

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Regular Business Meeting  
4:30 P.M.

September 11, 2018

*APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES*

PRESENT: Chair Carol Wesley, Vice-Chair Dorothy Foster-Hall, Secretary Ruth Ash, Board Member Diane Givens, Board Member Patricia Pullar, Director Shauna Dozier, Supervisor Kamardi Carter, and Administrative Assistant Brianna Garrett

*1. Chair called the meeting to order.*

*2. Moment of silence observed.*

*3. Adoption of Agenda:*

**Motion made by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall, seconded by Board Member Givens. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.**

*4. Approval of August 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting minutes.*

Board Member Pullar requested a correction to the third motion on page one to include the purpose of the motion, which was to approve the minutes as they were.

Board Member Pullar inquired about the conversation in regards to Sunday voting on page three. Board Member Pullar (using the resolutions and information presented in the Board packet) addressed Resolution 2014-01 and Resolution 2014-234, which appoints a Sunday voting date for a specific election and does not include permanency. Board Member Pullar expressed that precedence has been accepted since that election and should not be readdressed in 2018.

Director Dozier expressed that in the August meeting she informed the Board that the established date for the Sunday voting day would be taken up at the September Board meeting. She would research the records because she inquired from Board Member Pullar the actual date of the Sunday voting motion so that a policy could be established in the case that was no record found. Director Dozier expressed that Board Member Pullar informed her to research the year of 2014. Director Dozier informed the Board that the policy found directly addressed the November 2014 Election. These policies were included in each Board Member's packet.

Board Member Pullar stated that former Chair, Harry Osbourne, established Sunday voting and that the Board took a vote on it.

Director Dozier informed the Board that no policy was found and that in the August meeting, she stated that she would present a recommendation to establish a Sunday voting policy so that the Board would not have to continue to readdressing a Sunday voting date each election.

Board Member Pullar inquired about how a Sunday voting date was established in 2016.

Director Dozier stated that a recommendation was made that included Saturday and Sunday voting for 2016.

Board Member Pullar requested the recommendation from 2016 that reflected the Sunday voting.

Director Dozier stated that she can provide the recommendation from 2016 that reflects the Sunday voting at the next board meeting. Director Dozier recommended that the Board provide a policy

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today so that she does not have to present to the Board a Sunday recommendation in future elections.

Board Member Givens inquired about a correction in the first paragraph of the minutes to correct two Board Members names.

Board Member Pullar acknowledged the comprehensiveness of the minutes and thanked Director Dozier for the improvements.

**Motion made by Vice Chair Foster-Hall to approve the August 14, 2018 Regular Business Meeting minutes with said corrections, seconded by Secretary Ash. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.**

5. *PUBLIC COMMENT*: Citizens will be given a three minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Elections and Registration about various topics, issues, and concerns. Public comments will be limited to thirty (30) minutes. Following thirty minutes of hearing from the public, the Board of Elections and Registration will allow the remainder of citizens who have signed up to be heard at the next regular business meeting.

A. Larry Auerbach, a liaison from the Democratic Party of Georgia, expressed that he received an email addressing an unidentified rumor that Clayton County Board of Elections is cancelling Sunday voting. He is glad to hear that the issue was only the setting of the date, and not the decision to cancel Sunday voting. He is very happy that Clayton County is moving forward with a tradition that they have had the last few years.

Vice-Chair Foster-Hall inquired about where the information was received.

Mr. Auerbach expressed that a liaison from the Democratic Party received the information and passed it along to him. Mr. Auerbach stated that his liaison did not cite a source of the rumor.

Board Member Pullar stated that she was the source of the information (rumor).

Vice-Chair Foster-Hall asked Board Member Pullar what was it that she provided to the public.

Board Member Pullar stated that she said “we better watch out because our Sunday voting is being challenged and that she wanted to make certain that it is not being taken away.”

Vice-Chair Foster Hall asked Board Member Pullar where did she get the information of Sunday voting being challenged.

Board Member Pullar stated that she got the information from the Director at the last meeting.

Vice-Chair Foster Hall expressed that the Board never spoke of anything being challenged, however, they did speak of a permanent date being set.

Board Member Pullar expressed that a thorough explanation was not given at the last meeting as such that was given today.

