



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration

FROM: Shauna Dozier, Elections Director

RE: Operations Report for March 2021

DATE: April 11, 2021

The following report represents a summary and recap of major operations and activities that we have completed or are ongoing within Elections and Registration for the month of March 2021 and activities since the last Board meeting.

The priorities were centered on Post-Election Day activities associated with the November General & Special Post Election Day request as well as the January 5, 2021 Special and General Runoff Elections, processing voter registration applications and the rearrangement of elections tasks due to the global pandemic COVID-19.

ELECTIONS

PERSONNEL STAFFING:

STAFFING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING:

Deadline driven task from the redistribution of daily operations continue to receive priority training which included Staff Training.

SENATE BILL 202/ACT 9 NEW OMNIBUS ELECTIONS LAW:

Senate Bill 202/ACT 9 was signed into law on March 25, 2021. There are 6 sections of the 98-page law that became effective upon the Governor's Signature: Sections 21, 23, 25, 27, 28 and 29. The other sections will be effective as of July 2021. The greatest impact of SB 202 will be the increased cost to the County to hold elections due to the increase in overtime pay to comply with various required provisions, hiring new personnel, purchasing new voting equipment, establishing new polling places, changes in drop box security and the purchase of new supplies.

This financial impact is then compounded by the County's restriction from receiving grant funds to offset these costs.

Further, State Elections Board now has authority to suspend county or municipal superintendents and make personnel decisions for County staff. The State Election Board now has authority to suspend election superintendents with pay and appoint a temporary superintendent and require the County to pay for these decisions made by the State out of the County's budget. While the Board of Elections may appeal the decision, they cannot use County funds to do so and must purchase insurance to pay for the appeal.

Additionally, Unlimited challenges by "interested" electors. In the last election, there were several outside groups that used proxy "interested" electors to send spreadsheets of hundreds (if not over 1000) alleged voters who were allegedly ineligible to vote. This occurred shortly before the end of the voting period. None of the "interested" electors had firsthand knowledge of whether these persons were ineligible and admitted they filed the challenge based on information provided to them by a third party. With the change in SB 202, an "interested" elector can divert hundreds of hours of man-time to chase challenges to voter residency and require thousands of people to appear at a hearing solely based on that "interested" elector's belief that the elector is ineligible to vote.

UGA ABSENTEE BALLOT SIGNATURE MATCH STUDY:

The Secretary of State Elections office is partnering with the University of Georgia to conduct a statewide review of signature match during the November 2020 General Election.

The Secretary of State Elections office has requested that they need all counties to scan and send to liaisons copies of all completed absentee ballot cure forms from the November 2020 General.

Once the project begins, researchers with UGA will request us to pull a number of random envelopes (based on calculations of your total number of absentee ballots) for a number of ballot envelopes.

This project requires a court order and we are expected to fulfill the request to the Secretary of State Elections office by Friday, April 16, 2021.

The Secretary of State indicated that this is a part of their ongoing effort to promote confidence in elections.

2021 GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTION OFFICIALS (GAVREO) CONFERENCE:

The 2021 GAVREO conference is still scheduled for August 29 – September 1, 2021 with restrictions on the number of attendees per county. Additionally, the link for the hotel will be released on March 16, 2021. The Department does not have a county issued credit card therefore; each person attending must continue to make their own reservations. Once reservations are made, we can submit to Finance for payment. We can discuss the restrictions and options for attendance at the Regular Scheduled Board meeting.

RENOVATION OF ELECTION CENTER/FORMER 911 BUNKER:

Updates will be provided at the next Regular Board Meeting.

POLLING PLACE SURVEYS AND RESERVATIONS:

We are in the process of securing the reservations for the 2021 Polling Locations. If needed, we will provide recommendations to the Board for approval at upcoming Regular Scheduled Board meetings in preparation for future elections.

REGISTRATION

VOTER REGISTRATION:

As of April 1, 2021, there are 208,198 (198,954 Active; 9,244 Inactive) Voters.

FELON LIST

Number scheduled for April Hearing: None

VOTER EDUCATION/OUTREACH:

All in-person events have been adjusted for reduced contact due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

HIGHSCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION MONTH – APRIL 2021:

High school Voter Registration Month is fast approaching in April. We will deputize Educators to assist in the month's events. Deputy Registrar classes will continue to be conducted via Zoom until further notice.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR ACTIVITIES:

All trainings associated with Deputy Registrar activities will be conducted via Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19. For future events, please submit request to elections@claytoncountyga.gov.

VOTER EDUCATION/OUTREACH EVENTS/MEDIA COVERAGE:

Due to COVID-19 limited in person, activities were held during this time.

TASKS TO BE PERFORMED FOR FUTURE REPORTING PERIODS:

- Street Audits
- Preparing for 2020/2021 Post Election Events
- Redistricting Activities
- List Maintenance Preparations/Confirmation Notices
- 2021 Municipal Elections
- 2022 Elections Planning
- Plan Voter Education/Outreach Events
- Poll Worker/Seasonal Staff Recruitment
- Poll Worker Procedural Writing and Training
- Deputy Registrar Training for Educators
- Legislative Tracking