

Board of Election & Voter Registration

Board Meeting and Provisional Hearing Minutes

Date: June 12th, 2020

Board Members: Eric Crawford, James White, Erma Denney, Larry Ewing, Judy McNichols

Office Staff: Jennifer Logan, Janie Johnston, Susan Harper

Present at Meeting: Eric, Larry, James, Erma, Judy, Jennifer, Susan

Public: Mike Buffington (Media), T.J. Dearman (Republican Party), Pete Fuller (Democratic Party)

I. Call to Order: 4:05PM

II. Presentation of Minutes: Eric presented the minutes. Board didn't receive the minutes in time to review ahead of time, board chose to table approval until next meeting.

III. Office Reports: (Director)

- No reported issues at the Election Day Polling Locations.
- Cancelled 1151 absentee by mail ballots for voters to vote in person.
- Solicitor race was very close, possible recount. Unsuccessful Candidate has up to 2 days after certification to request a recount.
- Currently, office has about 1500 registration applications to process before a federal runoff. Cannot begin until after state certification.
- Early voting starts on July 20th for the runoff elections.
- Have requested a 2nd scanner with the SOS office.

Discussion was made concerning the absentee ballot process on election night, as well as the concern for how voters returned their ballots—stained, torn, taped, and on how many voters failed to follow the enclosed instructions.

Erma read SEB ruling for opening ballots early. Discussion was made.

COVID was discussed.

IV. Provisional Hearing : (Director)

- The March 24th Election had no provisional ballots.
- June 9th Election Day provisional (1) was presented to the board. Voter from West Jackson was a PI. Voter met state requirements and provided ID to the office prior to the hearing. Office made the recommendation to accept the ballot. Motion was made to accept the In person Provisional Ballot. Erma 2nd. No further discussion, voted 5,0 motion carries.
- Absentee by mail provisional ballots (9) were presented to the board for review. The voters met the state requirements by providing ID and signed Cure Affidavit. Office made the recommendation for the board to accept the ballots. Eric made the motion, Larry 2nd. No further discussion was made. Voted 5,0 motion carries.

- Absentee by mail provisional ballots (4) were presented to the board for review. The staff felt the signatures on the ballots did not match the signature on file. These voters were sent a letter and Cure affidavit. No response was received from voter. Office made the recommendation to reject ballots due to mismatch signatures and for voter not providing ID or completed Cure Affidavit as required by the state. The board reviewed the ballots. One provisional was pulled from the stack for a separate vote. Motion was made to reject the remaining 3 ballots. James 2nd. No further discussion was made. Voted 5,0 motion carried.
- The board reviewed the remaining by mail provisional ballot with invalid signature and discussion was made concerning the signature. A motion was made to accept the provisional ballot. Erma 2nd. Board voted 3,2 motion carried.
- Absentee by mail provisional ballots (21) were presented to the board for review. These ballots had no signature from the voter. The voters were sent letters and a Cure affidavit and no response was received by the voters. The office made the recommendation for the board to reject the ballots due to no signature. The board reviewed each ballot packet provided. Motion was made to reject the presented ballots (21) by Erma. Judy 2nd. No further discussion as made. Voted 5,0 motion carried.

Accepted Provisional Ballots were scanned and tallied with election day results. No further UOCAVA ballots were received. The board was presented with Official and Complete Election Reports. Board signed and Certified both Elections.

V. Adjournment: At 6:12PM Eric made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry 2nd. Voted 5,0 motion carried.

Next meeting July 8th at 9AM.

James White
Erma
Larry Ewing
Judy M. McNichols