

COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
March 17, 2025
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR/CERTIFICATION MEETING

100 Cherokee 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
Daniel White, Counsel for the Board of Elections
Kara Pringle, Election Division Manager
Marcques Spivey, Absentee Division Manager
Tammy Thorpe, Communications Specialist II
Debbie VonFeldt, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Silas called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Recited the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No proposed amendments to the agenda.

Motion by Ms. Fisher to approve the March 17, 2025 meeting agenda as presented. Second by Ms. Mosbacher. Passed 4-0. Mr. Bruning is not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Virtual Comment sign ups.

Suzie Clark – In-Person – Addressed the board regarding various concerns

Hugh Norris – In-Person – Addressed the board regarding various grievances

Christine Rozman – In-Person – Addressed the board regarding various concerns

NEW BUSINESS

1) Director's Election Update

Advance Voting

ADVANCE VOTING LOCATION	TOTAL VOTERS
Marietta – Main Office	460
Southeast – Smyrna Community Center	983
TOTAL	1,443

SITE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TOTAL
Main	70	80	75	87	148	460
Southeast	124	149	176	208	326	983
Total	194	229	251	295	474	1,443

Absentee by Mail

ISSUED	TOTAL VOTED	CURED	REJECTED
43	35	0	0

One voter cancelled their Absentee by Mail ballot and voted Early In-Person.

Election Day

Election Day Turnout: 1,977 Total Voters

ELECTION DAY TURNOUT BY HOUR											
7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM
39	90	100	101	171	176	155	161	175	207	274	321

Official and Complete Results

COUNTING GROUP	BALLOTS CAST	NUMBERED LIST	TURNOUT %
Election Day	1,977	1,977	1.79%
Advance Voting	1,443	1,443	1.30%
Absentee by Mail	35	35	0.03%
Provisional	6	6	0.01%
TOTAL	3,461	3,461	3.13%

Risk Limiting Audit

Begins at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18 at the Main Office at 995 Roswell St, Marietta. A full recount will be conducted due to the special election being small. There will be 3 audit teams. Since it was a Democrat Runoff, only the Democratic Party can provide party designees to monitor the Audit.

Additionally, the elections office is finishing up payroll from the election. Once payroll is complete, Director Fall will have a final number for the costing of the Special Election and the costing will be provided to the board and available for open records requests.

2) Certification of March 11, 2025 Special Primary Election Runoff

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to certify the results of March 11, 2025 Special Primary Runoff. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 4-0. Mr. Bruning is not in attendance.

3) Proposed Advance In-Person Voting Schedule – June 17, 2025, Special Primary Election

Statewide election for the Public Service Commissioner Districts 2 & 3. All precincts will be open.

- 4 Satellites proposed
- Begins Tuesday, May 27
- 3 weeks of Advance Voting
- Open 2 Saturdays and 1 Sunday
- First 2 weeks 8 am - 6 pm, final week 7 am - 7 pm

Ms. Silas suggested Director Fall provide clarification for the benefit of the public on why 3 weeks of Advance Voting is being provided for the Statewide election that will take place in June as opposed to the 1 week of Advance Voting provided for the Cobb County Commission Districts Special Election. Director Fall stated during a statewide election, the Secretary of State sets the dates, but there is discretion for special elections within the county for the period of Advance Voting. With the June 17 Statewide election, we are mandated to be open for Advance Voting for 3 weeks, and 2 Saturdays. Sundays are optional.

Motion by Ms. Fisher to approve the proposed Advance Voting schedule for the June 17, 2025 Public Service Commissioner Special Primary Election. Second by Ms. Efrat. Passed 4-0. Mr. Bruning is not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss

ELECTION OFFICE REPORTS & UPDATES

Director Update

1) Elections

- Training begins April 7th
- Anyone who worked February and March will attend online training except for Provisional Clerks
- New workers will attend in person training
- Most workers returning for April. On track for fully staffed
- Area Supervisor meeting is Tuesday, March 18
- Upcoming Partisan Qualifying Period for Cobb County Surveyor begins at 9:00am April 1 thru noon on April 3

2) Prep

- L&A will begin March 31
- Finalizing ballot proofs
- Resetting equipment

3) Registration

- In the process of mailing out District 4 cards that were returned for postage due (approximately 1,500 remaining)
- Approximately 19,000 registration applications and updates to key since the Special Primary deadline in January
- March 31st is the Voter Registration Deadline for the April 29th Special General Election. April 2nd is the keying deadline

4) Absentee

- Advance Voting training is April 4 and 5
- First day of Advance Voting is Saturday, April 19
- Absentee by Mail ballot mailout begins April 7
- Deadline for Absentee by Mail Applications is April 18
- 62 Absentee by Mail ballots to be issued on April 7. 91 applications were received. 24 were rejected.

