



Coweta County Board of Elections and Registration 87 Newnan Station Drive
Regular Meeting Session

Newnan, GA 30265
www.coweta.ga.us

770.254.2615

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

10:30 AM

Board Room

~ Minutes ~

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mae Reeves	District 5 - Chairman	Present	
Jane Scoggins	District 2 - Member	Present	
Wayne Farmer	District 3 - Member	Present	
Randy Wahoske	District 4 - Member	Absent	
Natasha Werner	District 1 - Member	Present	

The Board of Elections and Registration of Coweta County, Georgia met in Emergency Meeting Session on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Reeves called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

SPECIAL SESSION

1. Voter Challenge

Director Gay advised that the Voter Registration Office received a voter challenge under OCGA 21-2-229 from Shannon Marietta challenging 1457 Electors, however there were only 878 names on the spreadsheet submitted with the challenge. The challenge filed pursuant to O.C.G.A 21-2-229, provided a list of names with the stated challenge reasons of: National Change of Address in conjunction with one of the following: an application for new out-of-county homestead exemption; new out-of-county address in government database; having registered to vote in a new jurisdiction; or having a registered address not zoned for residential purpose. Director Gay advised that only a list of names was provided, no evidence to support the claims was included.

Attorney Michael Hill advised that the previous challenges this year under OCGA 21-2-230, were to determine if the electors can vote in the upcoming election. This challenge is filed under OCGA 21-2-229, which is not to prevent electors from voting in the upcoming election, but is to remove electors from the voter rolls who are ineligible to be on the voter rolls. The procedures are different as there is no probable cause requirement. He advised that the Code section states a hearing must be scheduled within 10 days following the filing of the challenge. The National Voter Registration Act prohibits systematic challenges within 90 days of a federal election but does not prohibit challenges based on individual inquiry. There is a 45 day rule in OCGA 21-2-230, in which no hearings can be scheduled, which is instructive with respect to OCGA 21-2-229. There is no way to hold the individualized inquiry within such a short period of time and this challenge is within the 90 day systematic prohibition window. There must be separate hearings, however the hearings do not need to be before the

November 5th Election or the December 3rd Run Off. There are also concerns with removal of electors just prior to the October 7, 2024 registration date and not allowing enough time for an erroneously removed elector to re-register. Attorney Hill proposed setting dates in January and February 2025 for the hearings. It was purposed that the board hold 110 hearings a day for 8 days.

Member Scoggins stated she does not want to risk making a mistake and removing someone from the rolls before the election.

Attorney Hill advised that during these hearings, the burden is on the challenger. The challenger is responsible for presenting the evidence as the Board is acting as a Judicial Body and should not be doing any investigation.

The board proposed the following dates. The hearings will be held at 10:00 AM in the Training Room at Coweta at Shenandoah at 87 Newnan Station Drive.

- January 15, 2025,
- January 16, 2025,
- January 22, 2025,
- January 23, 2025,
- January 29, 2025,
- January 30, 2025,
- February 3, 2025,
- February 4, 2025.

Chairman Reeves then called for a motion to go forward.

Motion: Set Hearing Dates and Authorize Elections Director to send out notices of hearing dates in alphabetical order in groupings of 110 electors per day.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jane Scoggins, District 2
SECONDER:	Wayne Farmer, District 3
AYES:	Reeves, Farmer, Scoggins, Werner Approved by a vote of 4-0

Attorney Hill advised that during the Hearings there will be a roll call of the 110 electors to see who is present or if any challenges have been withdrawn. Those that are not in attendance can be reviewed swiftly and then the Board can review the challenge for those that are in attendance.


Member Scoggins inquired if the challenger would have to present all the evidence. Attorney Hill confirmed this.

Motion: Adjournment.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Natasha Werner, District 1
SECONDER:	Jane Scoggins, District 2
AYES:	Reeves, Farmer, Scoggins, Werner Approved by a vote of 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Reeves adjourned meeting at 10:50 AM


Signature

9-11-2024
Date