



PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

October 3rd, 2022

Board of Elections & Registration Vice-Chair Mike Carver called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

Board:

Mike Carver
Rebecca Cantrell
Larry Brown
Terry Franzen

County Staff in attendance:

Stacey Godfrey- Supervisor
Phil Landrum- Attorney

Others in attendance:

Mari Livsey- KnowPickens
Gary Norman
Chris Mora
Derek Meyer
A host of other Pickens County Residents

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Gary Norman led the pledge of allegiance.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Terry Franzen, to adopt the minutes from the October 3rd, 2022 meeting. Members Rebecca Cantrell, Terry Franzen, & Larry Brown voted 3 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous.

IV. AGENDA

A motion was made by Larry Brown to amend the agenda and remove the Executive Session item from New Business. seconded by Terry Franzen. Larry Brown motioned to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Becky Cantrell. Members Terry Franzen, Rebecca Cantrell, & Larry Brown voted 3 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the amended agenda. The vote was unanimous.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Norman a citizen of Pickens County spoke and said at the June 8th meeting they asked the board to do a recount of the paper ballots for the Governor and Secretary of State races. He said at the July meeting the board voted 3-1 to move forward with a petition to unseal the ballots and do a complete hand recount. Mr. Norman said on September 9th that citizens learned officially in the court hearing that the board was still eager to do the requested count. September 30th Judge Brantley dismissed the lawsuit. Mr. Norman said he would like to remind the board members of the oath they took and said their duty is not to the Secretary of State or the Governor but to the citizens. Early Voting starts on October 17 and Mr. Norman said it does not make sense to audit the May Primary anymore. He suggested the Pickens County Board of Elections without outside influence, or the need of Judicial approval hand count the November 8th races of Governor and Secretary of State races at the same time it processes them through the dominion voting system. He believes the board has the authority to do this under O.C.G.A. §21-2-70.

Chris Mora spoke and said he thinks it is important to get clarification on what this board can do. He said if the board is just administrative then Pickens County does not need a Board of Elections.

Derek Meyer spoke and said he does have concerns about the voting process. He said he supports the hand recount.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Mora Lawsuit

Vice-Chair Mike Carver read aloud a statement prepared by the Board of Elections. Mr. Carver stated that Judge Brantley entered his order on Friday September 30th, 2022, and a 30-day period opened for the petitioner to appeal the judge's decision. Mr. Carver said if there is no appeal that the board would be free to address it's July decision to have legal counsel write an order asking to unseal the May 24th ballots.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

VIII. STAFF COMMENTS

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey informed the board that her staff finished Logic & Accuracy Testing last week. Poll worker training started on Monday and will continue until Thursday. Pickens and surrounding counties in the North have a new liaison, Amanda Deering from Bartow County. Ms. Godfrey said her office has 295 absentee ballots that are ready to be mailed on the scheduled date of October 11th set by the Secretary of State. The deadline to register to vote or change your voter registration is October 11th. Ms. Godfrey reminded the public that advanced-in-person voting beings October 17 and continues thru November 4, Monday- Friday 8 am- 5 pm, and Saturday October 22 & 29 9 am- 5 pm at the Pickens County Rec Center. The last date to submit and absentee ballot application is October 28th. And lastly the Supervisor wanted to remind the public of Election Day November 8th polls are open from 7 am- 7 pm.

IX. BOARD COMMENTS

NONE

X. ADJOURN

Motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.