

**COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
REGULAR/CERTIFICATION MEETING
JUNE 23, 2025
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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
Melissa Miller, Registration Division Manager
Kara Pringle, Election Division Manager
Marcques Spivey, Absentee Division Manager
Tammy, Thorpe, Communications Specialist
Debbie VonFeldt, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Silas called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m and apologized for the delayed start.

Recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Probate Judge Kelli Wolk administered oaths and conducted the swearing-in of re-appointed board member, Jennifer Mosbacher. The new term begins July 1, 2025.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Mosbacher proposed amending the agenda to add discussion of Board monthly stipend to New Business.

*Motion by Ms. Mosbacher to amend the agenda to add Board Member Stipend to New Business.
Second by Mr. Bruning. Passed 4-0. Ms. Efrat was not in attendance.*

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

No proposed revisions to the minutes. Chairwoman Silas noted she has non-substantive edits.

Motion by Mr. Bruning to approve the April 29, May 2, May 5, May 16, and May 27, 2025 meeting minutes subject to Scrivener's errors. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 4-0. Ms. Efrat was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Monica Delancy – Virtual – Signed up but chose not to comment

Christine Rosman – In-Person – Addressed the board regarding publicizing the recent election and low voter turnout

NEW BUSINESS

1) Director's Election Report

Advance Voting

ADVANCE VOTING LOCATION	VOTES CAST
Marietta – Main Office	1,482
East – East Cobb Government Center	921
South – South Cobb Community Center	709
Northwest – West Cobb Library	744

	1 ST DAY VOTES CAST	1 ST SATURDAY VOTES CAST	2 ND SATURDAY VOTES CAST	1 ST SUNDAY VOTES CAST	LAST DAY VOTES CAST
Main	65	88	63	25	256
East	34	20	20	13	161
South	12	14	24	15	192
Northwest	37	29	12	27	133

Absentee by Mail

BALLOTS ISSUED	BALLOTS RETURNED	CURED	REJECTED	TOTAL VOTES CAST
244	207	6	14	193

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
289	412	576	768	844	936	987	1,200	1,182	1,369	1,806	1,395

Breakdown by Party

	ADVANCE VOTING	ABSENTEE BY MAIL	ELECTION DAY
Democrat	2,676	126	8,210
Republican	1,180	67	3,581
TOTAL	3,856	193	11,791

Official and Complete Results

COUNTING GROUP	BALLOTS CAST	GARViS VOTER CREDIT	ePULSE NUMBERED LIST	TURNOUT %
Election Day	11,791	11,791	11,785*	2.25%
Advance Voting	3,856	3,856	3,856	0.74%
Absentee by Mail	193	193	-	0.04%
Provisional	33	33	-	0.01%
TOTAL	15,873	15,873	-	3.04%

Six supplemental voters were recorded on Election Day. These voters were unable to check in using the poll pad but were eligible to vote and were added to the numbered list.

Director Fall provided a follow-up to a discussion from the June 18 Board Meeting regarding discrepancies between DDS updates in GARViS and the Poll Pads, as well as the use of Emergency Lists. Emergency Lists are used if polling locations must issue emergency ballots. On Election Day, only one precinct—Sope Creek 03—used its emergency ballots.

To access the emergency bag, precincts must call the office to receive authorization to break the seal. In this instance, the Emergency List at Sope Creek 03 matched the Poll Pad but did not align with GARViS. The Secretary of State's office was notified of the discrepancy on Election Day and is currently investigating the matter.

Risk Limiting Audit

Begins at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 26 at the Main Office at 995 Roswell St, Marietta. There will be 8 audit teams. The parties have been notified.

Board Member Comments

Chairwoman Silas inquired about the required dates for Advance Voting for the Special Primary Election. Director Fall responded that the Secretary of State set the official dates for Advance Voting, while decisions regarding additional hours and Sunday voting are left to the discretion of the Board.

Ms. Fisher raised a concern about a discrepancy between the GARViS report and the information previously provided by Director Fall. Looking at the report Director Fall submitted, she did not note the same numbers Ms. Fisher was referencing.

Mr. Bruning asked about the District 3 Democratic Primary, specifically regarding a disqualified candidate. He questioned how many voters may have selected the candidate. Director Fall explained that votes for a disqualified candidate cannot be tabulated. However, based on the total number of votes cast (11,040) and the combined vote total for the three qualified candidates (10,160), it can be inferred that approximately 880 voters either voted for the disqualified candidate or submitted a blank ballot.

Ms. Fisher also noted that there was no party designation associated with provisional ballots. Director Fall stated that a recent update to the provisional module in GARViS removed the ability to select the party ballot and confirmed the issue was identified by elections staff on Friday during the credit assignment process and was reported to the Secretary of State's office. Elections staff are adding a note in the affected voters' files and coordinating with Knowink to ensure the data is accurately reflected in ePulse.

2) Certification of June 15, 2025 Special Primary Election: Public Service Commissioner

Motion by Mr. Bruning to certify the results of the June 15, 2025 Special Primary Election as presented. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 4-0. Ms. Efrat was not in attendance.

