

COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
May 5, 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
Michael D'Itri, Prep Center Manager
Kara Pringle, Election Division Manager
Marcques Spivey, Absentee Division Manager
Debbie VonFeldt, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Silas called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Recited the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Due to the deadline to certify by 5:00 p.m., and taking a break in the agenda at 4:00 p.m. for a swearing-in, the Director's Election Report and Certification of the April 29, 2025 Special General Election will take place prior to Public Comment. The remaining items will follow according to the presented agenda.

Motion by Mr. Bruning to amend the May 5, 2025 agenda by adding New Business items 1 and 2 immediately following the approval of the agenda, proceeding with the remainder of the proposed agenda thereafter, and including a recess at 3:50 p.m. for a swearing-in. Second by Ms. Fisher.
Passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Director's Election Report

Advance Voting

ADVANCE VOTING LOCATION	VOTES CAST
Marietta – Main Office	1,986
Austell – Old Clarkdale Community Center	314
Mableton – South Cobb Community Center	1,060
Southeast – Smyrna Community Center	2,857
TOTAL	6,217

PARTY	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 4	TOTAL
Republican	1,573	458	2,031
Democrat	2,529	1,654	4,183
Blank	1	2	3
TOTAL	4,103	2,114	6,217

Absentee by Mail

REGULAR BALLOTS ISSUED	PROVISIONAL BALLOTS ISSUED	REGULAR BALLOTS RETURNED	PROVISIONAL BALLOTS RETURNED	PROVISIONAL BALLOTS CURED	TOTAL VOTES CAST
181	8	159	6	4	163

PARTY	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 4	TOTAL
Republican	30	30	60
Democrat	63	39	102
Blank	1	-	1
TOTAL	94	69	163

Election Day

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
377	469	629	710	874	817	877	862	875	994	1,270	1,297

PARTY	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 4	TOTAL
Republican	2,217	2,076	4,293
Democrat	2,811	2,958	5,769
Blank	1	3	4
TOTAL	5,029	5,037	10,066

Official and Complete Results

COUNTING GROUP	BALLOTS CAST	NUMBERED LIST	TURNOUT %
Election Day	10,066	10,066	4.19%
Advance Voting	6,217	6,217	2.59%
Absentee by Mail	163	163	0.07%
Provisional	22	22	0.01%
TOTAL	16,468	16,468	6.85%

Risk Limiting Audit

Begins at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 6 at the Main Office at 995 Roswell St, Marietta. We will be auditing just over 10,000 ballots with 6 audit teams. The parties have been notified.

2) Certification of May 29, 2025 Special General Election

Motion by Mr. Bruning to certify the results of the April 29, 2025 Special General Election. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3 minutes allocated per speaker for public comment.

Janet Rau – Virtual – Addressed the board regarding election results and signage

Ben Williams – In-Person – Addressed the board regarding consolidating polling locations

Beth Hendrickson – In-Person – Addressed the board regarding various issues

Monica Brown – Virtual – Addressed the board regarding consolidating polling locations

Rosser Southerland – In-Person – Addressed the board regarding various polling location issues

Amanda Robinson – In-Person – Addressed the board regarding praise for Director Fall

PUBLIC HEARING

1) Temporary polling location change of Murdock 01

In the event of a July 15, 2025 Special Primary Runoff, Murdock 01 polling location is not able to host. Murdock 01 would temporarily relocate to Dodgen Middle School only for the potential Runoff.

PRECINCT	NEW POLLING LOCATION	ADDRESS	START DATE	END DATE
Murdock 01	Dodgen Middle School	1725 Bill Murdock Rd Marietta, GA 30062	07/15/2025	07/30/2025

2) Polling location changes

Director Fall shared the following information regarding the proposed polling location changes:

- Clarkdale 01 is no longer available to host elections. A permanent polling location change is being proposed to move this precinct to Old Clarkdale Community Center.
- Bells Ferry 02, Clarkdale 02, Eastside 02, Kemp 02, Kennesaw 4A, Mars Hill 01, North Cobb 01, and Willeo 01 polling locations are no longer available to host elections. Temporary co-location of these precincts is being proposed.
- Co-location involves hosting two separate precincts at a single polling location. This is distinct from a consolidation, which would require formal approval from the Board of Commissioners. The current proposal to temporarily co-locate the proposed polling locations is a test run to evaluate whether permanent consolidation is warranted.
- The following data is taken into consideration prior to proposing a polling location change: voters per precinct, turnout per elections, facility space, and parking.
- Murdock 01 is the only precinct for which a permanent polling location change is being proposed. All other changes are temporary co-locations, but may result in permanent consolidations in the future, pending evaluation.

