**Meeting Minutes**

**Chatham County Board of Registrars**

**October 25, 2023**

The October 2023 Chatham County Board of Registrar’s meeting was called to order promptly by Board Chairman McRae followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board of Registrars in attendance were Mr. McRae, Mr. Norse, Ms. Durso and Ms. Geiger. Board Member Wanda Andrews was absent. The staff members in attendance were Director, Sabrina German and Staff members, Alicia Haywood, & Roger Owens.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the Board of Registrar’s meeting minutes for the month of September. Board Member Katherine Durso moved to approve the meeting minutes for September as provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Board Member William Norse seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**New Business**

Chairman McRae gave a brief update on the Law suit filed in connection with the District 2 county commission election.

**Special Election Runoff, October 17th District 2**

There were 38 Absentee Ballots mailed and 25 ballots were returned.

185 individuals voted during the early in-person period.

1,208 voted by mail, early in-person and on Election Day.

**Municipal Election, November 7th**

819 Absentee Ballots were mailed and 140 ballots were returned.

2,698 individuals have early voted.

The weekend volume was low with only 122 voters who voted at both locations.

There will be early voting this weekend October 28th and 29th.

November 3rd is the last day to early vote.

There are no lines. The voting process takes approximately 5 minutes.

Additional signage has been added to direct voters to the new location.

**Challenges**

Helen Strahl challenged the following individuals within their municipality:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| HUNTER, RUFUS | UPHELD |
| WRIGHT, ERNEST | UPHELD |

Board Member Durso commented on the possibility to do more to reach out to voters to notify them of challenges through emails and phone numbers.

**Registration Totals**

As reported by Director German, the totals are as follows for Chatham County:

227,537 Total

200,876 Active

26,139 Inactive

522 Pending

**Deletions**

Voter challenges presented were 605 felons, 0 deceased, and 0 requested to be removed from the voter list for a total of 605 voters challenged for the month October. These individuals received mailed notifications regarding their challenges. At 12:15 p.m., Chairman McRae asked if any of the people challenged were present or on the call. No one was present or on the call to object to any of the challenges. He entertained a motion to instruct staff to go ahead with deleting the challenged voters. Board member Norse made a motion to instruct staff to go ahead with deleting the challenged voters. Board member Geiger seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**Public Discussion**

Helen Strahl questioned if the meeting for next month will still take place the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Sandy Mentzel asked if the board members could introduced themselves. She also questioned if Board Member Norse was listed on the website.

Andrea Silverman stated that it was great to be able to listen in on the meeting. She also appreciates the work everyone is doing. She said the three-day time frame for challenges are kind of short. And it would be great if the Drivers Services form can be changed to include information so that it is easier to contact people. She like the idea of asking the Secretary of State to help make improvements to make sure that citizens are not deleted from the voter rolls inappropriately.

Mr. Massey wanted to say thank you for the work that the staff and board is doing to have smooth elections. He also wanted to make a comment regarding the additional information on the voter registration application and if it could be disclosed before deleting voters from the rolls. He believes state laws guide that process. Because personal phone numbers and personal emails are not subject to disclosure. So that may be one of the items we would have to work around.

Helen Strahl made an additional comment that she recently applied for her absentee ballot and the form did provide a place for her to enter her phone number and address. She feels the law needs to be changed to be able to use this information.

The meeting adjourned.