

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 11, 2019

Chairman Tim McFalls called the meeting to order. Present were Board Members Terence Dicks, LC Myles, Sherry Barnes and Bob Finnegan. Also present were Executive Director Lynn Bailey, Assistant Director Travis Doss and members of the public.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the minutes be approved as disseminated. Mr. Finnegan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the December 10, 2018 Regular Monthly and Election Certification Meeting. Mr. Myles made a motion that the minutes be approved as disseminated. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the January 14, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Myles made a motion that the minutes be approved as disseminated. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next agenda item was a discussion of the Department of Driver Services opt out process for voter registration. Ms. Bailey explained that this item was a follow up of questions from a previous meeting. Continuing, she clarified the differences in the process when applying for services online and in person, as follows:

- Applying for service online – the choices are to register to vote by clicking a radio button to affirm the eligibility requirements in the oath portion or to opt out by clicking the Opt Out radio button.
- Applying for service in person – the choices are to register to vote by signing the oath relating to the eligibility requirements or to opt out by placing a mark in a box to Opt Out.

Ms. Bailey spoke to the effectiveness of the new Opt Out process stating that Richmond County had seen an unprecedented 17% increase in voter registration between 2016 and 2018. The Board accepted the report as information.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the March 19, 2019 Special Election. Ms. Bailey gave the following report:

- Logic and Accuracy testing is scheduled for 2/18 – 2/19/19
- The voter registration deadline is Tuesday, 2/19/19
- Advance Voting and Voting by Mail will begin on Monday, 2/25, will close on Friday, 3/15, and will be held in the Board of Elections Office only Monday through Friday from 8:30 until 5:00 daily during the specified time period
- Poll worker training has been set for the week of 2/25
- 7 polling locations will be open, 52 voting units will be deployed for Election Day and 6 voting units will be deployed for Advance Voting
- A runoff, if necessary, will be held on 4/16/19

The next item on the agenda was Old Business. There was no Old Business.

The next item on the agenda was New Business. Chairman McFalls recognized the members of the public and asked guests to introduce themselves and to say a few words.

Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the Board adjourn into Executive Session to discuss pending or potential litigation or judicial actions. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

At 7:00 PM, Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the Board come out of Executive Session and reconvene the public meeting. Mr. Myles seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mr. Myles made a motion that the Chairman be authorized to execute the Closed Meeting Affidavit. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

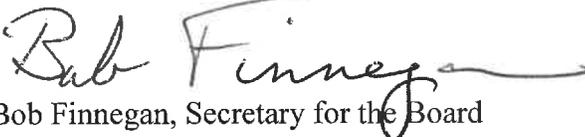
Board member Dicks requested Ms. Bailey to explain what would be required of the Board of Elections Office if a change from electronic voting to hand marked paper ballot was implemented. Ms. Bailey explained that voters would cast their ballot in a similar manner as those who currently vote by mail but their ballot would be scanned and tabulated at the polling place. Continuing, she stated that additional resources would be required including:

- Additional printed ballots for Election Day voting
- Adequate supply of optical scanners, privacy booths, and ballot boxes for Election Day polling sites
- Privacy sleeves for ballots to ensure a secret ballot for voters when moving from the privacy booth to the scanner
- Voter outreach efforts to educate voters on the new process
- Poll worker training
- Additional poll workers to manually assign the correct ballot to the voter

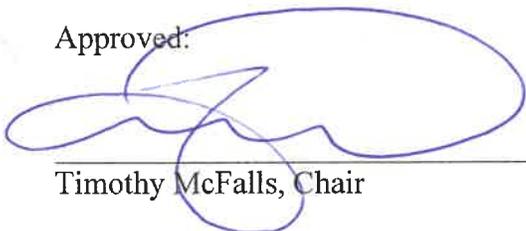
Ms. Bailey then gave a brief explanation of a central count optical scanning system used to process absentee ballots by mail and a precinct count optical scanning system used for Election Day voting. She explained that a central count scanning system sometimes requires election officials to discern voter intent when the scanner cannot clearly interpret the recorded votes and a precinct count optical scanning system returns the voted ballot to the voter for review and correction, if necessary, when the scanner cannot clearly interpret the recorded vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Finnegan made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Myles seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Bob Finnegan, Secretary for the Board

Approved:



Timothy McFalls, Chair