their address with the post office doesn't automatically update their address with the Elections office.

Board Member **Roy McClain moved** to go forward with the investigation, **seconded by Board Member Betty Bryant**. Chairman Bentley stated that there wasn't enough time given to review the list. The challenges cannot be made less than 90 days prior to an election. **Motion did not carry, 2-3.**

Roll call of votes

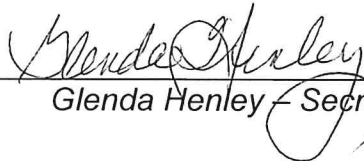
Roy McClain – Yes
Betty Bryant – Yes
Glenda Henley – No
Vera McIntosh – No
Margaret Bentley -No

Chairman Bentley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Board Member Vera McIntosh moved to adjourn** the meeting, **seconded by Secretary Glenda Henley**. **Motion carried 3-2.**

Roll call of votes

Roy McClain – No
Betty Bryant – No
Vera McIntosh – Yes
Glenda Henley – Yes
Margaret Bentley -Yes

Minutes approved by _____


Glenda Henley - Secretary