

Sarah A. Mausolf

From: Laura Bassett
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 3:49 PM
To: Sarah A. Mausolf
Cc: Mark Barnes
Subject: Elections Board pay

Hi Sarah,

In our Elections Board meeting on Monday, the board passed a motion to raise the board's pay from \$100 to \$150 a month. They also voted the chair should go from \$100 to 200 dollars. What documentation will you need for this and what actions do I need to take (finance, commissioners, etc.)?

Thanks for your help in this matter,
Laura Bassett
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**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS**

September 16, 2024 @ 9:30 A.M.

**Board of Elections & Registration Office
284 GA Highway 119 South, Springfield, GA 31329**

The Board of Elections and Registration held its monthly meeting on September 16th, 2024.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING AND ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Chairman Tommy Allen, Vice Chairman Glenda King, Secretary Rose Harvey, Board Member Ruth Brown, Director Laura Bassett, Assistant Director Krystle McDonald, and Deputy Registrar Dezita Thompson. Not present was Board Member Bernard Scott.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Allen called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Chairman Allen led the Invocation, and the Pledge was recited. The meeting was properly advertised.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

The Agenda was presented and approved as presented to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. SEB Rules

Director Bassett gave an overview of the three new SEB Rules that were recently passed. This included information on the absentee ballot drop-box now being under video surveillance, a new form required for absentee ballots being dropped off in person to office staff, and the additional Board Meeting now required for Board Members to be held no later than 3:00PM the Friday after the election for reviewing documents prior to election certification.

B. Training in Forsyth (Monroe County)

Director Bassett, Assistant Director McDonald, and Deputy Registrar Thompson attended an End of Summer Training Session from September 26th through September 28th at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, GA. Training topics included voter registration, cybersecurity, absentee by mail, pre-election and post-election processes, auditing, and the new Election Night Reporting system.

C. Dominion Equipment and Paper Purchase

Last week our office received the 23 ICX's (touchscreen and printer sets) that were ordered. Also received was the \$13,500 order of the required new watermarked ballot paper. As a results, our office has roughly \$3,000 worth of the original non-watermarked ballot paper that will be shredded as instructed by the Secretary of State's office.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Office Activities

- Last week, our office received the election project and ballots for the November 5th General Election.

- Composite sample ballots have now been created and were given to each Board Member. Our office will also have them available to the public. They should be available online soon on the My Voter Page website for the public to use also.
- Poll Worker training classes are scheduled to begin tomorrow, Tuesday, September 17th.
- Director Bassett and Assistant Director McDonald will be giving classes at the Effingham County Sheriff's Office October 7th through October 10th to teach Election Day law as it applies to law enforcement officers.
- Delivery Crew Worker, John Schwarzkopf is currently working with Director Bassett on route planning for all equipment to be deployed for the November General Election.

B. Polling Place Buffer Maps

- Effingham County Sheriff's Office has been requested names, phone numbers, and addresses of all of our Board Members, office staff, and polling place managers in preparation for Election Day.
- ECSO has also requested maps showing each polling place's 150' no-campaigning line. Director Bassett partnered with GIS Manager Pamela Melser for this information, and now all polling place maps have been completed.

D. Batteries for Dominion Equipment

- With the 23 new ICX's (touchscreen and printer sets) our office received last week, it was realized our office would also need the Uninterrupted Power Supply batteries to accommodate the new equipment. These UPS batteries cost an estimated \$750/each. While Director Bassett and Assistant Director McDonald were at a tabletop security exercise in Chatham County last week, Director Bassett asked if Chatham County's warehouse manager had any UPS batteries to spare. Our office was given a total of 30 UPS batteries from Chatham County at no cost. There are three workers coming to our office today to begin putting these batteries in the D2 units.

E. L&A

- During the training in Forsyth, the new Election Night Reporting system was discussed. As a result of this new system, the Secretary of State is having all Georgia counties participate in a "dress rehearsal" at the end of September to practice. Logic and Accuracy testing for Advance In Person and Absentee By Mail equipment will be held on September 24th. This L&A will be the information also used for the new ENR "dress rehearsal". L & A testing for Election Day equipment will begin on October 1st and run until completed.

BOARD OR STAFF CONCERNS:

- Chairman Allen asked about what staffing looked like for poll workers for the November General Election. We are fully staffed with over 180 poll workers ready for training. With that number of poll workers, each polling place on Election Day will have between eight and ten poll workers assigned.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Director Bassett stated she had business to discuss in Executive Session. Secretary Harvey made a motion to go into Executive Session. Board Member Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed and Executive Session began at 10:11 A.M.

