

Catoosa County Board of Elections and Registration
April 9, 2024 Minutes

Call to Order

The Catoosa County Board of Elections and Registration met on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 4:00 PM at the Freedom Center. Ron Mckelvy called the meeting to order and opened with prayer and pledge. Jennifer Motter called roll. All members were present; Marvin Cornelison was present by phone.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Jennifer Motter
Second: Nina Crawford
All approved

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from:
Mar 15, 2024 Regular Meeting
Mar 15, 2024 Mar 15, 2024 Certification Meeting
Mar 27, 2024 Mar 27, 2024 Executive Session Special Called meeting
Apr 2, 2024 Executive Session Hearing

Motion: Nina Crawford
Second: Tommy Davis

Old Business

- City of Ringgold-nothing to report
- City of Fort Oglethorpe-nothing to report
- PPP/SPLOST Election March 12, 2024-complete
- Risk Limiting Audit- complete
- Hearing for challenges held on Apr 2, 2024-complete

New Business

- May 21, 2024 , General Primary/Non-Partisan/Special Election-Discussion of calendar and upcoming events
 - Upcoming Poll worker trainings April 11, 23, and 26
 - L&A Testing
 - Mon 4/15 Tommy
 - Tues 4/16 Ron
 - Wed 4/17 Jennifer
 - Thurs 4/18 Marvin
 - Fri 4/19 Jennifer
 - Sat 5/11 Deliver Machines- Nina
 - Sat 5/18 Poll Pad update 12pm- Nina
 - Sun 5/19 6pm Absentee
 - Mon 5/20 4pm Absentee
 - Tues 5/21 Election Day- all board members will be available at the Freedom Center throughout the day
 - Tues 5/28 10am Certify
 - June is scheduled out, will confirm at May 14, 2024 regular meeting

- BOE attorney representation discussion
 - Motion to explore new representation due to conflict of interest between county attorneys, BOC and BOE: Jennifer Motter
Second: Tommy Davis-WITHDRAWN

- P&L Statement
- Misc. Topics
- No Hearing
- Next regular meeting May 14, 2024

Public Comments

- Christine Lawson provided 4 documents for the Board
 - Conflict of interest Rule 1.7 - concerned the BOE is getting bad legal advice, advising both BOC and BOE with the BOE being decision-makers
 - The hearing last week violated OCGA 50-14-1, Open Meetings Act. An agenda should have been made available. Problems with compliance. The remedy for these violations is that any decisions made are void.
 - The First Amendment still applies regardless of whether GOP rules are "certified" or not. OCGA 21-2-6: BOE on its own motion can bring challenges.

- Certification. No attorney at the hearing defined “certified.” Christine offered a definition by the Justia Law dictionary and explained that verifying and certifying are not the same.
- Mary Beth Bugea
 - Referred the BOE to the movie “Let My People Go”
 - Will provide the BOE with information on how to conduct hand counts from both Democrats and Republicans as it is not a Red vs. Blue issue.
 - First Amendment Rights were denied by both Judge Thompson and the BOE.
 - Problems with the 4/2 hearing: not a public hearing, challengers treated as though they were on trial, prejudice against GOP, certification definition problems.
- Charlie Lamar
 - BOE trampled on the First Amendment; arguments on certification superseded it.
 - The deck was stacked against GOP. Attorneys should have also been sworn in. Candidates knew the rules, and the rules were valid. The judges recused themselves. It was a hearing of professionals vs. citizens. For the BOE it was a vote against the Constitution.
- Nancy Dwyer
 - Catoosa County GOP leaders are being persecuted.
 - The vetting process was the right thing as many voters don’t have time to keep up with the candidates. People depend on the GOP to do that work.
 - Voters see the corruption of Catoosa County.
 - As for the hearing, laws were broken and there was unfair treatment. But Jesus saw that hearing. Prov. 19:32 and Ps. 31:19,20
- Jim Coles
 - Concurs with everything said.
 - 2022 Williamson TN: poll workers found QR Code failure and fought to investigate. Ultimately it led to the governor removing Dominion Systems.
 - Mitchell Horner put forth legislation to get rid of QR codes. Jim mentioned the need for security-grade, hand-marked, hand-counted, paper ballots.
 - This July, open records requests will allow average citizens to look at election results.
 - 2022 DeKalb County: Spears received no votes but won the race. This never would have happened on paper, hand-counted ballots.
 - Consider going to emergency procedures right now, with paper ballots in May.
- Adrienne Kittle
 - Liberty and Freedom died at this Board’s hands last week.

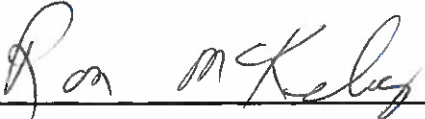
- CC Republican Party exercised its First Amendment right and this Board trampled on it.
- Chairman Mckelvy did not conduct the hearing fairly; there were problems with video/audio recordings and closing arguments.
- Ken Smith
 - No conflict with BOE and lawyers.
 - Republicans divide, Democrats stick together
 - Trump won on the machines.
 - Appreciation for the board.
- Shirley Henson
 - Thankful for all in attendance.
 - Reminded the Board that votes used to be counted on courthouse steps
 - No lawyers to represent the citizens at the 4/2 hearing. It was like a courtroom trial, with no videos etc.
 - Our county needs to do things in an upright way.

Executive Session

- The BOE moved to an executive session around 5:17 PM.
- A separate set of minutes was kept for this session.

Adjournment


Motion to adjourn: Jennifer Motter
 Second: Tommy Davis



 Ron Mckelvy, Chairman




 Marvin Cornelison



 Nina Crawford, Vice Chairman

 Thomas Davis


Jennifer Motter, Secretary

