

Board of Elections and Registrations

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

Margaret S. Jenkins, Chair
Uhland "U. D." Roberts, Vice-Chair
Eleanor L. White
Diane Scrimshire
Linda Parker

Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration March 4, 2021 Minutes

The monthly meeting for the Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration was held Thursday March 4, 2021 Chairperson, Margaret Jenkins, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Members of the Board were present. Board minutes were adopted.

New Business:

- Due to Dr Michael Edmondson's untimely passing Board of Elections issued call for special election to fill his seat on School Board District 2. Qualifying will be April 6-8.th Fees will be set by council. Special Election will be held on June 15, 2021 precincts are St. Mark, Wynnbrook, Cornerstone, St. Peter and Britt David.
- Voter Registration Report- Board accepted a total of 62 obituary deaths from January- February 2021
- Precinct Relocation of St. Mark: In the event another option does is not identified, Board could combine Wynnbrook and St. Mark for June 15th election. Voters will be notified of change. Further discussion on April 1st Board meeting.
- New Legislation SB241 (print out)
Versions are subject to change.
- Age limit for elderly is 65 with new law it will be back to 75years old to qualify as an elderly voter.
- Redistricting will not begin until the fall.
- HB531 summary (print out)

Old Business:

- Pay increase recommended for the Board affective July 1st if approved by council.

Correspondence:

- Eleanor White resignation letter to the Board.
- UD Roberts second motion made by Linda Parker to accept Eleanor White's resignation with Board accepting with regrets

No further business Chairperson, Margaret Jenkins, adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Uhland "U.D." Roberts
Vice-Chair

CALL FOR SPECIAL ELECTION

The Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration hereby calls for a special election to be held on June 15, 2021 to fill the remainder of the unexpired term for the Muscogee County Board of Education District 2. The places for holding said special election are the following precincts: St. Mark, Cornerstone, Wynnbrook, Britt David and St. Peter. Only voters residing and registered in the boundaries of School Board District 2 are eligible to vote in the special election.

Candidate qualifying for the special election is set for April 6-8, 2021 from 9:30 am-4:00 pm with a qualifying fee of \$135. Qualifying will take place in the Office of Elections and Registration, City Services Center, 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, Georgia.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the election. The voter registration deadline for the special election is May 17, 2021. Early voting will begin May 24, 2021. If a runoff is necessary, the runoff will be held on July 13, 2021.

**BY ORDER OF THE Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration
Margaret Jenkins, Chairperson**

SB 241

LC 28 0292S

Section 1 – Attorney General will establish a telephone hotline for complaints.

Section 2 – SEB or SOS cannot enter into any consent agreement without approval of the General Assembly.

Section 3 – Gives process for temporarily removing the election superintendent on basis of malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence or inability to perform the duties.

Section 4 – SOS perform list maintenance based on information from a nongovernmental entity.

Section 5 – Superintendent responsible for procuring and providing portable polling facilities to be used in event of an emergency making the existing polling location unsafe or unable to be used.

Section 6 – Sets reasons for absentee voting except for advance voting.

Section 7 – Provides required information for absentee ballot application to include GA driver's license number or ID number. If voter does not have one then a copy of the ID in 21-2-417 must be attached. Allows for absentee portal through SOS.

Section 8 – Describes process for verifying absentee ballot application.

Section 9 – Requires prominent notice or applications for absentee ballots.

Section 10 – Advance voting locations must be in buildings meeting requirements similar to polling places.

Section 11 – Describes absentee ballot oath envelope.

Section 12 – Information required to verify absentee ballot elector on oath envelope. Requires reporting of provisional ballots and absentee ballots daily.

Section 13 – Information required to verify absentee ballot elector on oath envelope by registrar. Allows for early processing of absentee ballots beginning at 8:00 am on the second Monday before the election. Defines role of monitors to the process.

Section 14 – SOS can inspect and audit information on absentee ballot applications or envelopes for 24 months at the discretion of the SOS.

Section 15 – Poll hours only extended by superior court judge of the county.

Section 16 – Requires reporting of total ballots cast at precinct, absentee, and provisional. Must continue counting until all ballots on hand have been counted.

Section 17 – Removes discretion of superintendent in delaying completion of ballot processing.

Section 18 – Determines times for computation and canvassing of returns.

Section 19 – Count and tabulate until all votes have been processed.

Section 20 – Protects private ballot and imposes penalty.

Section 21 – SEB emergency rule must be approved by committees of the legislature no less than 20 days before rule taking effect. Any emergency rule adopted by SEB can be suspended with majority vote of House or Senate committee.

