

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
January 23, 2020

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

The stated purpose of the Special Called meeting was to discuss and conduct a public hearing for selection of a new polling location for Precincts 404 and 505 currently voting at the Wildwood Christian Church at 2627 Tobacco Road.

Ms. Bailey provided a report to the Board and began a discussion by re-stating that the Wildwood Christian Church notified the Board of Elections on December 16, 2019 that the facility would no longer be available as a polling location effective immediately. Ms. Bailey continued by reporting the following:

- The Wildwood Christian Church had been a partner of the Board of Elections since 1992, but had recently sustained structural damage to the building's foundation that posed safety concerns.
- Three sites were evaluated – Windsor Spring Baptist Church, New Life Worship Center, and Morgan Road Middle School.
- The Windsor Spring Baptist Church met all of the requirements for serving as a polling location, was well known in the community, had ample parking, and was eager to assist the Board. The Windsor Spring Baptist Church is located outside of the boundaries for both precincts, although only across the street from the precinct boundary line for Precinct 404.
- New Life Worship Center had served as a polling location in the past and was not interested in re-establishing the relationship with the Board of Elections
- Morgan Road Middle School also had previously served as a polling location but the relationship was terminated by mutual agreement when traffic and other safety considerations became problematic for voters

Continuing, Ms. Bailey explained the following administrative steps that had been taken, as required:

- The public hearing had been advertised once a week for two consecutive weeks preceding the date of the hearing
- A report will be sent to the State Election Board notifying them of a change in a polling location to a facility outside of the boundaries of a precinct and the reason why the move was necessary
- All voters will be notified of the change via first class mail no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day prior to the next upcoming election

- A notice of the change will be posted at the Wildwood Christian Church on the date of the next election
- Notices will be placed in three conspicuous locations within the precincts

At the conclusion of the report, the Public Hearing was conducted. One attendee expressed concern that despite the Board's efforts to notify the public that voters would still go to the Wildwood Christian Church out of habit. Ms. Bailey stated that a notice would be posted at the Wildwood Christian Church directing voters inadvertently appearing there to the Windsor Spring Baptist Church.

Following the Public Hearing, Ms. Barnes made a motion that the polling location for Precincts 404 and 509 be relocated from the Wildwood Christian Church to the Windsor Spring Baptist Church located at 3692 Windsor Spring Road effective immediately. Ms. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the meeting stand adjourned. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brown, Secretary for the Board

Approved:



Timothy McFalls, Chair