



Board of Elections and Registrations

Post Office Box 1340
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340
"Georgia's First Consolidated Government"
(706) 653-4392

Uhland "U.D." Roberts, Chair
Linda Parker, Vice-Chair
Edwin Roldan
Diane Scrimshire
Annette Williams

Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration March 6, 2025 Minutes

The monthly meeting for the Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration was held Thursday, March 6th. Chairperson Uhland Roberts called the meeting to order at 2p.m. All board members were present.

Board Comments:

Agenda Request: Stephen Harper- Muscogee County Republican Party Poll Watcher Observation 2024 –Summary of poll watcher experiences for Nov 4th General Election, recognizing Operations Manager Talisha Austin for her leadership. **See Hand out**

Approval of Minutes:

- Annette Williams seconded Linda Parker's motion to approve February board meeting minutes with no changes.

New Business:

- **Voter Registration Report-** Diane Scrimshire seconded Linda Parker's motion for the Board to accept the 14 obituary deaths for the month of February.
- **Legislative Changes** - Legislature is still in session and quickly dropping proposed legislation. The Director advised the board she is on the legislative committee for GAVREO and will be called to present to legislative committee meetings.

Old Business:

- **Precinct Changes**
 - Moon- North Highland- Board was presented with two options: returning to Morningside or combining with St. Peter for the 2025 election season. Status of request to Morningside will be confirmed at the next board meeting.
 - Col. Tech- Linda Parker seconded Annette Williams motion to confirm the move from Columbus Tech to Beallwood Baptist Church.
 - Cunningham- The election office is awaiting a response from Ambassadors of Christ on Milgen Rd. Board member Roldan advised he knew people from the church and would request their assistance personally.
- **Early Voting Location Changes:** 2026 election season will have a new early voting location in place of Columbus Tech. Early voting for the Special Primary (Public Service Commissioner) will begin on May 27 (Monday, May 26 is Memorial Day and is a state holiday) through June 13th at the City Services Center, 3111 Citizens Way.
- **Review of Democrat Poll Watcher Report:** The board discussed the report submitted by the coordinators of Democrat poll watchers. The board agreed to have precinct names reflect current locations and to advertise precinct changes at the first statewide election following a location change or creation of a new precinct. The Board voted unanimously



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to implement more notice than what is required by state election law. The Board also agreed to develop a communication network for interested parties that did not include social media.

- **FY26 Budget:** Director Nancy Boren submitted a budget request for FY26 in the amount of \$200,000 as requested by the board to provide rental space for early voting locations. The budget is still being discussed by the Council.

Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items:

Monica Spencer- SB189

Correspondence: N/A

No further business Chair, Uhland Roberts, adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Uhland Roberts
Chairperson



**The Muscogee County GOP
P.O. Box 2168
Columbus, GA 31902**

February 21, 2025

TO: The Muscogee County Elections & Registration Broad
City Services Center, 2nd Floor
3111 Citizens Way
Columbus, GA 31907
706.653.4392

SUBJECT: Early Voting (October 15 to November 1, 2024) and Election Day (November 5, 2024) Muscogee County Republican Party Poll Watcher Observations

The following observations will be made in three sections: Early Voting (October 15 to November 1, 2024), Election Day (November 5, 2024) and other. At no time do these observations take away the hard work and dedication of the Muscogee County Elections & Registration Broad. Additionally, the leadership, relationship, and interface with Ms. Talisha Austin was invaluable and was the key to success for the elections in Muscogee County, Georgia.

The following observations were reported by trained poll watchers and do not reflect anyone particular location for early voting or Election Day.

1. Early Voting (October 15 to November 1, 2024) Observations:

- **The use of cell phones by poll workers and voters.** This in fact was the number one observation across the board. Examples: poll workers on the phone while checking in voters at the poll pads. Voters on the phone while in line waiting and worst yet, while voting. Recommendation: Enforce cell phone standards. Create very large signs (2x3') with "NO CELL PHONE USAGE ALLOWED" for each early voting location. Posting one sign outside the entrance and one sign inside the building.
- **Voters being allowed to have family or friends accompany them in voting.** This was the number two most reported observation. Examples: First time voters were accompanied by parents or friends to vote. Two or more people showed up to vote, but all went to the same Ballot Marking Device (BMD) and each individually voted with each other's assistance.
- **Poll workers within the restricted enclosed area with no identification.** Everyone in the restricted enclosed area must wear identification.

SUBJECT: Early Voting (October 15 to November 1, 2024) and Election Day (November 5, 2024) Republican Party Poll Watcher Observations


2. Election Day (November 5, 2024) Observations

- **Scanner serial number vs. seal number.** Train the poll managers on the difference between serial and seal numbers.
- **Letting poll watchers within "Enclosed Space."** Retrain poll managers on who can be in the enclosed space. Allow poll watchers to access poll areas freely. Ensure poll workers can record scanner total every hour.
- **Poll worker volunteering as democrat poll watcher.** Conflict of interest?
- **Voters in some locations did not feel their vote was private.** The BMDs were placed in a "U" configuration. Several voters felt their vote was not private.
- **Voters being allowed to have family or friends accompany them in voting.** See above early voting.

3. Other

- **DJ at the Polls.** There were several voters that conveyed they were uncomfortable, and that the music was threatening. The music at some polling locations could be heard inside the voting area. I personally confirmed this at the Psalm Road Precinct (127). Was this a form of "Voter Suppression?" Recommend the Election Board does everything possible to ensure that for future elections that outside influences will no longer interfere with Muscogee County elections.
- **Poll Watcher Badges.** Poll watcher badges were color coded to identify political party affiliation. Red badge for Republicans and blue for Democrats. Recommendation that the democrat badge color be changed to green or another color since the blue seemed identical to the Poll Worker badge color.

4. Point of Contact for this report: Stephen Harper, Muscogee County GOP Poll Watcher Trainer, ironbmt@gmail.com, 706.464.0588


Sherri Carmack
Muscogee County GOP Chairwoman