

**COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION  
DECEMBER 14, 2020  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

736 Whitlock Avenue  
4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Phil Daniell (Remote)  
Fred Aiken  
Jessica Brooks  
Darryl Wilson, Jr.  
Pat Gartland

Board Members Absent

Others Present: The following individuals were also present in person: Janine Eveler, Beau Gunn, Gregg Litchfield, Daniel White, Lindsey Tippins, and Crista Watson. Brenda Jemison participated remotely.

Chairman Daniell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Allen Rutledge expressed his frustrations concerning changes in processes due to Covid-19, Dominion voting systems, and the decision not to utilize Boots Ward Recreation Center as an Advance Voting location.
- Michael Opitz verbalized his objections regarding the continued use of Dominion voting machines and proposed their usage be discontinued.
- Joyce David detailed her frustrations over the reduced number of Advance Voting locations for the January 5, 2021 election and asked the Board to add an additional early voting location in the West Cobb area.
- State Representative Ginny Ehrhart detailed the complaints she has received from constituents regarding Boots Ward Recreation Center not being utilized as an Advance Voting site, the failure to provide ample notice to voters and her dismay over poll watcher limitations.
- David Wilkerson proposed an additional Advance Voting location be opened at the Cobb County Civic Center. Mr. Wilkerson expressed his displeasure over the court order to conduct a Signature Audit, describing it as unconscionable and urged the Board to push back and defend the staff.
- Jeffery Boyd Parks expressed his desire for secure, honest and transparent elections and made suggestions for changes to voting procedures.
- Roxann Smithers communicated her skepticism regarding staffing limitations within the Elections and Registration Department that resulted in the reduction of Advance Voting sites.
- Salleigh Grubbs detailed her irritation with Boots Ward Recreation Center not being used for Advance Voting, the last-minute notice to the public and feels there is a lack of transparency.
- Lindsey Tippins spoke against the decision not to offer Advance Voting at Boots Ward

Recreation center and urged the Board to reconsider.

Mr. Gartland made a motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

- October 27, 2020
- November 3, 2020

Mr. Aiken SECONDED. APPROVED 5-0.

Public Hearing:

To request approval to make an emergency change to the polling location for precinct Wileo 01 from Bethany Presbyterian Church, 4644 Sandy Plains Rd., Marietta, GA 30066 to Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, 4495 Sandy Plains Rd., Marietta, GA 30066 effective January 5, 2021.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Brooks asked how many voters would be impacted by this change. Director Eveler responded 2,835.

Mr. Gartland asked if Wesley Chapel Methodist Church had the amenities to adequately support the public. Director Eveler responded yes and detailed the location.

Mr. Wilson asked if the concerns resulting in the need for the emergency change were the concerns of the church or the Elections Department. Director Eveler explained that Bethany Presbyterian Church was no longer willing to serve as a voting site due to their concerns over Covid-19.

Mr. Gartland moved to approve the emergency polling location change. Ms. Brooks SECONDED. APPROVED 5-0.

Regular Business:

- Election Night Assignments

The Board approved the election night assignments as follows:

Prep Center: Jessica Brooks and Fred Aiken

Elections Main Office: Phil Daniell, Darryl Wilson Jr., & Pat Gartland

- Request approval to reschedule the January 5 Runoff Certification meeting to January 14, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Daniell made a motion to approve. Mr. Gartland SECONDED.  
APPROVED 5-0

- Approval of the 2021 Board of Elections Meeting calendar

Mr. Gartland made a motion to approve. Mr. Wilson SECONDED. APPROVED 5/0

Other Business:

Jason Shepherd brought forth 2 challenges to be heard by the Board.

- Mr. Shepherd challenged the residency of 60 registered voters who reside in University housing. After council from Attorney Litchfield, Mr. Gartland made a motion that there was NOT probable cause and the CHALLENGE was DENIED. Ms. Brooks SECONDED. APPROVED 5-0.
- Mr. Shepherd also challenged the votes of 2 individuals, Robert and Sheila Sherman, and claimed he has evidence to indicate they do not live at the registered address. After council from Attorney Litchfield, Mr. Gartland made a motion that there was probable cause to SUSTAIN the CHALLENGE. Mr. Aiken SECONDED. APPROVED 5-0

Board Member Comments:

Mr. Gartland expressed his thoughts relating to the density of voters between the Boots Ward Recreation Center area and Riverside EpiCenter.

Ms. Brooks spoke regarding the levels of voter participation in the Boots Ward and EpiCenter areas stating that Geography is not necessarily an indicator of a successful location but instead the number of voters in a specific area that participate.

Ms. Brooks asked what the travel time is between Boots Ward Recreation Center and Ron Anderson Recreation Center. Director Eveler responded 7 miles.

Ms. Brooks suggested the use of digital roadway signage as a means to communicate polling location changes to citizens.

Mr. Aiken asked if there was another location the department could use as an Advance Voting location in place of Riverside EpiCenter and conduct early voting at Boots Ward Recreation Center. Director Eveler explained that there was still the issue of available managers and assistant managers to staff the locations.

Chairman Daniell detailed the current limitations and circumstances that have prevented the department from being able to open the eleven Advance Voting locations offered during the prior election and stated he does not see a way to accommodate an additional location at Boots Ward.

Ms. Brooks asked if the voters of Cobb should be concerned for their privacy due to the order to conduct a signature audit. Director Eveler explained that the audit will be performed by the

Georgia Bureau of Investigation in partnership with the Secretary of State's Office.

Ms. Brooks asked if we wanted to utilize digital roadway signage at the advance voting locations. Director Eveler explained the Department of Transportation has a limited quantity but she would make a request. There are already smaller signs at all locations and poll workers are stationed there to direct voters to open locations.

Mr. Aiken asked if advance voting location information could be printed on the water bill of county residents. Director Eveler responded not at this time, as this would require a six-week turnaround time.

The Chairman set the next regular meeting for January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Mr. Gartland SECONDED. APPROVED 5-0.