

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
Special Called Meeting
July 24th, 2023

The regular meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration was held at the County Courthouse Annex, 119 East Solomon Street at 6:00 p.m. on July 24th, 2023. Attending were Chair Ben Johnson, presiding; James Newland; Roy McClain (virtually attending); and Dexter Wimbish. Absent was Jim O'Brien. Also present were Elections Supervisor Kim Slaughter and Attorney Stephanie Windham.

Invocation - Invocation was given by James Newland.

Pledge to the Flag - Pledge was led by Ben Johnson.

Citizen Comment

Chairman Johnson read the guidelines for Citizen Comment, as noted on the agenda.

Signed to speak were the following:

Maxwell Britton (Coweta County) – Quoted 21-2-300 in regards to QR codes are not readable by humans. Declared that this is illegal by US District Court. Also shared O.C.G.A 21-2-334 and 21-2-336 to state this confirms legal authority for counties over elections.

Sean Miller (Coweta County) Desires - paper ballots. Stated that we do not need machines and paper would cost less.

Brian Parker (Banks County) - Cited Fulton County issues. He shared statistics of the 2020 Election. Provided various information in regards to issues with the use of poll pads and memory cards. Stated that the people of Georgia demand no more machines.

Kim Brooks (DeKalb County) - Stated that the SOS is adding phantom people to voter rolls. Shared a story of a deceased voter's(2019) information was fraudulently used during the 2020 election. This voter was not in Spalding County.

Nancy Curty (Gwinnett County) - Stated that voting machines were compromised in the 2020 election. Shared her displeasure with Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

Richard Schroeder (Hall County) - Thanked the Board for being the tipping point. He is a poll worker and he spoke about human trafficking as well.

Lucia Frazier (Georgia Resident) - Stated that paper ballots is simplest and cheapest and greatly increases public trust.

Jason Frazier (Georgia resident) – Spoke about challenging voters at mailbox store addresses in Fulton County and that Fulton County is the dirtiest count in Georgia. He has served as a poll tech at several elections and spoke about how setting up the machines takes an inordinate amount of time and money.

Ben Eskew (Gwinnett County) – Spoke about phantom voters due to the utilization of the Eric Centralized voter system.

LeeAnn Eskew (Gwinnett County) – Spoke about phantom voters.

Amanda Prettyman (Bibb County) – Spoke about Felons being automatically registered and that this is not a partisan issue.

Lisa Heisler (Bibb County) – Spoke on precinct manipulation and a deliberate scheme to steal elections.

Michelle Cobb (Spalding County) – She shared that she was present in 2020 for the count and the recount and has met many voters who claim their vote did not count. She stated that machines are unsafe, hackable, connected to Wifi, and unconstitutional. She stated that we are the last line and that nobody else is listening.

Mary Bell Hodges (Duluth) – Stated that we are rapidly sinking into communism. Pleaded to please do what is righteous and just and that Dominion machines are an abomination to God.

Michelle Knight (Spalding County) – She is a Poll Worker. Referred to the Halderman report. Asked the Board to abolish the machines that work to suppress our vote.

Brian Dunn (Georgia resident) – He referred to the Halderman report and stated that Dominion machines are unverifiable. Also stated that hand counted paper ballots are easier, faster, more transparent, and cheaper.

Kevin Muldowney (Milton, GA) – He stated that he has worked as a poll worker and many other election roles. He asked the Board to get rid of the machines and that we need paper ballots.

Dr. Yoshunda Jones (Spalding County) – Stated that the last meeting was strategically orchestrated. We can't afford to go against the law. Commissioner Dutton left out important information at the last meeting. The other people here are not using paper ballots either. Stated to the Board that if they moved forward with paper ballots, they would be sued.

Maria Roldand (Spalding County) – She desires paper ballots. She is from Cuba and has witnessed tyranny and believes we are headed in the same direction unless we choose to act.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by Mr. Newland/Mr. Wimbish carried unanimously at 4-0.

Election Integrity Measures

James Newland made a motion to hand count the machine printed cast ballots prior to certifying the election. Roy McClain second the motion.

Discussion followed:

James Newland stated that if the counts do not match, then the BOER cannot certify the election.

Using the paper receipt will accomplish the same thing as a paper ballot. Roy McClain inquired of his previous motion since it was tabled at the last meeting. Chairman Ben Johnson stated that this is a fair compromise. Roy McClain stated that he would like for the count to take place at the precinct to which Chairman Ben Johnson stated that this was not allowed by SEB rules. James Newland stated he intentionally left the procedure for the count out because we have not had the opportunity to flesh that out. Dexter Wimbish had several questions to County Attorney, Stephanie Windham in regards to the legalities and also had questions to the Board as of the cost that would be incurred for this process.

Roy McClain stated that when considering accuracy in elections, that we should not be discussing the issue of cost. Dexter Wimbish stated that he was in favor of the motion until Roy McClain's comments as he thought it negated the good will in the room and presented a divisive agenda.

Motion passed 3-1 (Wimbish against)

Board Member Comments

Ben Johnson This is a good first step in achieving legal elections and restoring the public trust in the systems we are using while addressing QR codes and paper hand count.

James Newland The Board intends to do all we can to have fair elections. Kim and her staff are the best, and he's sorry for handing her a problem but unfortunately it is a necessary problem.

Dexter Wimbish Thanked everyone for coming out. Thanked James for his thoughtful motion seeking compromise. Everybody knows this country needs saving. We have do it the right way.

Roy McClain No Comment

Jim O'Brien Absent

Adjournment

Motion/second to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. by Members Wimbish/Newland, carried unanimously at 4-0.

Ben Johnson, Chairman, Presiding

Kimberly Slaughter, Election Supervisor