- Since Kennesaw 3A serves as a municipal polling location, the Kennesaw City Council must also approve any proposed co-location for this precinct.
- At co-located polling places, voters from both precincts will share the same check-in area and ballot marking devices (BMDs). However, each precinct will have a separate ballot scanner, clearly marked with the precinct name, which also appears at the top of each voter's ballot. Signage will guide voters to identify their precinct, and poll workers will be available to assist.
- Co-locating precincts will reduce the number of poll workers. The management team from both precincts will be at the co-located polling place, however, the number of clerks will be reduced.
- There will be one provisional station with separate ballots.
- All administrative paperwork will remain separate for each precinct.

PRECINCT	NEW POLLING LOCATION	CO-LOCATION PRECINCT	START DATE	END DATE
Clarkdale 01	Old Clarkdale Community Center	No co-location	06/17/2025	Permanent
Bells Ferry 02	Covenant Presbyterian Church	Elizabeth 02	06/17/2025	12/31/2025
Clarkdale 02	Linked Up Church	Sweetwater 01	06/17/2025	12/31/2025
Eastside 02	Sewell Mill Library and Cultural Center	Powers Ferry 01	06/17/2025	12/31/2025
Kemp 02	Lovinggood Middle School	Oregon 01	06/17/2025	12/31/2025
Kennesaw 4A	Ben Robertson Community Center	Kennesaw 3A	06/17/2025	12/31/2025
North Cobb 01	North Cobb Senior Center	Acworth 1C	06/17/2025	12/31/2025
Willeo 01	Wesley Chapel Methodist Church	Post Oak 01	06/17/2025	12/31/2025
Mars Hill 01	Durham Middle School	Durham 01	07/15/2025	12/31/2025

Chairwoman Silas suggested setting up 2 separate tables for provisional voting to ensure no cross-ballot casting. Ms. Fisher inquired whether election night return materials from co-located precincts would be transported together in a single vehicle or returned separately. Director Fall will follow up with staff to further review the procedures.

Ms. Mosbacher recommended having clear signage to help voters confirm they are at the correct voting location.

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily approve the polling location change of Murdock 01 in the event a July 15, 2025 Special Primary Election Runoff is required. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to approve the proposed polling location change for Clarkdale 01 from Refuge Community Church to Old Clarkdale Community Center. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily co-locate North Cobb 01 with Acworth 1C at North Cobb Senior Center. Second Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily co-locate Eastside 02 with Powers Ferry 01 at Sewell Mill Library and Cultural Center. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily co-locate Kennesaw 4A with Kennesaw 3A at Ben Robertson Community Center. Second by Ms Fisher. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily co-locate Bells Ferry 02 with Elizabeth 02 at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Second by Mr. Bruning. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily co-locate Willeo 01 with Post Oak 01 at Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. Second by Mr. Bruning. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily co-locate Kemp 02 with Oregon 01 at Lovinggood Middle School. Second by Mr. Bruning. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily co-locate Clarkdale 02 with Sweetwater 01 at Linked Up Church. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to temporarily co-locate Mars Hill 01 with Durham 01 at Durham Middle School. Second by Mr. Bruning. Passed 5-0

Ms. Efrat noted for the record the concern that precincts being relocated to schools may need to move again at the end of the year, due to plans to vacate certain Cobb County school facilities.

RECESS

Motion by Mr. Bruning to recess at 3:46 p.m. for purpose of a swearing in. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

Motion by Mr. Bruning at 4:12 p.m. to come out of recess. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss

NEW BUSINESS, Continued

3) Conduct November 4, 2025 Municipal General Elections

Request to conduct Municipal General Elections for the cities of Acworth, Austell, Kennesaw, Mableton, Marietta, and Powder Springs. The Municipal Elections will be in conjunction with the statewide Special General Election for Public Service Commissioner.