5) Position Vacancies

- Assistant Supervisor (Absentee in Person) – Interview Process Complete
- Two Election Technicians (Registration) – Recruitment Closed, Pending Interviews
- Voter Registration Specialist I (Registration)– Upcoming Recruitment
- PT Voter Registration Specialist (Registration) - Upcoming Recruitment
- PT Project Coordinator (Registration/Admin) – Upcoming Recruitment

- Supervisor (Prep Center) - Upcoming Recruitment
- Elections Coordinator I (Prep Center) - Upcoming Recruitment
- Summer Intern (Communications/Admin) - Upcoming Recruitment
- 12.5% vacancy rate

6) Cobb County School District Facilities

- 20 active schools (2 high schools, 7 middle schools, 11 elementary schools)
- 1 inactive school (Old East Valley)
- 1 Cobb County Adult Education Center
- 9 active school locations to vacate in 2026. Kell High School, Durham Middle School, Lovinggood Middle School, Ford Elementary School, Hayes Elementary School, City View Elementary School, Mableton Elementary School, Nickajack Elementary School, Teasley Elementary School
- 11 active school locations to remain in. Harrison High School, Lost Mountain Middle School, Lindley Middle School, Floyd Middle School, McClure Middle School, Pine Mountain Middle School, Cheatham Hill Elementary School, Pitner Elementary School, Shallowford Falls Elementary School, Sope Creek Elementary School, Vaughn Elementary School
- The school district is requiring a Deputy at all the schools during the election

7) 2025 Election Calendar

- April 29 District 2 and 4 Special General Election
- June 17 Public Service Commissioner Statewide Primary
- July 15 Public Service Commissioner Statewide Primary Runoff (if needed)
- November 4 Public Service Commissioner General and Municipal Elections
- December 2 Municipal Election Runoff (if needed)

Ms. Efrat thanked Director Fall for the update on the schools and inquired whether the remaining schools for 2026 will be vacated in the future, and whether the school district has approved the current proposal. Director Fall stated the office wants to minimize the number of precinct changes for 2026 due to it being a big election year, but is looking into consolidating some precincts in 2027 and will try to continue to minimize our presence in the remaining schools. Director Fall also stated Superintendent Ragsdale will present the proposal to the school board at the meeting on March 20 but feels positive about the proposal due to there being sheriff deputies at each location.

Chairwoman Silas inquired whether the postage due situation has been resolved for the Q1 postcard mailout. Director Fall verified the postcards will be sent by our own vendor and will be charged to our postage permit number. The list will be pulled on April 3. The list from the state takes 2-3 days, then once the vendor receives the list, there is a 2-5 business day turnaround for mailout depending on how large the mailing is.

Chairwoman Silas also asked about the 2 Election Technician positions for Reception that opened up as those employees had been with elections for a while. Director Fall stated one employee was promoted, and another employee left to pursue another opportunity.

The Project Management/Data Analytics position has been discussed with HR to get the position reclassified. Chairwoman Silas suggested Director Fall to engage with Ms. Mosbacher regarding some of the data analytics work Ms. Mosbacher has previously performed related to previous elections.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairwoman Silas recognized Jennifer Hall, a member of the elections department since 2016. Jennifer unexpectedly passed away on Thursday, March 13. A moment of silence was recognized in honor of Jennifer's service to the department and county.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Fisher to move to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation matters at 3:41 p.m. Second by Ms. Mosbacher. Passed 4-0. Mr. Bruning is not in attendance.

Chairwoman Silas noted there is nothing further on the agenda after Executive Session.

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Ms. Fisher at 4:02 p.m. Second by Ms. Mosbacher Passed 4-0. Mr. Bruning is not in attendance.

Upcoming Meetings

April 14, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

- BOC Room – 100 Cherokee St, Marietta

April 29, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. – Election Night Meeting

- Board Room – 995 Roswell St NE, Marietta

Adjournment

Chairwoman Silas adjourned the meeting at 4:04 pm.



March 17, 2025 minutes prepared by:

Debbie VonFeldt, Administrative Assistant

March 17, 2025 minutes reviewed by:

Stacy Efrat

Stacy Efrat, Board Secretary