

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
DATE: JULY 8, 2019**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

Members present were Chairman Hugh Steele, Kelly Robinson, Dustin Thompson, and Angela Mantle, Director.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Steele welcomed Joyce Wilson as a guest and explained the procedures of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Robinson made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 10, 2019 Regular meeting as written. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Steele asked for a motion to continue discussion of Sunday voting. Ms. Robinson made a motion to continue discussion regarding Sunday voting. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Robinson began the discussion with the possibility of offering Sunday voting in Newton County like what counties in the metro Atlanta area offer such as Clayton, Cobb, Fulton, Dekalb, Henry, and Rockdale. Members requested clarification on the counties that offered Sunday voting or was proposing Sunday voting. Ms. Robinson wanted to build on the need of Sunday voting for those that do not have conventional work hours and the working poor. Ms. Robinson provided informational packets to the other members and Ms. Mantle. Ms. Robinson reviewed the information with the Board and explained the poverty levels in the county. Mr. Thompson asked where the information originated and Ms. Robinson stated that the information was given to her by the Board of Education. Ms. Robinson explained her proposal for Sunday voting and extending the hours of early voting. Chairman Steele requested clarification on the proposal and referenced the option of an absentee ballot by mail. Mr. Thompson stated that he understands the concerns and wants to see both sides and began to state his concerns regarding Sunday voting such as the human aspect which is that staff is already working additional hours and are away from their families. Mr. Thompson also mentioned his concerns regarding the budget not only for this department, but for the other departments to open the building an additional day and to provide security. Ms. Robinson said that sometimes you have to sacrifice for the greater good and that the extra expense could be added to the budget. Mr. Thompson wanted to point out all the options that are already available to voters and that the law requires employers to allow employees time off to

Continued

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vote. Ms. Robinson said that she wanted to provide another opportunity to get more people to participate and accommodate people based on their work schedule. Chairman Steele said that he along with other members of the board don't want to keep anyone from voting; however, there are more opportunities to vote now than ever and asked for a motion. Mr. Thompson stated that two separate motions needed to be made one to address Sunday voting and one for extended hours. Ms. Robinson made a motion to propose Sunday voting for the presidential and gubernatorial election years. Chairman Steele seconded the motion. Ms. Robinson voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Steele and Mr. Thompson voted against the motion and the motion failed. Ms. Robinson made a motion to extend early voting hours by an hour during the presidential and gubernatorial election years. Chairman Steele addressed Ms. Mantle. Ms. Mantle stated that several elections were conducted during those years and the motion needed to state which elections for clarification. Ms. Robinson made the motion to extend the hours of early voting by an hour during the presidential and gubernatorial election years for the General Election held in November. Ms. Mantle advised the Board that early voting was for three weeks and needed clarification on which days during early voting. Ms. Robinson added the extended hours for the last two weeks of early voting to the motion. Mr. Thompson wanted to amend the motion to the last week of early voting based on turnout. Ms. Robinson agreed and seconded the amended motion of extending the hours of early voting by one hour (8:00 AM to 6:00 PM) the last week of early voting (Monday through Friday) for General Elections. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Steele had noticed an article in the paper regarding the intergovernmental agreements and the mention of election services and had asked if anyone else had seen the article. Ms. Mantle stated that she had read the article and spoke with County Manger Kerr and he had assured her that our office would continue with the current services provide such as electors list, loan equipment, poll workers, etc. and the only city election that would be conducted by the Board of Elections was for the City of Covington. Ms. Mantle did inform the Board that she advised Mr. Kerr that the Board would need to be involved in any discussion regarding conducting city elections.

Chairman Steele wanted to address the issue with the Livingston Precinct and updated Ms. Robinson on information from the last meeting. Chairman Steele made a motion to leave the Livingston Precinct polling location at its current location for the present time. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson made a motion to remove the challenged deceased voters from the electors list. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

GUEST COMMENTS

Ms. Wilson wanted to comment on the fact that people really needed to be educated on when they could vote, the options available for voters, and the laws.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Board was provided with a copy of the monthly status report showing the number of Active and Inactive voters as of July 1, 2019: Active – 73,795 and Inactive – 4,693.

The Board was also provided with a copy of a monthly report showing the breakdown of 2,117 voter registration applications received for the month of June 2019. The office processed 322 transferred out-of-county voters and 67 cancellations.

The Board was provided with a copy of the budget comparison statement as of June 28, 2019.

The Board was given a revised 2020 Election Calendar from the Secretary of State's Office.


Ms. Mantle informed the Board that she had conducted a voter registration drive training session at the request of the local Republican Party on June 25th and she was scheduled to attend a regional meeting in Jackson County on July 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Steele asked if anyone had any other business to discuss before adjourning the meeting. Mr. Thompson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.



Minutes Prepared by: Angela Mantle, Director



Minutes Approved By

8-17-2019
Date