Executive Session ended at 10:18 A.M.

Vice Chairman King made a motion to approve the pay increase for Board Members from \$150 to \$200. Board Member Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next board meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, October 7th, 2024 at 9:30 A.M. It will instead be on Monday, October 7th, 2024 at 12:00 P.M., to accommodate the ECSO training class that will be in progress that morning. There was no objection to adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 A.M. The next meeting will be scheduled for October 7th, 2024 at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rose Harvey, Secretary

House Bill 705

By: Representatives Carter of the 159th and Burns of the 157th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To create a board of elections and registration for Effingham County and to provide for its
2 powers and duties; to provide for definitions; to provide for the composition of the board and
3 the selection and appointment of members; to provide for the qualification, terms, and
4 removal of members; to provide for oaths and privileges; to provide for meetings,
5 procedures, and vacancies; to relieve certain officers of powers and duties and to provide for
6 the transfer of functions to the newly created board; to provide for certain expenditures of
7 public funds; to provide for certain personnel; to provide for compensation of members of
8 the board and personnel; to provide for offices and equipment; to provide for the board's
9 performance of certain functions and duties for certain municipalities; to provide for related
10 matters; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 21-2-40 of the O.C.G.A., there is created the
14 Board of Elections and Registration of Effingham County, hereinafter referred to as "the
15 board." The board shall have the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the judge of the
16 probate court of Effingham County under Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia
17 Election Code," and the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the board of registrars of
18 Effingham County under Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

19 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

20 The terms "election," "elector," "political party," "primary," and "public office" shall have
21 the same meanings as set forth in Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia
22 Election Code," unless otherwise clearly apparent from the text of this Act, and the term
23 "commissioners" means the board of commissioners of Effingham County and "county"
24 means Effingham County.

SECTION 3.

- 1
- 2 (a) The board shall be composed of five members who shall be appointed as provided in this
- 3 section.
- 4 (b) Two members of the board shall be appointed by the political party which received the
- 5 highest number of votes within the county for its candidate for Governor in the general
- 6 election immediately preceding the appointment of such member. Two members of the
- 7 board shall be appointed by the political party which received the second highest number of
- 8 votes within the county for its candidate for Governor in the general election immediately
- 9 preceding the appointment of such member. Each of the respective members appointed by
- 10 political parties shall be nominated by the party chairperson and ratified by the county
- 11 executive committee of the respective political party at least 30 days before the beginning
- 12 of the term of office or within 30 days after the creation of a vacancy in the office. In the
- 13 event that a political party entitled to appoint a member of the board does not have a county
- 14 executive committee, such appointment shall be made by the state executive committee of
- 15 such political party.
- 16 (c) The fifth member shall be chosen by agreement of the members appointed by the
- 17 political parties. In the event that the political party members cannot agree, the fifth member
- 18 shall be appointed by the chief judge of the Superior Court of Effingham County.
- 19 (d) All appointments to the board shall be promptly certified by the appointing authority to
- 20 the clerk of the Superior Court of Effingham County.
- 21 (e) In making the initial appointments to the board, the members appointed by the political
- 22 parties shall be appointed not later than June 1, 2007. The fifth member shall be appointed
- 23 not later than June 15, 2007. If such fifth member has not been appointed by June 15, 2007,
- 24 the chief judge of the Superior Court of Effingham County shall make such appointment not
- 25 later than July 1, 2007. In making their appointments, the political parties shall designate one
- 26 of the two appointees to serve a term of office beginning on July 1, 2007, and ending on
- 27 June 30, 2009, and until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified. The other
- 28 appointee of each political party shall serve a term of office beginning on July 1, 2007, and
- 29 ending on June 30, 2011, and until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified.
- 30 Successors to such members shall thereafter be appointed to serve terms of office of four
- 31 years and until their successors are duly appointed and qualified. The fifth appointee shall
- 32 serve a term beginning on July 1, 2007, and ending on June 30, 2011, and until his or her
- 33 successor is duly appointed and qualified. A successor to such member shall thereafter be
- 34 appointed to serve a term of office of four years and until his or her successor is duly
- 35 appointed and qualified. In the event that the political party members cannot agree on the
- 36 appointment of a successor to the fifth member within 30 days after the end of such person's

1 term of office, the successor shall be appointed by the chief judge of the Superior Court of
2 Effingham County.

