

PICKENS COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

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BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Immediately following Board of Canvassers Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Pickens County Administrative Building Conference Room

Opening:

Chairman Liddle called the meeting to order at 4:53 p.m.

Roll Call:

Jim Liddle	Amanda Bauknight	Ethan Cashwell	Dr. Amy Sams
Jim Schmutz	Bob Moody	Luke Campbell	Sharon Rausch

Agenda:

1. Minutes from May 2nd Regular Board Meeting approved. Cashwell made the motion to approve the minutes. Schmutz seconded. All in favor.
2. Time available for public comment
 - a. No comment from members of the public present.
3. Director's Report
 - a. Discussed City of Liberty Special Election. One experienced poll worker trained on clerk duties during early voting. Emergency polling location move due to flea infestation: Rices Creek and North Liberty moved from Rosewood Center to Liberty City Gym. New yellow "Polling Place Has Been Moved" signs placed at original polling place for each relocated precinct.
 - b. Discussed Easley City Council Ward 4 Special Election. Formal complaint against City of Easley Police Chief filed with SLED Election Crimes Division. SLED sent the complaint to the SEC. SEC sent it to Pickens County. Poll workers who served on Election Day will be notified of their option to pursue swearing out a warrant.
 - c. SEC is working with a non-profit group to create visor cards for police officers on duty on election days. Staff will continue to meet with law enforcement prior to future elections.
 - d. Reviewed outreach collaboration efforts at the Pickens Doodle Market and a Juneteenth Celebration. Several poll workers recruited. Discussed future outreach possibilities.

- e. Discussed EasyVote Asset Inventory System. Not used in Liberty Election due to lack of timely training. Will be used in November Municipal Elections.
 - f. Update on Voter Education Series with Libraries.
 - i. August 21st—Pickens: Voter Registration & Preparing to Vote
 - ii. August 28th—Liberty: Early, Absentee, & Accessible Voting
 - iii. September 11th—Easley: Voting Equipment
 - iv. September 18th—Central-Clemson: Canvassing & Certifying an Election
 - v. Libraries do a display on September 19th for National Voter Registration Day.
 - vi. Libraries have agreed to put information about the series on the library website. City of Liberty will post on their social media and website as well.
 - g. Candidate filing for November Municipal Elections opens at noon, July 18th and closes at noon, August 1st. Notice publication will come out in the Pickens County Courier next week. Candidates file with municipalities: Central, Easley, Liberty, Norris, Pickens, and Six Mile. Each candidate will receive a set of campaign guidelines when they file. Aerial view of 500' buffer for campaign materials for each polling location available on PickensElections.Org
 - h. New Precinct Secretary, Laura Johnston, hired. Started Monday, June 26th.
 - i. Discussed how often other counties' boards meet and their county supplement to board stipends
 - j. Reviewed polling location combinations. State law states that voters must vote at a polling location inside their precinct. SEC recommendation to send a letter to the delegation requesting that local legislation be passed by the legislature allowing the Board to approve the movement of polling locations when there is no suitable polling location available inside the precinct. Representative Collins, as chair of the Pickens County legislative delegation, has been contacted.
4. New Business
- a. The FY2024 budget was passed. A large portion of what was requested was approved, but not everything.
 - b. Bauknight attended SEC training in June. Lots of discussion on early voting for 2024 Presidential Preference Primaries. The Democratic Presidential Preference Primary will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024. SC GOP has proposed that Saturday, February 24th, 2024, be the date for the Republican Presidential Preference Primary but is waiting for approval from the RNC. Parties determine early voting dates and times for PPPs.
 - c. Liddle met with Administrator Roper to discuss the budget. Voter Registration & Elections Office may get more and/or better space for election equipment due to the county having ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money that needs to be spent by the end of the year.
 - d. Campbell inquired about the possibility of an additional sign to remind voters at each precinct to check their ballot before placing it in the scanner. Dr. Sams will emphasize this reminder in poll worker training and check into sign options.

Bauknight made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Moody seconded. All in favor.