

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Phil Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members present were Chairman Phil Johnson, Kelly Robinson, Dustin Thompson, and Angela White-Davis, Director.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Guests in attendance were William Ingram and Bridget Willis

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dustin Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 regular meeting as written. Kelly Robinson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Kelly Robinson made a motion to approve removal of the challenged deceased voters. Dustin Thompson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chairman Phil Johnson opened the discussion of Sunday voting for the upcoming Gubernatorial Election to be held in 2022. Chairman Johnson emailed the board a number of variables to research.

Kelly Robinson responded the election held during the November election and January Run off election proved the need for Sunday voting for Newton County. Kelly Robinson stated Saturday voting had the heaviest turnout when observing advance voting lines. Sunday voting would alleviate wait times. It would also provide more flexibility for anticipated future long lines that were experienced during the Saturday voting. The early voting numbers reflect the need of Sunday voting by active voters and voters who have been added through registration this year. Kelly Robinson concluded Sunday voting would be a more proactive and more efficient way for providing better services to Newton County voters.

Chairman Phil Johnson updated the board on O.C.G.A. 21-2-385 (d)(1)(D)

“Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, **counties and municipalities may extend the hours for voting beyond regular hours** and may provide for additional voting locations pursuant to Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the electors of the jurisdiction at their option.”

Chairman Phil Johnson requested that the board narrow down the requirements for Sunday voting.

1. The number of Sunday voting days; and
2. The number of early voting locations for the Sunday voting days; and
3. The hours we would be open; and
4. Personnel needs for early voting.

Chairman Johnson stated the factors above correlate with the below items that need more discussion by the Board of Election members:

- Revamping polling locations
- Current staffing of polling locations
- Total number of early voting locations
- Early Vote Centers require minimum 12 poll workers

Chairman Phil Johnson updated the Board of Election members about Hub Precinct Berean Baptist Church on 20 Old Social Circle Rd Social Circle, Ga. 30025 deciding to no longer participate as a polling location. The poll manager and assistant poll manager resigned prior to precinct notification.

Dustin Thompson referenced the board had discussed Sunday voting during a prior board meeting to some degree. The concerns Dustin indicated were the burden on the staff and additional expenditures for Sunday voting. Dustin Thompson inquired about the reason for withdrawal of Berean Baptist Church. Angela White-Davis responded verbal notification of pastoral changes was received from Deacon Chris Mitchell and the church no longer wanted to participate as a polling location. Dustin Thompson would like to have a better picture with more facts of the proposed changes to make a more informed decision.

Kelly Robinson agreed there was prior discussion on Sunday voting, however a request for another review so the board and Board of Elections would be more proactive and accommodating to the voters based on the turnout of the last election. Kelly Robinson reminded the board the Gubernatorial election will have a similar turnout.

Chairman Phil Johnson requested from the Board of Election office more information, improvement of poll worker staffing, compensation of poll managers, poll clerks, polling locations and cost analysis of Sunday voting. Polling locations are currently being compensated \$50.00 per election. Poll workers have not had an increase since 2016.

Angela White – Davis informed the board members that Rockdale County Board of Election has scheduled Sunday voting from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. I reminded the board members the Secretary of State will schedule a mandatory Saturday voting date.

Kelly Robinson suggested Sunday voting with the hours of 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to be held at one early Vote Center. The schedule suggestion for Saturday and Sunday voting to not be consecutive to accommodate staff time off. Kelly Robinson added that Board of Election office staff compensation should be reviewed for the additional time committed during elections.

Chairman Phil Johnson suggested that facts be researched and provided to board members prior to the next meeting for review. The facts shared from board members will be discussed at the March Zoom meeting.

### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT - Month of January 2021**

- The Daily Work log of voter registration applications processed from December totaled 3,271 and January totaled 1,271. Voter registration applications processed for the months of December and January totaled 4,542.
- The transferred voters that moved into Newton County totaled 762.
- The transferred voters that moved out of Newton County totaled 255.
- The registered voters that notified the Board of Elections office they moved out of state totaled 5.
- The deceased voters reported systematically from Secretary of State office totaled 96.
- The deceased voters list provided by the Secretary of State office for verification by the Board of Elections totaled 31.
- The felon voters list provided by the Secretary of State office for verification by the Board of Elections office which were matched to a Felon 40 Day clock totaled 7.
- The registered voters totaled 85,584 as of January 29, 2021
- The registered voters listed as active totaled 81,547.
- The registered voters listed as inactive totaled 4,037.
- The Center for Tech and Civic Life grant for \$65,408 was approved by the Newton County Board of Commissioners for acceptance to help cover cost associated with the General Run-Off Election held on January 5, 2021.

The Budget Comparison Statement as of February 1, 2021 was provided.

The Office Personnel consist of four full-time workers, one part-time worker and three contracted poll workers. We will have one person that will go on FMLA from 2-8-2021 to 3-19-2021.

The staff completed processing over 4,535 voter registration applications received electronically and through the Secretary of State office voter applications submittal.

The project for the month of February will start with reviewing all paper copies of the voter registration application on file to prepare for the next upcoming election.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

William Ingram and Bridget Willis thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the meeting. They appreciated the open dialogue and provided information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Johnson asked if anyone had any other business to discuss before adjourning the meeting. Dustin Thompson made the motion to adjourn. Kelly Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm

---

Minutes Prepared by: Angela White-Davis, Director

---

Minutes Approved

---

Date