

COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
JUNE 19, 2020
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Video Conference via WebEx

12:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Phil Daniell

Fred Aiken

Jessica Brooks joined remotely

Neera Bahl joined remotely

Board Members Absent

Darryl Wilson, Jr.

Others Present: The following staff members were present in person: Janine Eveler, Beau Gunn, Gerry Miller, Gregg Litchfield and Crista Watson. Brenda Jemison participated remotely.

Chairman Daniell called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Chairman Daniell made a motion to approve to approve the following meeting minutes:

- June 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Bahl SECONDED. APPROVED 4-0.

Public Comment:

- Ebonee Bryant spoke about her voting experience detailing excessive wait times.
- Garland Favorito expressed his concern over mail in ballots not being counted correctly.
- Jacquelyn Bettadapur spoke about excessive wait times, and concerns regarding voter suppression.
- Priscilla Smith spoke about concerns over voter suppression and the need for emergency ballots.
- Sharon Hill spoke about voter rights, technical issues at the polls, excessive wait times, the need for more training, limited drop boxes, opening delays and the need for election protection awareness.
- Shea Allen detailed her personal experience when voting and observations while working as a poll worker. She expressed her concerns over voter suppression in community areas with higher black populations and significantly higher numbers of voters as well as the need for additional polling locations while allowing citizens to have the option of voting at any polling location within the county.
- George Balbona expressed his concerns over voter suppression, his observations while visiting various polling locations, poll workers not wearing masks, audio failure during poll worker training video instruction, no tape posted outside MR5A and the need for hand marked paper ballots
- Lisa Campbell expressed her concerns regarding excessive wait times, voting purges, poll closings, voter suppression, the need for additional training and her desire for a contingency plan to address these issues before next election.
- Danaya Bryant described her experience while voting, excessive wait times, and

communication failures by precinct staff to the voters at the polling location.

Director Eveler provided an overview of the challenges and obstacles faced by staff while preparing for the June 9th Election. She detailed operational procedure limitations regarding absentee voting, social distancing challenges at polling locations and Elections Office, system failures, equipment failures, poll worker and election staff retention, poll pad issues, transport issues and system training challenges. Director Eveler described county limitations mandated by the Secretary of State and identified actions currently underway within the Department to ensure the obstacles faced during the June Election do not reoccur during the August and November 2020 runoffs.

Chairman Daniell made a motion to certify the results of the June 9, 2020 Primary and Election Fred Aiken SECONDED. APPROVED 4-0.

Other Business: None

Board Member Comments:

Chairman Daniell thanked the staff and public for their observations and explained they will be taken under consideration to identify necessary areas for improvement and spoke briefly about ballot counting and upcoming runoff races.

Fred Aiken thanked Director Eveler for explaining the issues the Department faced and explained that there were circumstances beyond the control of the county and assured the public that accusations of voter suppression were unfounded.

Neera Bahl thanked Director Eveler and denied any accusations of voter suppression.

Jessica Brooks thanked staff and the public for providing their personal perspectives. She summarized the limitations from the state level down to the county level and commented that whether intentional or unintentional, voting was suppressed.

The Chairman set the next regular meeting for July 13, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Aiken moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m.
Chairman Daniell SECONDED. APPROVED 4-0.