Motion by Mr. Bruning to approve the request to conduct the November 4, 2025 Municipal General Election for the cities of Acworth, Austell, Kennesaw, Mableton, Marietta, and Powder Springs. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

4) Motion to Amend the Board Meeting Schedule

Request to amend the current Board Meeting schedule due to the possibility of a July 15, 2025 Special Primary Election Runoff for Public Service Commissioner. Proposal is to add July 15, July 18, and July 21, 2025, if needed, to the meeting schedule.

Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to approve the modifications of the Board Meeting Schedule to add July 15, July 18, and July 21, 2025 in the event there is a Public Service Commissioner Special Primary Election Runoff. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

5) Advance Voting Schedule for the November 4, 2025 Municipal Elections/Public Service Commissioner General Election

The board reviewed the proposed Advance Voting schedule for the upcoming November 4, 2025, Municipal General Elections and Public Service Commissioner Election, and discussed the potential need for additional voting locations.

Motion by Mr. Bruning to table the approval of the Advance Voting Schedule for the November 4, 2025 Municipal Elections/Public Service Commissioner Special General Election. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

ELECTION OFFICE REPORTS & UPDATES

Director's Update

Remaining Elections in 2025

- June 17, 2025: Public Service Commissioner (PSC) Special Primary Election
- July 15, 2025 (*if needed*): PSC Special Primary Election Runoff
- November 4, 2025: Municipal General Elections and PSC Special General Election
- December 2, 2025 (*if needed*): Municipal General Election Runoff

June 17, 2025 Special General Election

1) Absentee

Absentee by Mail Applications Received	70
Absentee by Mail Applications Sent to Further Review	18
Absentee by Mail Applications Accepted	52

- Absentee by Mail ballot mailout begins Monday, May 19
- Advance Voting training: Thursday, May 8 – Saturday, May 10
- First day of Advance Voting: Tuesday, May 27

2) Elections

- Train the Trainer: Friday, May 9
- Election Day Training: Monday, May 12 – Saturday, June 7
- Currently 54% staffed for Election Day

3) Prep Center

- L&A begins Thursday, May 15 and goes until completion
- Notice goes out to parties this week regarding L&A

4) Registration

- Voter Registration Deadline: Monday, May 19
- 13,000 applications to key, vast majority are from DDS

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. White clarified with the board that, according to State Election Board rules, pre-certification meetings require an in-person quorum and therefore cannot be held virtually.

Ms. Fisher addressed the board regarding the notification from Cobb County Government indicating the data breach was the result of a ransomware attack. Ms. Fisher recommends that the County notify the board whether the breach impacted elections.

Ms. Fisher also inquired about the removal of inactive voters. Director Fall stated the removal is managed by the Secretary of State and no notification has been given regarding a specific date, but understood it would possibly be sometime early summer. Mr. White further clarified that, under the National Voter Registration Act, such removals typically occur in odd-numbered election years and cannot be done within 90 days of a federal election.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Bruning at 4:55 p.m. to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

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

Motion by Mr. Bruning at 5:10 p.m. to come out of Executive Session. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 5-0

Adjournment

Chairwoman Silas adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.



Affidavit Executive Session

The undersigned chairperson or presiding officer, under oath, certifies that at a meeting of the Cobb County Board of Elections and Registration held on **May 5, 2025**, the Board closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia [O.C.G.A. 50-14-1 through 50-14-6].

The undersigned does hereby attest that the executive session of this meeting was devoted to matters covered within the exceptions in the Open Meetings Act. Specifically, the matters attended to are covered by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 and consisted of discussion of personnel matter.

This 5th day of May, 2025.

Jaona M. Selvi

Signature of Chairperson or Presiding Officer

Sworn to & Subscribed Before Me
On The Above Indicated Date:

Debra Vonfeldt
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 07/13/2027

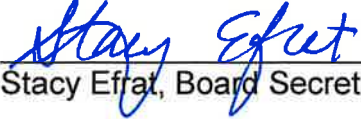




May 5, 2025 minutes prepared by:

Debbie VonFeldt, Administrative Assistant

May 5, 2025 minutes reviewed by:


Stacy Efrat, Board Secretary