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Vice-Chair Foster-Hall stated that Board Member Pullar may not have understood what was said, but that she did.

B. Tom Huynh, Vice-President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Clayton County branch, gave thanks to the Board of Elections for not shutting down Sunday voting which protects the convenience of the democracy that makes sure every vote and voice counts. Secondly, he informed the Board of the issue of voter registrations being purged by the Secretary of State, Brian Kemp. He stated that Clayton County lost 17,381 registered voters through this purge. Mr. Huynh expressed that the community powered to be able to provide feedback to the government to help improve things that were lost through this reduction, but with the loss of voters, there has been a loss of accountability and support for elected leaders when it comes to decision making. Mr. Huynh acknowledged that there is work to be done on the home front. Third, he asked the Board of Elections & Registration to work with the NAACP and other civic organizations in Clayton County to recover and boost voter turnout in Clayton County. Mr. Huynh referred any questions to the president of NAACP, Cheryl Baldwin.

C. Synamon Baldwin, Senator of Clayton County and President of NAACP Clayton County Branch, gave thanks to the Board for not doing away with Sunday voting. She expressed that voter suppression is at an all-time high and the importance of getting people to the polls. Ms. Baldwin asked that the Board be helpful in making citizens aware that 17,000 people have been purged and that they should check their voter registration status prior to the November 6<sup>th</sup> election or early voting and encourage voters to turn out. Ms. Baldwin expressed that she understands that the Board is limited on what they can do, but the community has the ability to get out and vote and need support from the Elections Board. She would also like to draw the Board's attention to a poll that was conducted for the National NAACP by the African American Research Collaborative, which found that there were two counties in Georgia with an extremely high minority population and extremely low voter turnout, Clayton County and Richmond County. Ms. Baldwin expressed that Clayton County needs to do a better job collectively getting out to vote.

D. Reverend W.R. Starkes, from Dixon Grove Baptist Church, inquired on if Sunday voting was established and passed. Chair Wesley informed him that the establishment and dates of Sunday voting did pass. Mr. Starkes also requested a free purge list because other organizations and the Secretary of State required a fee for the document. Mr. Starkes inquired on the removal of felons from the elector's list and why should such a process take place.

E. Drew Andrews, a resident of unincorporated Jonesboro, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Andrews inquired on a confusing Facebook page posting in regards to Sunday voting. He suggested establishing the same Sunday for each election. Using the example of the second Tuesday as the voting date for General elections, he proposed that the Board establish a similar permanent Sunday voting date to decrease confusion. He expressed that we are in a state where we do not trust many elected officials with something as precious as our voting. He asked for transparency, clarification, and simplicity. He also brought attention to concerns that took place in Habersham that he seen on the news, and wishes for that not to take place in Clayton County.

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F. State Representative Sandra G. Scott, representing District 76, expressed that she was present to speak on Sunday Voting. She informed the Board that she attended the Board of Commissioners Meeting on last Tuesday and spoke about the Sunday voting issue and to address the minutes from the Clayton County Board of Elections' website. Ms. Scott stated that the August minutes are not online for the public to view, and when she looks at the minutes, she only sees comments from the Director. When she went before the Board of Commissioners, she stated that the minutes are not done correctly. There are five members on the board, and the director is not the only person that is making comments. The minutes should reflect transparency of what is being said and done. Ms. Scott stated that the public should be able to view the minutes and if there are questions, the public should be able to contact the Board to answer them. Ms. Scott also stated that there is no contact information of Board members on the Election's website and that when people are getting paid by the county as a member of a board, contact information should be made available for residents if they have a question. Ms. Scott expressed that she takes full pride of elections. She requested that the Election Board be more transparent. She stated that there should have been a press release in Clayton County Daily Newspaper to let the public know that 17,000 people have been purged from the voters list. Ms. Scott stated that the Board should do a better job of communicating to the community what is going on in the election office and that people have fought bled and died for the right to vote. Ms. Scott stated that she will be attending future meetings and that we cannot sit back and allow our Election Board to not be fair, not be transparent, and we must always stand for what is right. Ms. Scott requested that the Board do a press release to inform people on the purge list to register to vote by the deadline of October 9<sup>th</sup>.

