



# *Board of Elections & Registrations* *Irwin County Georgia*

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*Waymond Harris, Chairman*

*Ethan Compton, Election Supervisor*

*Charlene Hutchinson, Republican Party Representative / Vice-Chair*

*Patricia Thurman, Democratic Party Representative*

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## **Board Meeting Minutes**

Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 4:00pm

Call to Order: *Invocation and Pledge led by Chairman Harris*

Approval of Minutes: *Vice-Chair Hutchinson motions to approve the minutes as written, Rep. Thurman seconds the motion, minutes are approved unanimously.*

### Old Business:

1. Results of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 PPP and Special Election Audit
  - a. All 3 contests on all 981 ballots were hand tallied by members of the Irwin County Republican and Democratic Parties, with both the total number of ballots cast as well as the contents of said ballots representing a true, accurate and perfect match between the tallies of those hand and machine counts.
2. Updates on progress on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 General Primary and Special Election Preparations
  - a. Ballot proofs have been provided for county proofreading, and the first two sets of proofs were returned with errors requiring correction, with incorrect pronunciation of names of candidates in the audio ballots for blind voters as well as a large portion of the county's incumbent candidates lacking that proper label as required by law. The third set of ballot proofs were sent, proofread and given approval on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - b. Our printed ballots and elections project were provided to us on April 4<sup>th</sup>, and work is underway to prepare for Logic and Accuracy Testing which is to be held beginning at 10am April 16<sup>th</sup> until completed.

- c. Voter registrations are being completed to ensure all are processed in time for the registration cutoff date of April 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to prevent any backlogs potentially interfering with their participation in the May election.
  - i. Two new voters have registered in Irwin County after becoming naturalized citizens, and one of them has signed on to be a poll worker with us.
  - ii. Our office has been able to leverage the cooperation the Irwin County School District has been having with us so coordinate the ESPLOST in March in order to finally swear in both the High School Principal and Senior Guidance Councilors as Deputy Registrars and they have already been assisting all students at the high school 17 ½ and older with registering to vote, in the two weeks of our new partnership, providing our office with 8 new voter registrations.

New Business:

- 1. Announcement of details for May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 General Primary and Special Election Results Audit
  - a. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, to adjust to recently passed changes to open records laws concerning ballot images and skeptical of the Georgia General Assembly's authority to pass legislation capable of nullifying court seals of documents without a judge's order, will hold a ballot scanning ceremony that is open to the public to observe during our process of preparing sub-batches of ballots for the Risk-Limiting Audit, at which time we will scan all ballots in a higher resolution of 600dpi or more as mandated by such laws using a desktop scanner reappropriated to the elections office from the county commission administrative staff who were no longer using it. By adjusting our procedures slightly, we have been able to accommodate a law change many other counties have seen as unbearably onerous with no additional time or financial cost.
  - b. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, we will perform a full Hand Tally Audit of all ballots cast in the May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 election, as the Secretary of State's Office is not required to perform such a statewide audit for this election, and as such we will not need to follow any of their procedures on top of the additional ones we've put in place to perform 100% audits.
    - i. We will need three volunteers from each county party for this day, expected to last from 9am until noon.
    - ii. This audit will be more streamlined than the one from March, as the two contests selected for audit are contests present on each and every ballot regardless of party and there is only one set of tally sheets needing to be filled out by each audit team per batch, as opposed to two from the March audit.
    - iii. Nonetheless, to be conservative with time estimates and due to the expanded number of ballots that will be likely to be cast for the May 21<sup>st</sup> election, the time estimate has been expanded to take place from 9am until noon for this instance, affording another hour since the March audit ran roughly 40 minutes over our estimated time.
- 2. Elections Legislative Update
  - a. A number of changes have been passed for elections, and a summary of them has been provided.

Public Comment:

N/A

Board Comment:

*Chairman Harris inquired if our office tracks the political affiliations of our poll workers. Supervisor Compton responded that there have been court rulings in the last few years against metro Atlanta counties attempting to ask those questions on their poll worker applications and those questions have been found to be discriminatory, so no, our office does not possess a list of our poll workers' political affiliations.*

Executive Session:

Executive Session: Entered executive session @ \_\_\_\_\_ due to request by \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss:

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Exited executive session @ \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Adjourned: *Vice-Chair Hutchinson motions to adjourn, Rep. Thurman seconds, all members voted to adjourn at 4:17pm.*

1. Next Meeting: Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5:15pm – Certification of May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 General Primary and Special Election Results