



Hall County Government

ELECTIONS & VOTER REGISTRATION

BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

Dr. Tom Smiley, Chairman
Kenneth Cochran, Vice Chair
David Kennedy, Member
Craig Lutz, Member
Gala Sheats, Member

LORI WURTZ, DIRECTOR

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS & VOTER REGISTRATION MINUTES

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

3:30 pm

- Declaration of a Quorum Present
- Call to Order
- Pledge to the United States Flag
- Adoption of Agenda- Motion to approve by David Kennedy, seconded by Ken Cochran. Unanimous approval.
- Public Comments specific to items ON the agenda- **Comments may be made in one of the Public Comments opportunities and shall be held to 3 minutes.** Comments shall be addressed directly to the Chairman with no assured response from the Chairman or Board members during the time of public comments. **NONE**
- Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2020 meeting Motion to approve by Ken Cochran, seconded by Gala Sheats. Unanimous approval.
- Business- New Vice Chair appointment
 - Chairman Smiley appointed David Kennedy as Vice Chair for the 2020 Election year. Mr. Kennedy accepted the appointment. Motion to approve by Ken Cochran, seconded by Gala Sheats, unanimously approved.
- Directors Update
 - All new machine inventory from the State has been received.
 - All required machine supplies have been ordered.
 - The open house for the public to see and use the new machines was well received with great turnout.
 - Printed absentee ballots were received on February 3rd. The absentee ballot team will begin mailing later this week.
 - There has been good response from the press release sent out last month. Several people have contacted the office and several poll workers have been hired.
 - Chairman Smiley voiced concerns about voters re-printing ballots and holding up the lines of those waiting to vote. He asked if the state has best practices about how to handle. Director Wurtz said there was no limit to the times a voter could request a new access card to reprint their ballot. She will be checking with Chris Harvey to see if any new guidelines have been set for this situation.
 - Chairman Smiley has received correspondence from a voter regarding concern about lack of privacy with the new machines.

Directors Report continued

- Director Wurtz explained that the privacy panels are a tight fit around the new machines, however, privacy is the same as the old machines. There are way to turn the machines at an angle to get more privacy. She will be looking at all options to find a satisfactory solution.
- Public Comment specific to items ON the agenda- **Comments may be made in one of the Public Comments opportunities and shall be held to 3 minutes.** Comments shall be addressed directly to the Chairman with no assured response from the Chairman or Board members during the time of public comments.
 - Doug Aikens- Doug has attended demonstrations of the new machines and still has lots of concerns. The State gave no choice in the manner and the counties really haven't gained anything from the change in machines.
 - Frank Locke- He really hopes that the wait in lines won't be 3 hours.
 - Laura Stiner- Laura spoke with a constituent who had access to a video giving example of ways to hack the new voting system. She requested insight so she will know how to address these concerns.
 - Director Wurtz, Chairman Smiley and Craig Lutz all expressed confidence in the State and their ability to secure the integrity of the system.
- Comments from the Board
 - Gala Sheats- None
 - Ken Cochran- Concerned about lack of space needed to house the new equipment. Director Wurtz confirmed that she and Assistant Administrator, Zach Propes are working together to find a solution. Mr. Propes also confirmed that inquiries have been made and he is confident that a storage solution is imminent.
 - David Kennedy- the County has been given no choice but to comply with the States decision to use new machines. We can only do what we're told.
 - Craig Lutz- We have controls in place to protect the new voting system. There are vulnerabilities with any machine. We can only control what happens in Hall County and we are doing everything we can to care for this issue.
 - Chairman Smiley- Dr. Smiley reiterated the previous comments by Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Lutz. We will make the best of our resources and give our best. He anticipates large turnouts at every election in 2020.
- Confirmation of next meeting The March Board meeting was originally scheduled for March 3, 2020. Since the Board usually meets on the actual Election Day, Chairman Smiley suggest that the Board considers changing the March meeting date to March 24th. Motion to move the meeting date by Gala Sheats, seconded by Ken Cochran. Unanimous approval.
- March Monthly Meeting- March, 24, 2020
- Executive Session (if needed) Discussion regarding land acquisition, land disposition, personnel matters, potential litigations and/or litigation. *Executive Session is not open to the public. Executive Session is a lawfully closed meeting. [§50-14-1(a)(2)] NOT NEEDED*

Adjournment