3 **SECTION 4.**

4 (a) No person who holds elective public office shall be eligible to serve as a member of the
5 board during the term of such elective office, and the position of any member of the board
6 shall be deemed vacant upon such member's qualifying as a candidate for elective public
7 office.

8 (b) Members of the board must be residents of Effingham County and must have been
9 registered voters in Effingham County for a period of at least one year prior to the date of
10 their appointment to the board.

11 **SECTION 5.**

12 The appointing authorities shall certify the appointment of each member of the board by
13 filing an affidavit with the clerk of the superior court not later than 15 days preceding the
14 date upon which such members are to take office, stating the name and residential address
15 of the person appointed and certifying such member has been duly appointed as provided in
16 this Act. The clerk of the superior court shall record each of such certifications on the
17 minutes of the superior court and shall certify the name of each such appointed member to
18 the Secretary of State and provide for the issuance of appropriate commissions to the
19 members within the same time and in the same manner as provided by law for registrars.

20 **SECTION 6.**

21 Each member of the board shall be eligible to serve two full four-year terms of office, shall
22 have the right to resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the
23 governing authority of Effingham County and to the clerk of the superior court, and shall be
24 subject to removal from the board by the chief judge of the Superior Court of Effingham
25 County at any time, for cause, after notice and hearing.

26 **SECTION 7.**

27 In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of any appointed member before the expiration
28 of his or her term, by removal, death, resignation, or otherwise, the authority which
29 appointed the member whose position has been vacated shall appoint a successor to serve the
30 remainder of the unexpired term as provided for in Section 3 of this Act. The clerk of the
31 superior court shall be notified of such interim appointments and record and certify such
32 appointments in the same manner as the regular appointment of members.

1 **SECTION 8.**

2 Before entering upon the member’s duties, each member shall take substantially the same
3 oath as required by law for registrars and shall have the same privileges from arrest.

4 **SECTION 9.**

5 (a) The board shall be authorized to organize itself, elect a chairperson, determine its
6 procedural rules and regulations, adopt bylaws, specify the functions and duties of its
7 employees, and otherwise take such action as is appropriate to the management of the affairs
8 committed to its supervision; provided, however, that no such action shall conflict with state
9 law. Action and decision by the board shall be by a majority of the members of the board.
10 The board shall be responsible for the selection, appointment, and training of poll workers
11 in primaries and elections.

12 (b) The board shall fix and establish, by appropriate resolution entered on its minutes,
13 directives governing the execution of matters within its jurisdiction. Any specially called
14 meeting shall be called by the chairperson or any member of the board. The board shall
15 maintain a written record of policy decisions amended to include additions or deletions.
16 Such written records shall be made available for the public to review.

17 **SECTION 10.**

18 The board shall have the authority to contract with any municipality located within
19 Effingham County for the holding by the board of any primary or election to be conducted
20 within such municipality.

21 **SECTION 11.**

22 (a) The board shall be authorized to appoint an election supervisor to generally supervise,
23 direct, and control the administration of the affairs of the board pursuant to law and duly
24 adopted resolutions of the board. Such election supervisor shall not be a member of the
25 board. The election supervisor shall be considered an employee of Effingham County and
26 shall be entitled to the same benefits as other employees of Effingham County.

27 (b) The board is authorized to employ additional clerical assistants as needed to carry out
28 the duties and functions of the board. All such clerical assistants shall be considered to be
29 employees of Effingham County and shall be entitled to the same benefits as other employees
30 of Effingham County.

31 (c) The election supervisor and the clerical assistants shall be under the exclusive control,
32 direction, and supervision of the board.

SECTION 12.

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2 Compensation for the members of the board, election supervisor, clerical assistants, and other
3 employees shall be fixed by the governing authority of Effingham County. Such
4 compensation shall be paid wholly from county funds.

SECTION 13.

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6 The governing authority of Effingham County shall provide the board with such proper and
7 suitable offices, equipment, materials, and supplies and with such clerical assistance and
8 other employees as the governing authority of Effingham County deems appropriate.

SECTION 14.

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10 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
11 without such approval for purposes of making initial appointments to the board only. This
12 Act shall become fully effective on July 1, 2007. Upon this Act becoming fully effective,
13 the superintendent of elections of Effingham County and the board of registrars of Effingham
14 County shall be relieved of all powers and duties to which the board succeeds by the
15 provisions of this Act and shall deliver to the board all equipment, supplies, materials, books,
16 papers, records, and facilities pertaining to such powers and duties.

SECTION 15.

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18 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.