COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
NOVEMBER 13, 2020
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

736 Whitlock Avenue
12:00 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, Tara Crisp and Beau Gunn. Brenda Jemison, Crista Watson participated remotely.

Chairman Daniell called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Aubi Oybgun spoke regarding election protection, her recommendation of additional training pertaining to the cancellation of absentee ballots and provisional ballot protocols.
- Jacquelyn Bettadapur commended the elections office for providing expanded voting opportunities and described the notable improvements she observed during this election.
- Lindsey Sieber thanked the Board and Election staff and inquired as to what changes the board foresees implementing in future elections.
- Monica Delancy thanked the board for notifying voters of polling location changes and spoke regarding the need for provisions to be put in place that protect the rights of homeless voters.

Director Janine Eveler presented the election night report, detailed the election summary report, the anomalies faced by the department, described the methods of resolution and requested approval to certify the results of the November 3, 2020 General/Special Election.

Mr. Aiken made a motion to certify the results of the November 3, 2020 General/Special Election
Mr. Gartland SECONDED. APPROVED 5-0.

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

- October 27, 2020
- November 3, 2020

Mr. Wilson SECONDED. APPROVED 5-0.
Regular Business:

Director Eveler provided an overview of the audit underway at Jim R. Miller Park, the procedures and the expected date of completion.

Other Business: None

Board Member Comments:

Ms. Brooks asked Director Eveler how many voters requested absentee ballots and ultimately cancelled them. Director Eveler explained that there were roughly 30,000 ballots cancelled or spoiled.

Chairman Daniell inquired as to the difference in absentee votes and the number of provisional ballots received as well as how many voters voted on election day. Director Eveler explained that overall turnout was 73.76% and that number is further broken down on the Summary report presented at the meeting and available on our website.

Ms. Brooks asked about provisional ballots and the circumstances in which they are utilized. Director Eveler explained that the majority of issued provisional ballots were due to voters electing to vote out of precinct, questions regarding voter eligibility that could not immediately be resolved, failure to provide photo identification or voters who registered by mail but failed to submit identification prior to the election.

Mr. Gartland inquired as to the number of observers present at Jim R. Miller Park. Director Eveler explained that one official monitor is permitted per every 10 tables for each Party, the Libertarian political body and the Carter Center. All others who were not designated are permitted to observe while using the public observation area.

Ms. Brooks detailed the public mistrust of the election and asked Director Eveler to describe what the process entails as well as the safeguards in place to ensure no collusion takes place. Director Eveler explained that all parties participating in the audit are from various groups including poll workers, facilitators, seasonal employees, full-time and part-time staff. She went on to explain the methods in place separating staff, seating arrangements, the trays used for separating and their purposes, protocols for opening sealed batches, ballot verification by two parties, the requirements that must be fulfilled before each vote is tallied and deemed certified. Director Eveler went on to explain the circumstances that would result in a vote being rejected.

Ms. Brooks asked Director Eveler what would make a write-in certified. Director Eveler explained, anyone who wished to be included as a certified write-in must file a form with the superintendent and publish a notice in the newspaper by the deadline.

Chairman Daniell asked if the elections office would have everything completed by the audit deadline of November 18, 2020. Director Eveler replied that currently, it was too early to tell. A question was submitted via the chat function asking if absentee ballots for the upcoming elections would be issued automatically. Director Eveler explained they must be requested.

Chairman Daniell asked if the elderly or disabled would continue to receive theirs automatically. Director Eveler explained that yes, they would but if they wish to vote in person, the absentee
ballot must be cancelled.

Chairman Daniell promoted My Voter Page as well as Ballot Trax as valuable resources to anyone who wishes to verify the status of their ballot.

The Chairman set the next regular meeting for December 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Gartland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Ms. Brooks SECONDED. APPROVED 5-0.