3) Advance Voting Schedule for the July 15, 2025 Special Primary Democratic Runoff for Public Service Commissioner

Chairwoman Silas inquired about the process used to determine the Advance Voting dates for the Runoff. Director Fall explained that the Secretary of State mandates voting from Monday, July 7 through Friday, July 11. Although starting earlier is permitted, the project has not yet been received, and the Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing must still be completed; therefore, the earliest feasible start date is Monday, July 7.

Ms. Fisher suggested reducing the proposed voting hours due to anticipated low voter turnout. In response, Mr. Bruning emphasized that many voters utilize early or late hours to vote before or after

work and expressed support for maintaining hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Ms. Mosbacher added that offering consistent hours during the five-day voting period aligns with previous practices and ensures equitable access.

While acknowledging Ms. Fisher's concerns, Chairwoman Silas also noted the importance of maintaining consistency with past schedules. She proposed the possibility of scaling back staffing levels without compromising the voter experience.

Motion by Mr. Bruning to approve the Advance Voting Schedule for the July 15, 2025 Special Primary Democratic Runoff for Public Service Commissioner. Second by Ms. Mosbacher. Passed 3-1. Ms. Fisher is in opposition to the motion. Ms. Efrat is not in attendance.

4) Board of Elections & Registration Increase In Stipend

The Board of Elections and Registration (BOER) discussed increasing the monthly stipend. The current stipend for acting members of the BOER is based on rates that have been in place since the early 1990s.

Current Stipend for Board Chair: \$200 per month

Current Stipend for Board Members: \$150 per month

The demands and expectations placed upon members of the BOER have increased since the current stipends were originally set. In addition to increased time spent at monthly meetings, additional time is also spent preparing for meetings, reviewing materials, and attending State Election Board meetings, along with other election related activities which are necessary for Board members to effectively perform their duties.

The BOER requests that the Cobb County Board of Commissioners increase the monthly compensation to the following amounts:

Chair: \$600

Other Members: \$500

These amounts are consistent with stipends paid to members of other metro Atlanta election boards and are commensurate with the stipends paid to similarly situated boards within Cobb County.

A memo will be sent to Director Fall to be placed on the next Board of Commissioners agenda.

Motion by Mr. Bruning to submit a request for the Cobb County Board of Commissioners to approve a \$600 per month stipend for the Chair and \$500 a month stipend for Members with an effective date of August 1, 2025. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 3-0-1. Chairwoman Silas abstained. Ms. Efrat was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss

ELECTION OFFICE REPORTS & UPDATES

Director's Update

1) Absentee

- Absentee by Mail application deadline for upcoming Runoff is Monday, July 7
- Absentee by Mail tentative first mailout is Monday, June 30
- L&A scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25 (pending project finalization)
- Advance Voting management teams attending refresher training on Tuesday, July 1

2) Elections

- Currently 85% staffed for Runoff. Continuing to confirm workers

3) Prep Center

- L&A scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25 (pending project finalization)
- Notice goes out to parties this week regarding L&A

4) Registration

- Scanning and indexing voter certificates
- Preparing for Marietta redistricting after the Runoff

Remaining Elections in 2025

- July 15, 2025: 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

Ms. Mosbacher requested an update on current staff vacancies. Director Fall reported that interviews for the registration positions have been completed and she will provide an update on the hiring status soon.

Ms. Fisher inquired about the status of the voter roll purge. Director Fall shared that she received notification earlier in the day regarding the NGE mailing. These notices are scheduled to be sent out in July and are directed to voters who have been inactive for two consecutive Federal Election cycles. If no response is received from the voter during the designated waiting period, their registration will be removed from the voter rolls.

Chairwoman Silas asked about the expected timing of the mailing. Director Fall responded that while there is no firm date set, per the Secretary of State, the notices are expected to be mailed no later than July 10.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No board member comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Bruning at 4:29 p.m. to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing pending and potential litigation. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 4-0. Ms. Efrat is not in attendance.

Chairwoman Silas stated there will most likely be a motion that will need to be voted on after Executive Session.

Motion by Mr. Bruning at 5:45 p.m. to come out of Executive Session. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 4-0. Ms. Efrat is not in attendance.

Motion by Mr. Bruning to suspend the rules and add an agenda item approving the engagement of special legal counsel. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 4-0. Ms. Efrat was not in attendance.

Motion by Mr. Bruning to authorize the engagement of special counsel for purposes of legal representation on matters in which the Board's attorney may have a conflict of interest and for other purposes including personnel matters, as authorized in the Board's engagement agreement with Haynie, Litchfield & White, and to authorize execution of the agreement by the chair and vice chair. Second by Ms. Fisher. Passed 4-0. Ms. Efrat was not in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

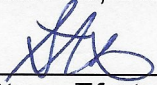
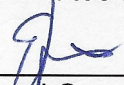
Chairwoman Silas adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.



June 23, 2025 minutes prepared by:

Debbie VonFeldt, Administrative Assistant

June 23, 2025 minutes reviewed by:

Stacy Efrat, Board Secretary



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 **June 23, 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 potential and pending litigation.

This 23rd day of June, 2025.

Donna M. Sel

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

