



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 August 6, 2026 Minutes

The monthly meeting for the Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration was held Thursday, April 12th. Chairperson Uhland Roberts called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m. UD Roberts, Linda Parker, Diane Scrimshire, Annette Williams were present and Edwin Roldan was excused from the meeting.

Board Comments: Long time retired election employee Raymond Shepherd unexpectedly passed away July 30th at his home.

Agenda Request: Stephen Harper – Thanking the Board for a great relationship with Poll workers, and some basic observations regarding processes.

Approval of Minutes:

- Annette Williams seconded Diane Scrimshire's motion to approve board meeting minutes for the month of June.

New Business:

- **New SEB Rules** - New rules effective July 19, 2026, include Rule 183-1-12 defining a "vote," clarifications on using emergency paper ballots, and a mandate that ballots be counted from the written text, not the QR code. See packet
- **Proposed SEB Rules**- A notice of proposed rulemaking focuses on ballot secrecy, requiring protection of the "absolute secrecy" of each elector's ballot, which may impact the setup of large BMDs. Another proposed change would stop the shuffling of ballots during audits or recounts. A hearing is scheduled for August 15, 2026, and the board can respond.

An "Election Equipment Specifications and Standards Committee" was formed to review the next statewide voting system. It was noted that Southwest and Middle Georgia have no representation on this committee.

Old Business:

- **Early Voting Locations**- The board is exploring new locations for early voting, prioritizing government-associated facilities. Several potential sites were reviewed: **South:** Goodwill (not government), Mt. Pleasant Church, South Columbus Public Library (election day only), and Valley Healthcare (approved for early voting).



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

North: Cunningham, Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center, the GMC building, Ridgecrest Rehabilitation Center, and the Salvation Army (Sunday service conflict).

Mount Pleasant Church: Identified as a potential early voting site, but can only accommodate up to 8-11 BMDs, a significant reduction from the typical 25-40 making it more suitable for an Election Day site if needed.

Valley Healthcare: Presented to the Board as a strong option for early voting, as its facility can accommodate up to 26 BMDs, has adequate electrical capacity.

The board will decide on the number of locations, their geographic distribution, and operating schedules.

A public meeting to gather feedback was discussed for the week of August 17, 2026.

A final decision on early voting locations is needed by Labor Day.

- **Election Day Locations-** Two potential precinct moves were discussed: "Our Lady of Lourdes" to the South Columbus Public Library and "First African" and "Gallops" to the old Georgia Power building to address complaints. The board approved the move to South Columbus Public Library unanimously. First African and Gallops were not approved for relocation at this time.

Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items:

Gamaliel Turner
Denise Cambridge
Dr. Natalie Nicole
Patrick Davidge
Jerome Williams
David Smith

Correspondence: N/A

No further business Chair, Uhland Roberts, adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Uhland Roberts

Chairperson