

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION  
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING  
May 26, 2022, 4:30 P.M.**

In Person Attendance (Board Members): Kyle Rapp; Dr. Jannett Bradford (arrived at 4:37 p.m.); Barbara Hahn; Anthony Kicklighter; Joseph Michaels; In Person Attendance (Staff): Elections Supervisor Shannon Nettles; Assistant Elections Supervisor Deborah Felix; Elections Assistant Sandra Rayson; Not in Attendance (Staff): County Clerk Katie Bishop.

**A. Opening Ceremonies**

- Invocation delivered by Chair Kyle Rapp.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Anthony Kicklighter

**B. Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Kyle Rapp noted, after receiving no objections from the Board Members, that the agenda was adopted as written.

**C. Public Comments**

- Rachel Baldwin (Kingsland) discussed the concerns of the Camden County GOP regarding the problems experienced with the Ballot Scanner used during End of Night Reporting. She expressed her concern that if the same Ballot Scanner is used during the upcoming November General Election, that delays could be far worse. The Camden County GOP has presented a formal request to the Board of Elections & Registration requesting a sampling recount of the Absentee Ballots from the May 24<sup>th</sup> Primary Election.

Dr. Jannett Bradford arrived at 4:37 p.m.

- Steve Weinkle (Woodbine) stated that he felt that all of the scanned Ballots should be rescanned – not just a sampling. A sampling would not be representative of the actual vote.
- Kelvin Blue (Kingsland) asked if the problem is only with this one piece of equipment, why not just replace it, and do that before the November Election? If the Scanner can be verified as accurate, then it won't need to be replaced.

Chair Rapp advised that the formal request is for a recount of District Nos. 2 and 4 only and therefore, that is what is being considered by the Board Members. He noted that the Scanner had passed its L & A testing prior to being used on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **D. New Business**

1. Absentee by Mail Ballot Recount Request for the May 24<sup>th</sup> Primary/Special Election from Chair, Camden County GOP

Elections Supervisor Shannon Nettles advised that she, along with 2 other Election Staff, had reviewed 343 scanned ballots to check for accuracy and had not found any errors. Dominion will examine the Scanner for alignment issues if the scanning problems persist.

Board Member Joseph Michaels asked if Ms. Nettles had checked with other Counties to see if they were also experiencing these problems. Ms. Nettles advised that she had talked with the Technician sent by Dominion regarding this problem and she only knew of one other County that had a similar issue with their Absentee Ballot Scanner. Their problem was caused by using incorrect Scanner settings. The Board Members and Election Supervisor Nettles discussed what factors affect the Scanner and how these problems might be mitigated in the future. Emphasis was placed on the fact that even though a number of Ballots had to be rescanned, the results were not affected. Board Member Anthony Kicklighter stated that as someone who was unfamiliar with the process, that it did appear we had a problem with proficiency. Dr. Bradford stated that if a recount was needed for the public to feel confidence in the final numbers, then it should be done. She agrees that all ballots should be recounted, not just a sampling. Chair Rapp went over the rules for conducting a recount according to SEB Rule No. 183-1-15-.03.

A recount shall be conducted by manual hand count only:

1. As provided under Rule 183-1-15-.03(1)(c); or
2. Pursuant to a court order.

June Maxwell asked Chair Rapp to restate his position on when a recount can be conducted.

Mary Beckman asked Chair Rapp to explain to the audience the process of counting Absentee Ballots. She encouraged everyone to become a part of this process.

The Board Members discussed how to make the process more accessible and transparent for the public.

Rachel Baldwin stated that she was in the Tabulating Area on May 24<sup>th</sup> and while she could have asked a question, she didn't because she thought it would further slow the process. She would like to see the scanner issues resolved before November and an evaluation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors helping with tabulation. Ms. Baldwin commended the Elections Staff for their efforts.

Steve Weinkle and Election Supervisor Nettles discussed how final Ballot numbers are accumulated and tabulated.

Kelvin Blue stated that the main problem to be considered in the Ballot Scanner in the Tabulating Area. It must be fixed or replaced. Elections Supervisor Nettles stated that the equipment is under warranty with Dominion.

Vice Chair Bradford asked if a recount was going to happen since we have established that the problem is with the equipment? Have we adequately addressed the intent, as well as the perception, in this matter? Rachel Baldwin stated that she felt the intent of the situation had been addressed, but the perception portion of the situation has only been partially addressed.

Board Member Michaels expressed his concern that Ms. Baldwin felt there was still a question in her mind regarding the perception of the situation. Ms. Baldwin stated that she felt there should be more public participation in the process. She is concerned that the rules appear to require a Court Order in order to get a recount. Board Member Michaels asked for opinions from the candidates in the audience.

Steve Weinkle stated that he was confident that the scanner situation had been beat to death, but was not satisfied that the problem has been resolved.

James Goodman stated he agreed with Mr. Weinkle.

Martin Turner stated that he was satisfied with the election results, but was not opposed to a recount. He will support whatever the Board Members decide to do.

Board Member Bradford stated that she still felt that perception is reality and that they had fallen short on this point. She would like it to be recorded that this was an equipment issue.

Motion made by Anthony Kicklighter, seconded by Barbara Hahn, to address the Scanner issue and not to conduct a recount process.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **E. Important Upcoming Dates**

- Memorial Day Holiday (All County Offices Closed) – **May 30, 2022**
- May 24<sup>th</sup> Primary/Special Election Certification – **May 31, 2022**
- General Primary/Non-Partisan Runoff– **June 21, 2022**

**F. Additional Public Comments**

- Ben Goff (Harrietts Bluff) commented that there seemed to be a lack of communication between the public and the Elections Office. He had a hard time understanding the numbers discussed at the meeting. He feels that having a back-up system is very important to the process. You should trust, but verify and have more public input.
- Jim Goodman (St. Marys) stated his confidence in the Elections Office Staff and Board Members. He feels that calling for a recount is not a reflection on the staff and would improve the perception of the integrity of the process. If you don't hold a recount because it would reflect badly on the Elections Office, that not's right. The public has been treated badly for years. It is a mistake not to conduct a recount.
- Steve Weinkle thanked the Board for holding a two way conversation at this meeting.

**G. Adjournment**

Chair Rapp, after receiving no objections from the Board Members, adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Rapp, Chair

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shannon Nettles, Elections Supervisor