G. Barbara Brown expressed that the 17,000 people who were purged and unable to be contacted by phone, should be contacted by email to inform them to check their voter registration status. Ms. Brown stated that she received a card in the mail prior to getting her driver license renewed and wanted to confirm the legitimacy of her status. She recommended dispersing the workload among volunteers to complete the task. Ms. Brown stated that she is quite sure that there are email addresses on the list to contact the people. Ms. Brown expresses that every person is needed that can vote.

Chair Wesley thanked everyone for their attendance and assured public comment participants that the issues expressed will be acknowledged.

Board Member Pullar stated that a conversation took places among the Board to discuss how to communicate to the 17,000 that were on the purge list. Board Member Pullar informed the public that the Board asked Director Dozier to send out the letters, as well as use Clayton County Television (CCTV) to release information to the voters and that the following Board meeting, Director Dozier informed the Board that the letters went out to the 17,000 voters.

Board Member Pullar requested a copy of the letter.

Board Member Pullar informed the public that she was not certain if all of the methods were being used, however Director Dozier informed the Board that letters were being sent out to those 17,000 deleted voters.

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Chair Wesley informed the public that comment has come to an end.

**Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Secretary Ash, to accept the recommendations of the public comments from the various organizations here this afternoon by communicating to all 17,000 deleted voters by all modes of communications including social media, press release to the Clayton News daily and the Atlanta Journal Constitution and placed on CCTV, and all available communications that we have available to us.**

Board Member Givens inquired about the availability of staff to complete the phone calls and if the Board wanted to make a motion without a full understanding of the privacy regulations as it pertains to the release of the voters' information.

Board Member Pullar informed Board Member Givens that public information would be used.

Director Dozier informed the Board that phone numbers and email addresses are not listed on the document.

Board Member Givens inquired about the information that is private and cannot be transferred to the community organizations to get the staffing necessary to execute the motion. She likes the idea, however questions how a motion can be charged without proper protocol to complete the task.

Board Member Pullar stated that the motion is charging the Board of Elections & Registration to utilize social media, press releases, and CCTV as communication to the voters.

Board Member Givens asked if the press release is going to state: for all of Clayton County to check their voter registration.

Board Member Pullar stated that it would be directed to the 17,000 voters.

Board Member Givens asked how can community organizations, such as NAACP support the Board of Elections & Registration if the information that is given is only the name and addresses.

Board Member Givens informed the Board that her questioning was to assure that if a charge was given that the Board has the capability to do it, or it becomes a waste of time.

**Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Secretary Ash, to accept the recommendation of public comment this evening that we contact the 17,000 voters via forms of communication to include phone calls, CCTV, and any other appropriate forms of communication. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.**

*8. Old Business:*

A. EW1 Polling Place, East Clayton update.

Director Dozier informed the Board that a recommendation will be presented for polling place to remain at the same location, now named Utopian Academy. Once a reservation form is completed, the name change will be advertised in the legal organ, as well as notify voters of their polling place

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name change by sending letters and new precinct cards through postal mail. Director Dozier informed the Board that she will present the recommendation at the next meeting.

#### B. City of Jonesboro, Polling Place Location Change update.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she spoke with the City Manager of Jonesboro, Ricky Clark, in regards to the polling place location for the general election for the city of Jonesboro. He has informed Director Dozier that there will be no polling place location change and that it will remain the same. Director Dozier informed the Board that there is no action that needs to be taken.

#### C. City of Morrow Special Election to be held on November 6, 2018 update.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she spoke with the municipal clerk, Yasmine Julio, and she informed Director Dozier that the City of Morrow will no longer conduct a Special Election for the Brunch bill. The Board of Elections and Registration will no longer be required to conduct a special election on November 6, 2018 for the City of Morrow.

#### D. Submittal of Youth Commission Information as requested by Board Member Pullar.

Director Dozier provided to the Board the number of students on the Youth Commission and a list of schools that each student attends. Director Dozier also presented a list of schools that have Deputized Registrars who were provided training by the Board of Elections & Registration.

Board Member Pullar questioned if School Board members have the Youth Commissions' information. Director Dozier informed the Board that she is unaware however she could find out that information.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Deputy Registrar training is ongoing and that the coordinator informed her that they are pushing voter registration for the month of September. September has been deemed High School Registration month in order to capture those who have just turned seventeen and a half and are now eligible to complete voter registration.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she is currently working with Regina Wallace and establishing a schedule to drop off voter registration applications. New teachers have also completed Deputy Registrar training on last week.

