COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
OCTOBER 11, 2021
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

100 Cherokee Street
3:00 p.m.

Board Members Present
Tori Silas, Chair
Jessica Brooks, Vice Chair
Jennifer Mosbacher, Secretary
Steve Bruning, Assistant Secretary
Pat Gartland

Board Members Absent

Others Present: Gregg Litchfield, Janine Eveler, Brenda Jemison, Tara Crisp, and Crista Watson.

Chairperson Silas called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

• Pam Reardon spoke regarding the proposed location change of Cooper 01 and would like the Cobb County police training facility to be utilized as a polling location. She believes the facility would be a safer location than Cooper Middle School due to lockdown concerns.
• Debbie Fisher voiced her opposition regarding moving Cooper 01 out of the Cobb County police training facility. Ms. Fisher also requested video surveillance of drop boxes within the county be livestreamed and available to the public to view to ensure chain of custody procedures are transparent.
• Boyd Parks supports the use of the police training facility, citing the ease of access for disabled voters. Mr. Parks also requested no further contracts with Dominion Voting Systems be renewed, usage of drop boxes be discontinued, paper ballots be used in place of electronic voting equipment and that paper ballots be counted upon closing of each polling location.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

• Chairwoman Silas requested an amendment to the September 13, 2021 meeting minutes citing the ACLU be changed to reflect the ACLU of Georgia.
• Mr. Bruning made a motion to approve. Ms. Mosbacher SECONDED. APPROVED 5/0.
PUBLIC HEARING:

Re-examine the previously approved polling location change for precinct Cooper 01 (CO01)

Director Eveler provided an introduction detailing the geographical information relating to Cooper Middle School, age and race demographics of the area, precinct change history of Cooper 01, challenges disabled voters may face when voting, controlled access entry concerns, gym availability challenges, and geographical data of the Cobb County Police Training Academy for comparison to Cooper Middle School.

Mr. Gartland asked if schools are closed on election day. Director Eveler explained that schools are normally closed for November General Elections but remain open during other elections.

Chairwoman Silas asked if Cooper Middle School utilizes controlled access for facility entrance. Director Eveler communicated it is used at all school locations; however, the side entrance gives voters a way to enter without having to buzz the intercom at the front door.

Chairwoman Silas asked how far from the entrance are the prospective voting rooms at the police training facility. Director Eveler explained both the Training Academy and Cooper Middle School have long hallways, similar in distance, to the polling rooms.

- Robert Maynard spoke in support of Cooper 01 voters explaining he has served as a poll watcher at this precinct and feels the voters have been unfairly stereotyped and do not oppose changing the precinct from Cooper Middle School to the Cobb County Police Training Academy.
- Christine Cato explained she has been the area supervisor of this location and in previous years, this precinct utilized a police precinct for voting and did not receive any complaints from voters. She went on to detail observations taken place at Cooper Middle School including the access road voters utilize to enter the voting area, lack of adequate lighting along the path from the parking lot to the entrance and the consistent complaints staff has received regarding the long distance required to enter the poll at Cooper Middle School.
- Tim Cox, chief of police for Cobb County Police Department, explained he oversees the Training Academy and detailed their partnerships with other entities that have utilized the space including the NAACP, SCLC, and elected officials. Chief Cox stated they have never received any complaints and went on to read the mission and core values of the department and their commitment to the community.
- Rahul Garabadu, a voting rights staff attorney for the ACLU of Georgia, urged the board to reverse the decision to move Cooper 01 from Cooper Middle School to the Cobb County Police Academy. He feels this will deter voters of color from casting a ballot, that it may be a potential violation of Federal Law regarding voter intimidation in Section 2b of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and that this could confuse voters due to changes stemming from SB202 and redistricting changes.
- Christine Rozman spoke to the board about Cooper Middle School and detailed the long walk from the parking lot to the gym, difficulties disabled voters face, inclement
weather, lack of adequate lighting, accessibility issues, previous lockdown instances and would like the Training Academy to be utilized in place of the school.

