

COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
February 14, 2025
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

995 Roswell Street
3:00 p.m.

Board Member Attendance

	Present	Absent
Tori M. Silas, Chairwoman		X
Jennifer Mosbacher, Vice Chairwoman	X	
Stacy Efrat, Secretary	X	
Debbie Fisher, Assistant Secretary	X	
Steve Bruning	X	

Others Present:

Tate Fall, Director of Elections
Bill Pinto, Counsel for the Board of Elections

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Mosbacher called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m.

Recited the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes to the proposed agenda

Motion by Mr. Bruning to approve the February 14, 2025 meeting agenda as presented. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 4-0. Chairwoman Silas is not in attendance.

BALLOT ADJUDICATION

Director Fall did not bring forward any ballots that needed adjudicating.

Provisional Ballots: Election Day

There were 21 Election Day provisional ballots. 18 of those ballots were out of precinct. The session for duplication with the Vote Review Duplication Panel teams began at 3:00 p.m. on February 14.

Three Election Day provisional ballots have cure pending. Voters have until 5:00 p.m. on February 14, to cure their ballots. One voter was not on the voter roll but believes they should be. Two voters did not have identification with them at time of voting.

Provisional Ballots: Absentee by Mail

There was 1 Absentee by Mail provisional ballot which has been cured and will be processed.

Outstanding Activities

Provisional Ballots are being processed and after the 5:00 p.m. deadline, the results will be uploaded. The only change to the current unofficial votes cast numbers are the remaining provisional ballots that will be counted.

Upcoming Activities

Risk Limiting Audit

Tuesday, February 18 @ 10:30am

Two Audit Teams

Two poll watcher designees per party

Parties have been informed of the RLA

ELECTION MATERIALS REVIEW

Election Summary Report

Director Fall stated the numbered list in previous elections that was made public for Advance Voting and Election Day was generated in ePulse. The State is no longer allowing the ePulse Advance Voting numbered list to be made available to the public nor available for open records requests because by comparing the numbered list against the CVR, it is possible to figure out how someone voted due to the timestamp on the ePulse report which can be and matched to the precinct combo with the ballot images from a specific satellite. Election officials receive a copy of the ePulse Advance Voting numbered list for adjudication and office use only, It is not available for public use outside of the board and elections office. Only the GARViS Advance Voting numbered list is available to the public . Ms. Fisher asked if the ePulse numbered list could be deleted after use. Director Fall stated the owner of the list is the Secretary of State so direction on how to handle the list comes from the SOS office.

Director Fall shared the unofficial election results not including the outstanding provisional ballots to be counted.

Unofficial Election Results: Election Summary Report

Counting Group	Ballots	Voters	Registered Voters	Turnout
Election Day	5,638	5,638	240,144	2.35%
Advance Voting	3,307	3,307		1.38%
Absentee by Mail	41	41		0.02%
Provisional	0	0		0.00%
Total	8,986	8,986		3.74%

When reviewing the Election Summary Report in total, Director Fall highlighted the difference in the Times Cast totals vs the Candidate totals, which accounts for anyone who cast a blank ballot. An additional discrepancy in Times Cast vs Candidate totals in the District 2 Democratic contest is any votes cast for the withdrawn candidate, Taniesha Whorton, are considered null. The law states not to tabulate votes cast for withdrawn candidates.

	Times Cast vs Candidate Total Difference	Reason
District 2 Democrat	108	Blank Ballots/Withdrawn Candidate
District 2 Republican	5	Blank Ballots
District 4 Democrat	4	Blank Ballots
District 4 Republican	2	Blank Ballots

Director Fall stated there will be voters that cast blank ballots for various reasons, and that is a voter's personal choice. Ms. Efrat asked about discrepancies when a voter doesn't cast their ballot. Director Fall stated the discrepancy between voter check-in's and ballots cast would be someone who checked in and signed the oath, but leaves the election polling location without casting their ballot. The check-in number will not show on the Election Summary Report. The Election Summary Report only shows ballots that are put through the scanner. There was no Check-In vs Ballots Cast discrepancy for this election.

Director Fall stated blank ballot totals are confirmed through the Risk Limiting Audit.

Mr. Bruning inquired about how batches are chosen since this isn't a statewide election. Director Fall stated the same software used for statewide audits will be utilized for our Risk Limiting Audit. Once the final election results with the provisional ballots are uploaded, a batch manifest will be imported to the software which runs a random number generator and selects the batches for the Risk Limiting Audit. Director Fall also noted the state did not require a Risk Limiting Audit for this special election, but we are choosing to conduct one.

Statement of Votes Cast

The report has all the precincts listed. Where zeros are listed for registered voters, those precincts were not in this election, but they are still included on the report as they are precincts in our county.

Unofficial and Incomplete Results: Numbered List

Counting Group	Ballots Cast	Numbered List	Turnout %
Election Day	5,638	5,638	2.35%
Advance Voting	3,307	3,307	1.38%
Absentee by Mail	41	42 (one provisional cured, will be counted after meeting)	0.02%
Provisional	-	-	-
Total	8,986	8,987	3.74%

Director Fall explained the only discrepancy in the numbered list is the Absentee by Mail provisional ballot that had been cured. The voter was given credit in GARViS, but the provisional ballot has not yet been scanned. Once the Election Day provisional ballots are processed, the numbers will be updated.

Turnout by District and Party

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total and %
District 2 Democrat	2,110	1,648	19	-	3,777 3.37%
District 2 Republican	289	200	0	-	489 0.44%
District 4 Democrat	2,790	1,259	14	-	4,063 3.17%
District 4 Republican	449	200	8	-	657 0.51%
Total	5,638	3,307	41	-	8,986 3.74%

The percentage of voters is out of total voters registered and eligible to vote in the election.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Mosbacher thanked Director Fall and staff for running an easy election and thanked Mr. Pinto for stepping in for Mr. White.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No items for executive session

Next Meeting

- February 17, 2025 @ 3:00p.m.** – Regular/Certification Meeting
- BOC Room – 100 Cherokee Street, Marietta, GA 30090

Adjournment

Vice Chair Mosbacher adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.



February 14, 2025 minutes prepared by:

Debbie VonFeldt, Administrative Assistant

February 14, 2025 minutes reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Efrat", is written over a horizontal line.

Stacy Efrat, Board Secretary