### *7. New Business*

#### A. Director's Report:

Director Dozier informed the Board that since the last report, the Election & Registration staff have been working on post-election activities for the General Primary election as well as preparing for the November General Election.

Director Dozier informed the Board that as of September 1, there are 182,151 voters in Clayton County.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that she attended 34th Annual National Association of Election Officials Conference August 26 – August 29, 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Topics covered during this conference included National Voter Registration Day activities and ideas, cyber security, updates from the Election Assistance Commission, voting systems, crisis management and using social media to promote voter education.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the county has started the demolition of the building to renovate the bunker to accommodate the IT Data Center. There has been a delay in completion due to the moving of the Archives Department and Board of Health. Construction of the Election/IT Data Center has not yet resumed. Director Dozier is awaiting updates from Building & Maintenance and will keep the Board informed as more information becomes available.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she is working with Building & Maintenance to assure that the renovations do not interfere with testing of equipment and election activities.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Logic & Accuracy testing will begin on September 19, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Elections Center and shall continue until completed.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Elections & Registration will start the absentee by mail tabulation process early on Election Day. This information will be advertised in the legal organ and provided to the Secretary of State

Director Dozier informed the Board that poll worker training is scheduled for October 8 – October 27, 2018.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Logic & Accuracy testing is available for public viewing.

Director Dozier informed the Board that training is scheduled for October 8 through October 12, 2018 for Early and Advanced Voting staff.

Director Dozier commended the Staff for processing an estimated 24,000 voter registration application backlog within two weeks. The backlog was created due to the voter registration deadline for the 2018 May General Primary and Runoff elections. The Secretary of State Elections Division approved counties to begin entering applications once credit for voting was issued for the primaries on August 2, 2018.

Director Dozier reminded the Board that the Board of Election staff is currently preparing for Voter Registration Day held on September 25, 2018. Director Dozier informed the Board that Elections & Registration are still seeking volunteers to assist with NVRD, which will include voter registration, voter education, distribution of absentee ballot applications, and providing the public the opportunity to check their voter registration statuses using provided technology from the county.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Elections & Registration is always seeking opportunities to conduct voter registration drives and provide deputy registrar training.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that there has been correspondences with Clayton County Sheriff's office in regards to absentee by mail as well as collaborations with organizations that assist with inmate transition and hold monthly events, in which the Board of Elections is invited to conduct voter registration and answer questions.

Director Dozier informed the Board that The Voter Participation Center has commenced sending out voter registration notices. The center is not affiliated with the county elections office. The County Elections Office received the following information to share with our constituents from the State Elections Division. Director Dozier provide the Board members with contact information for any voter that wishes to be removed from the list.

**Motion made by Board Member Givens to accept the Director's Report presented by Director Dozier as information. Seconded by Secretary Ash. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.**

B. Intergovernmental Agreement, Clayton County Public School's ESPLOST Special Election to be held on March 19, 2019.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she has been in correspondence with Clayton County Public Schools, whom are interested in entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Board of Elections & Registration to conduct a Special Election on March 19, 2019.

**Motion made by Vice-Chair Foster Hall, seconded by Board Member Givens to accept the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Clayton County Public Schools to be held on March 19, 2018. Voting strength of 4. Abstained by Board Member Pullar. Motion carried**

C. Poll Worker Training Dates, Times, and Locations

Director Dozier presented the Board with poll worker training dates, times, and locations. Director Dozier informed the Board that poll worker applications will be accepted until October 10, 2018. Director Dozier informed the Board that poll workers can now complete and submit applications online at our website: [www.claytonelections.com](http://www.claytonelections.com).

D. Board Member Appointment to the Vote Review Panel for the November General election to be held on November 6, 2018.

Director Dozier reminded the Board that the Board has to make their appointment for the Voter Review Panel for the 2018 November General election. As a reminder this Board member as well as all panelist will report on Election Day at 6:00 PM to the tabulation center and shall remain sequestered until the polls close in accordance to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(6). These individuals can have no contact with the media; no contact with other persons not involved in monitoring, observing or conducting the tabulation; shall not use any type of communication device, radios, telephones, cell phones, computers, email, instant messaging; and shall not communicate any information concerning tabulation with anyone.