- Jacquelyn Bettadapur spoke to the board regarding the proposal to move the General Primary from May to June 28th. She stated this would result in schools being out and urged the board to poll the community because there has not been anyone from this poll speak at any of the meetings regarding this precinct.
- Robert Jones asked the board if the voters of this poll had been polled regarding their feelings related to this change. He suggested leaving the location at the school and coming together to fix the issues or finding another location to utilize.
- Judy Wenchell commented that no one from this district has attended the board meetings or expressed their opposition, so she does not feel there are legitimate concerns from the community.
- Lucy Denzen stated it was possible that the reason Cooper 01 voters were not present to express their concerns is because they are at work and unable to attend a 3 p.m. meeting and that it is not right to presume to know how others may feel regarding this topic.

Chairwoman Silas closed the public hearing at 4:10 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Mr. Gartland stated it is unknown whether the request to move the election from May to June will be approved, so Cooper Middle School being closed is not a guarantee. He went on to say that Cooper Middle School is not efficient for disabled voters, voting in schools is a distraction to the students and staff and asked his fellow board members to vote to approve the Cobb County Police Training Academy remain the location for Cooper 01.
- Ms. Mosbacher asked Director Eveler to provide clarification regarding the number of permissible Ballot Marking Devices versus the capability of Cooper Middle School and the police training facility in relation to the maximum number allotted per registered voters. Director Eveler explained that the current number of voting enclosures required by law in an even-year General Election is 20, but the numbers in the presentation reflected the maximum number that each facility could hold, based solely on electrical capacity.
- Chairwoman Silas asked if overpopulation were to occur, would the department have adequate time to acquire the necessary equipment. Director Eveler explained that funding to purchase new equipment has been built into each budget year.
- Chairwoman Silas asked if analysis of lines and waiting times during previous elections had been conducted. Director Eveler responded that the department conducts analysis every odd year in preparation for upcoming larger elections and that this was done following last year’s election.
- Ms. Brooks expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to reconsider this matter but expressed her concerns that they have not heard from voters within this precinct.
Ms. Mosbacher made a motion to table the decision to move Cooper 01 from the Cobb County Police Training Academy back to Cooper Middle School. Mr. Gartland SECONDED. APPROVED 5/0.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Board Member assignments for election night November 2, 2021

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<tr>
<th>Elections Main Office</th>
<th>Prep Center</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Mosbacher</td>
<td>Steve Bruning</td>
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<td>Jessica Brooks</td>
<td>Chairwoman Silas</td>
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<td>Pat Gartland</td>
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Director Eveler provided an update to the board regarding the meeting with the Cobb Legislative Delegation. She detailed the proposal that was presented requesting to postpone the primary because the census was delayed, resulting in the delay of map distributions and the effect this will have on the time that election offices have to complete redistricting prior to conducting the primary. The recommendation is to shift the schedule by five weeks moving Qualifying to April and the Primary to June.

- Mr. Bruning expressed his support of Director Eveler’s proposal.
- Mr. Gartland stated some may oppose because vacations are typically scheduled during this time.
- Ms. Mosbacher asked if there was anything the board could do to support this resolution and Director Eveler suggested reaching out to any contacts board members may have in the General Assembly to express their support of this proposition.

Ms. Mosbacher and Mr. Bruning both attended poll worker training classes and complemented the staff, trainers and poll workers stating the training was valuable and well executed.

Chairwoman Silas thanked Director Eveler for providing consistent updates on mail in ballot applications, mailing times, processing and reminded the public Advanced Voting begins tomorrow, October 12, 2021.

Chairperson Silas set the next Board Meetings:

- November 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting (observe election returns)
- November 8, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Regular Meeting (certification)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Chairwoman Silas adjourned the meeting at 4:44pm.