HB531 – Summary

LC 28 0264S

Section 1 – Provides method for selection of the Chairperson of the State Elections Board

Section 2 - SOS will provide support to the SEB

Section 3 – SEB can adopt emergency rules or regulations in circumstances of public health or safety after notice to list.

Section 4 – No acceptance of grant funding except from government sources by election superintendent.

Section 5 – How election superintendents appointed in vacancies.

Section 6 – Poll workers can work in adjoining counties in the discretion of the election superintendent.

Section 7 – How nonpartisan candidate death, withdrawal or disqualification is handled.

Section 8 - No acceptance of grant funding except from government sources by registrar.

Section 9 – Mandatory requirements for reducing size of precinct.

Section 10 – Adds criteria for selecting advance voting locations to be same as polling places and adds that movable facilities only be used in emergencies declared by Governor.

Section 11 – Relates to form of ballot in nonpartisan elections.

Section 12 - Gives flexibility to superintendent to determine number of voting booths per precinct except in general elections.

Section 13 – Requires security paper.

Section 14 – Provides notice requirements for testing of equipment.

Section 15 – Reduces period for absentee application from 180 days to 78 and sets a period 11 days prior to election for applying for absentee ballot. Requires ID number to be listed on application and if voter does not have id, a copy must be provided. Disclaimer on applications sent by entity must have notice. Applications without required information are processed by issuing provisional ballot.

Section 16 – One drop box for every 100,000 voters or the number of advance voting locations. Must be inside the office or advance voting locations and only open during advance voting hours. Must be under surveillance by an election official or designee, law enforcement official, or license security guard. Same collection rules.

Section 17 – Absentee ballots begin mailing 29 days before election rather than 49 except for UOCAVA. Hospital confined electors may apply if in hospital for ten-day period preceding

election. Changes form of absentee ballot return envelope. Provides process for military voters and runoffs.

Section 18 – Changes form of oath envelope for absentee ballots. Requires ID number, if no ID number then last four of social security number. No ID and no social requires copy of one of the forms of ID in OCGA 21-2-417. Sets mandatory hours and days for early voting. Hours can be extended and one additional day on the first weekend can be added but not both days.

Section 19 – Describes process for verifying absentee ballot oath envelopes. Requires early processing of absentee ballots and describes process. Requires reporting of verified and accepted absentee ballots as soon as possible.

Section 20 – Poll watchers receive training from political party, body or candidate that designated. Trained poll watchers allowed to view process at locations designated by Superintendent.

Section 21 – No food, drink or giving of money or gifts to an elector.

Section 22 – Eliminates out of precinct provisional ballots.

Section 23 – Adds exception for nonpartisan elections.

Section 24 – Adds exception for nonpartisan elections.

Section 25 – Requires duplication panel to be bipartisan (similar to vote review panel) to prepare duplicate copies of defective ballots. Requires labeling of duplicate ballots to link back to original.

Section 26 – Moves county certification back to Monday after election.

Section 27 – Moves runoff date to 28 days after primary or election.

Section 28 – Sets special primary and special election rules.

Section 29 – Registration date for election.

Section 30 – Relates to special election for US senator vacancy

Section 31 – Ballot secrecy and unauthorized possession of absentee ballots.

Section 32 – Reapportionment of election districts for municipalities.

February 26, 2021

Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration
P.O. Box 1340
Columbus, Georgia 31902

Council of Columbus, Georgia
P.O. Box 1340
Columbus, Georgia 31902

Dear Members of the Board and Council,

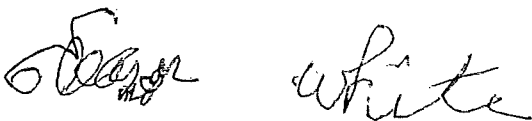
After 65 years of service to this community, it is with sincere regret that I offer my retirement from the Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration. I have served as a board member since 1991 and have enjoyed every challenging moment. I have been a part of implementing three different types of voting systems and developing policies to execute new laws and procedures. I am satisfied with the work of the Board in effecting a strong organization that delivers quality services to our citizens.

I started my career with the city in February of 1955 as a part-time playground director for Parks and Recreation. I retired after 35 years of service and thought that I would continue walking at the mall, being a bookkeeper for my church, attending numerous community meetings and church meetings, and playing Sudoku. I certainly did not know that eleven months later, I would be confirmed by Council as a member of the Board of Elections.

I am appreciative of the confidence placed in me by Council that allowed me to serve for 30 years as a member of the best election board in the State of Georgia. I will be available to assist in the transition of a new member and look forward to what the future has in store.

Regards,

Eleanor White
Member
Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eleanor White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and title.