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**Motion made by Board Member Pullar to appoint Vice-Chair Foster-Hall to the Vote Review Panel as the Board Designee for the General Election held November 6, 2018. Seconded by Board Member Givens. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.**

E. 2018 General Advanced Voting Locations, Dates, and Hours

Director Dozier presented to the Board, in continuation from the discussion in the last meeting in regards to establishing the dates for November, December, and January, a recommendation for Advanced Voting locations, dates, and times, which include a Sunday voting date. Director Dozier informed the Board the dates for a runoff are not included until the Secretary of State determines a date for that election, which is standard protocol due to the short transition time period between the November Election and the December Runoff. Director Dozier informed the Board that should there be a federal runoff, it will be held in January 2019.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the recommended dates, times, and locations include six advanced voting locations and twenty one days, including an expansion of two hours in the final week before the Election. Prior to Director Dozier's tenure there were three locations and a one hour expansion during the last week before the Election.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Sunday is designated to align with the Saturday voting, in accordance with 21-2-385.

**Motion made by Chair Wesley to designate the second Sunday prior to a General Primary or General Election from 12:00PM to 5:00PM for Clayton County Board of Elections & Registration to conduct Advanced Voting if there are federal or state candidates on the ballot. Seconded by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.**

Board Member Givens addressed the public, announcing the Sunday voting date for the November General election to be held on October 28, 2018.

Board Member Givens asked that the public to please correct misinformation given on social media.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the hours, dates, and locations will be advertised on social media, the legal organ and other forms of communication through the new Communications Director of Clayton County.

F. National Voter Registration Day Clayton County Events

Director Dozier presented the Board with a copy of the Clayton County National Voter Registration Day flyer to be held on September 25, 2018. The Elections Office has expanded efforts this year in hosting voter registration drives as well as provide voter education across the county for the 2018 NVRD. Director Dozier informed the Board that the county will host at least 10 scheduled voter registration drive locations, including recreation and senior citizen centers. Volunteers and staff will conduct voting equipment demonstrations, pass out absentee ballot

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applications, as well as make themselves available to answer questions. Voters will be able to use laptops or iPads to look up voter registration statuses.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Delta Sigma Theta Organization will be partnering with the Board of Elections & Registration for Voter Registration Day. There will be a Deputy Registrar training for volunteers that will be conducted on September 24, 2018. The Elections & Registration office are still seeking volunteers to assist with NVRD.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Office of Youth Services is hosting an event at Lee Street Park in the city of Jonesboro. The Board of Elections & Registration will set up a tent and be available on site to provide voter education and register voters, in support of the Office of Youth Services.

Director Dozier informed the Board that on last year, Clayton County received national attention for National Voter Registration Day on the front page of the report. Director Dozier informed the Board that during the Georgia Election Official Conference on last year, she had the opportunity to present before an audience of 600 elected officials across the state on National Voter Registration Day.

G. Hearing to remove felons from elector's list.

**Motion made by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall to remove 3 felons from the elector's list, seconded by Secretary Ash. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.**

H. Removal of deceased from elector's list.

**Motion made by Secretary Ash to remove 3 deceased voters from the electors' list. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion passed.**

Board Member Pullar recommended that the Board of Elections & Registration establish a list of local organizations, nonprofit organizations, schools, faith-based organizations and stakeholders for the release of mass information.

*10. Executive session:*

**Motion made by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Motion seconded by Secretary Ash. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried. The Board of Elections began the Executive Session at 6:16 P.M.**

**Motion made by Board Member Givens to adjourn Executive Session, Motion seconded by Board Member Pullar. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried. The Board of Elections ended the Executive Session at 6:19 P.M.**

*11. Adjourn*

**Motion made by Board Member Pullar to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 6:20 P.M. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion passed.**

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CAROL WESLEY, CHAIR

  
DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, VICE-CHAIR

  
RUTH F. ASH, SECRETARY

  
PATRICIA PULLAR, BOARD MEMBER

  
DIANE GIVENS, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

  
BRIANNA GARRETT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT