

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA
ELECTION Re-CERTIFICATION MEETING
Lee Beard Commission Chambers
December 4, 2020

Item #1 – Call the meeting to order

Chairman McFalls called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to re-certify the election results from the November 3, 2020 General Election following the state mandated recount of the votes cast. Present were Board Members Bob Finnegan, Sherry Barnes, Marcia Brown and Terence Dicks. Also present were Executive Director, Lynn Bailey, Assistant Director Travis Doss and Board attorney Rachel Mack.

Item #2 – Comparison of the Official Election Night Results to the results of the Recount of the votes cast in the office of president of the Untied Stated during the November 3, 2020 General Election

Ms. Bailey stated that following Ms. Bailey began the discussion by explaining that in an election if a difference of less than .5% exists between the two candidates, the candidate with the fewest number of votes had the right to request and receive a recount of the voted ballots. Ms. Bailey stated that following the state-wide certification of the election results, the Georgia Secretary of State received a request for a recount of the votes cast for the office of President of the United States.

Ms. Bailey explained that if following a recount the vote totals changed from what was originally certified, the election superintendent was required to reconvene and re-certify the results. Continuing, she stated that the recount was performed in Richmond County, as required, and that the number of votes cast had changed from those certified to the Georgia Secretary of State.

Staff handed out a copy of the certified Official Final and Complete Election Returns from the November 3, 2020 General Election to members of the Board and a copy of the election results following the recount of the votes cast. A comparison of the two sets of results showed the following:

- The number of ballots cast by mail, during Advance Voting, on Election Day and the number of Provisional ballots cast remained the same for a total of 87,530 ballots cast on both sets of reports.
- The number of votes received for each candidate changed, as follows:

Candidate Name	Final and Complete Certified Returns	Recount Results
Donald J. Trump	26,781	26,780
Joseph R. Biden	59,124	59,119
Jo Jorgenson	1,111	1,110

- The net result was a difference of a total of 7 votes cast in the absentee ballot by mail portion of the vote count likely caused by differing opinions by the various vote review panels on what constitutes a vote.

Chairman McFalls asked Ms. Bailey to explain the vote review panel and ballot adjudication procedures and processes. Ms. Bailey stated that by law the vote review panel is comprised of one representative of the Republican Party, one representative of the Democrat Party, and one appointee of the Election Superintendent, who in the event of a tie has the tie-breaking vote. She stated that these three citizens collectively review voter intent on over-voted or damaged ballots and, when necessary duplicate ballots, either manually or using digital technology, to reflect accurate voter intent.

Continuing, Ms. Bailey stated that because it is a subjective process that opinions as to what does and does not constitute a vote will sometimes differ between vote review panels that may cause changes in the vote totals received by the candidate. She further stated that State law mandated that the results of the recount are considered the official returns, and, if differences exist between the results obtained on Election Night and those of the recount that the election superintendent is required to re-certify their results.

Item #3 – Re-certification of the results of November 3, 2020 General Election

Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the election results for the November 3, 2020 General Election be re-certified to reflect the change in the vote totals at the conclusion of the recount. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Election re-certification documents were circulated amongst Board members for their signature.

Board member Dicks complimented the staff and party representatives working during the recount for their professionalism and dedication. Chairman McFalls stated that the audit and recount process were open, honest, and transparent processes that confirmed that the voting system used did its job to accurately count the ballots cast. Continuing, he stated that any citizen who continued to have doubts or had questions about the process or the equipment used during voting were encouraged to research and/or ask questions or otherwise get involved in the process, and above all else, to continue to vote. He re-emphasized the Board's mission statement of accurately counting the ballots of all eligible voters.

Item #4 – Adjourn

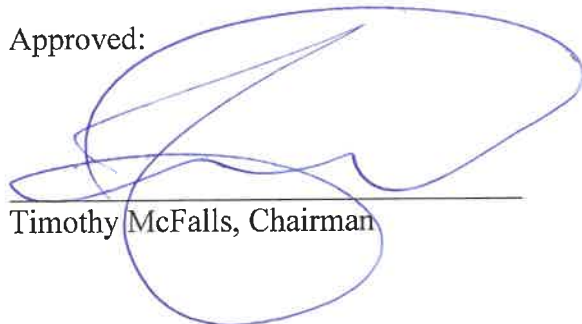
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dicks made a motion that the meeting stand adjourned. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brown, Secretary for the Board

Approved:



Timothy McFalls, Chairman