

# **Board of Election & Voter Registration**

Board Meeting

Date: July 8th, 2020

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

**Office Staff:** Jennifer Logan, Janie Johnston, Susan Harper, Kelsey Harbin

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

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**I. Call to Order:** 9:03AM and lead meeting in Pledge.

**II. Presentation of Minutes:** Eric presented the minutes from April, May, June 2nd and June 12th. Correction was made to June 12th Meeting Minutes.

Board Member James made a motion to accept minutes as read with correction, Board Member Judy 2nd the motion. No discussion was made. Vote carried 5,0.

### **III. Office Reports:** (Director)

- Kelsey Harbin is the new Election Coordinator.
- Registration Deadline is July 13th. Also caught up only 82 DDS and 17 Online to process.
- Roll Over List has 3,953 on it, State will issue the ballots.
- L & A will begin tomorrow, just received passwords for files from the state.
- Early voting starts on July 20th for the runoff election and it will be held in the Office instead of the gym. (Gym not available)
- Boxes are mostly packed, posters/signs, ballots, and provisional packs are ready for Runoff.
- Polling places and delivery teams are set for Runoff—still working on Poll workers. Will lose college kids and several poll workers for this election.
- Janie will return to the office tomorrow.
- Will purchase a 2nd scanner, since the state will not provide an additional one. Will not be here for the Runoff Election, but should be here prior to November.
- Budget for 2021 was discussed.

### **IV. Old Business :** None

### **V. New Business:**

1. Consideration of Board to move forward in the process of moving West Jackson Polling location back to the old location now that renovations are complete (Free Chapel formerly Northeast Church)

Board member Erma made the motion to begin the process and notify the public of the Intent to move the West Jackson Polling location back now that renovations are complete. Judy 2nd the motion. No discussion was made. Vote carried 5,0.

2. Board member Erma would like to see a committee formed to evaluate the overwhelming response from voters in favor of additional polling locations related to non binding question placed on Primary 2020 ballot from Republican Party: "Do you think Jackson County needs more than 4 voting precincts to handle the fast growing population in the county?" Votes in favor: 69.11%; against 30.89%.

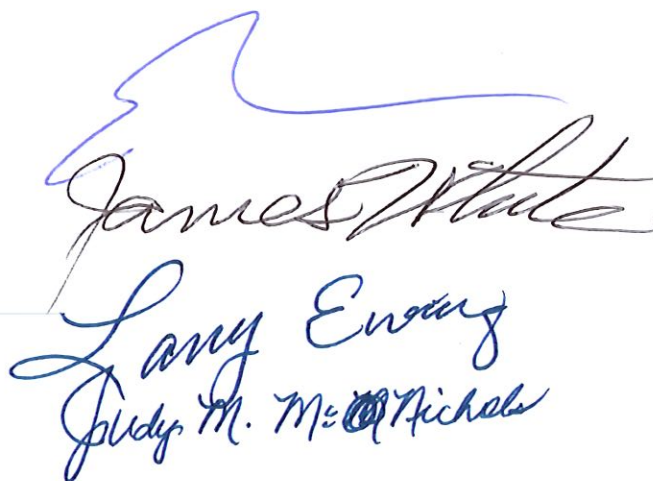
3. Board member Erma would like to evaluate permanent changes to the bylaws to avoid unnecessary disruption to the functioning of the board when terms expire during an elongated election cycle such as the GA 2020 Senate race which will not conclude until January 2021.

4. Elections during Coronavirus pandemic: Given the continued health situation facing our county, and to protect our employees/poll workers/citizens/frontline healthcare professionals, Board member Erma highly suggests a plan/guideline to be established by Jackson County and put in place for future elections, notably the Nov/Dec/Jan cycle when the risk remains extremely high. Plexiglass barriers in early voting area and precincts should be installed without delay. Preliminary considerations for election office: temperature checks during key points of the day; PPE use guidelines and oversight; additional areas to be used on election day within the building to enable adequate social distancing; ventilation considerations for enclosed spaces, especially the back room where most volunteers will be gathered for long periods of time; planning for possible need to activate contact tracing. In addition to these virus related concerns, and to reduce unnecessary risk, a reasonable and safe departure time for volunteers should be established going forward so as to limit sending our citizens home at unreasonable and unsafe hours.

Erma made a statement of appreciation.

**V. Adjournment:** At 10:08AM Eric made the motion to adjourn the meeting. James 2nd. Voted 5,0 motion carried.

Next meeting August 14th at 4PM.



James White  
Larry Erma  
Judy M. McNichols