

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA  
PROVISIONAL BALLOT MEETING FOR  
THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION  
November 6, 2020  
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom  
6:00 PM

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

**Item #1 – Call the meeting to order.**

Chairman McFalls called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Item #2 - Consider Provisional or Challenged ballots cast during the November 3, 2020 General and Special Election.**

Ms. Bailey gave a brief introduction of the proceedings stating that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the provisional ballots cast. She stated all approved ballots would be tabulated and added to the existing Unofficial Returns in preparation of the upcoming Election Certification Meeting on November 10, 2020. Continuing, Ms. Bailey informed the Board of the status of the following ballots cast during the General Election:

- 45 ballots were received from voters who were active duty military or US Citizens living overseas after the polls closed but by the close of business the Friday following the date of the election.
- 90 ballots were received after the close of the polls on Election Day and had been rejected, as required by law.
- 63 ballots were spoiled because they were deposited into an absentee ballot drop box without being placed in the outer envelope, making the name of the voter dropping off the ballot impossible to know.
- 145 ballots were received with either a missing or mismatched signature, and of that, 102 had been cured.

Ms. Bailey requested that the meeting be turned over to Assistant Director Travis Doss to proceed with the report on the status of the provisional ballots cast. Chair McFalls called on Mr. Doss to proceed. The report and ensuing vote was as follows:

Group A – 127 voters cast a provisional ballot out of precinct either because they thought they were at their correct precinct or did not have time to get to their correct precinct. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the ballots be accepted, but duplicated onto a ballot card for the voter's correct precinct. Mr. Finnegan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group B – 11 voters were properly registered and at their correct polling place, but could not be located by poll workers on the electronic poll book. Mr. Dicks made a motion to accept and count the ballots. Ms. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group C – 6 voters voted during Advance Voting, but their voter registration information had not yet been entered into the state-wide voter registration system at the time of voting. Their voter registration information was subsequently entered and verified. Mrs. Barnes made a motion to accept and count the ballots. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group D – 1 voter was mistakenly marked as voting an absentee ballot when it was his father that voted the absentee ballot. Mr. Dicks made a motion to accept and count the ballot. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group E – 1 voter's absentee ballot was in a provisional status due to submitting their voted ballot without signing the back of the ballot. This voter went to the polls to vote on Election Day instead. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the ballot be accepted and counted. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group F – 5 voters cast a provisional ballot and stated that they believed they registered to vote at the time they applied or re-applied for a Georgia driver's license. Staff was able to confirm with DDS that at the time of applying for their driver's license all applicants indicated NO as to the question of voter registration. Mr. Finnegan made a motion that the ballots be rejected and not counted. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group G – 1 voter had doubts that the scanner actually scanned their ballot and requested to cast a provisional ballot to be counted in the event that it was confirmed that the ballot inserted into the scanner did not count. The post-election audit and Election Day paperwork confirmed that the initial ballot had been successfully scanned and tabulated. Mr. Dicks made a motion that the ballot be rejected and not counted. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group H – 4 voters voted and returned their ballot by mail, but because they were unsure of the status of their returned absentee ballot, also went to the polls to vote on Election Day and cast a provisional ballot. Verification of records in the Board of Elections office showed that the absentee ballot submitted by the voters had been received and counted. Mr. Finnegan made a motion that since the voter's mail in absentee ballots had been counted that the provisional ballots be rejected and not counted. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group I – 41 voters believed they had registered to vote in a timely manner, but their application was not received and/or was dated after the voter registration deadline. Mr. Barnes made a motion that the ballots be rejected and not counted. Mr. Finnegan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group J – 74 voters voted in Richmond County on Election Day, but are currently registered in other counties in Georgia. A check of all available databases did not reveal any evidence that the

individual had requested to have their registration transferred to Richmond County. Mr. Finnegan made a motion that the ballots be rejected and not counted. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group K – 5 people whose voter registration had been cancelled during a statewide maintenance processes during 2017 and 2019 cast a provisional ballot. Voters in these circumstances are required to register to vote prior to being permitted to cast a ballot. A check in all available databases did not reveal any evidence that the individuals had re-registered to vote, as required. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the ballots be rejected and not counted. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group L – 7 voters were in a cancelled status due to a previous felony conviction. A search of all available databases did not reveal any evidence that the individuals had re-registered to vote, as required. Mr. Dicks made a motion that the ballots be rejected and not counted. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Board Member Terence Dicks requested an update on any processes in place to notify citizens who have completed their sentence of their right to register or re-register to vote.

Group M – 1 voter submitted an incomplete voter registration application in 2018 and failed to respond to communication from the Board of Elections Office seeking clarification on the missing information. Because of the failure to respond, the application submitted in 2018 was rejected and the individual did not submit any subsequent application for voter registration. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the ballot be rejected and not counted. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group N – 34 absentee provisional ballots received from voters whose mail in ballots were in provisional status due to a missing or mismatched signature were able to cure their ballots prior to the deadline for doing so. Mr. Dicks made a motion that the ballots be accepted and counted. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group O – 7 absentee provisional ballots from voters who registered to vote by mail and were first time registrants in the State of Georgia, and therefore required to submit identification prior to the acceptance of the ballot, failed to submit the required identification. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the ballots be rejected and not counted. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Group P – 1 voter placed into a challenged status do to a felony conviction and who was unsure of their status opted to vote a provisional ballot. A search of available databases revealed that the voter's sentence had been duly completed and the applicant was eligible to vote. Mr. Dicks made a motion that the ballot be accepted and counted. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The final tally was 326 provisional ballots cast with 188 ballots accepted and 138 ballots rejected. In addition to the 188 provisional ballots accepted for counting there were 45

military/overseas ballots received after the election, but in time to be counted, making the total number of ballots added to the Unofficial Results stand at 233 ballots.

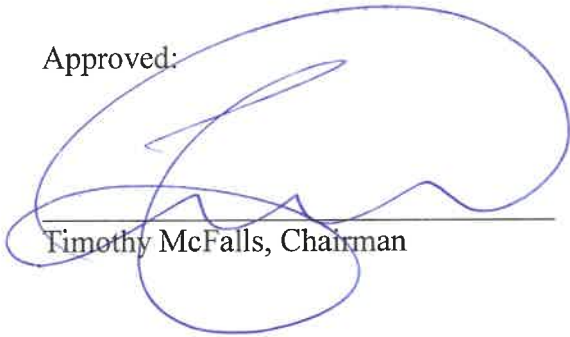
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dicks made a motion that the meeting stand adjourned. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brown, Secretary for the Board

Approved:



Timothy McFalls, Chairman