Board of Voter Registration & Elections

Regular Meeting

Richland County Administration Building

April 14, 2022 at 12:30 P.M.

In Attendance

Board Members

Mrs. Anjanette D. President

Mrs. Yolanda Y. Taylor

Mr. Benjamin A. Dunn

Mrs. Shelia E. Washington

Staff

Ms. Alexandria Stephens

Mr. Terry Graham, Sr.

Ms. Elaine Pilot

Ms. Sheron Harris

Ms. Christina Frye

Mr. Mario Gleaton

Ms. Michelle D. Harrington

Call to Order:

Mrs. President called the meeting to order on April 14, 2022 at 12:30 P.M. and asked for a Moment of Meditation.

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved (Mrs. Washington) and properly seconded (Mrs. Taylor) to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved (Mrs. Washington) and properly seconded (Mr. Dunn) to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2022 and March 17, 2022 meetings. The vote was unanimous.

The Bylaws were discussed, and all agreed to read over them to see if any changes needed to be made. Mrs. President requested the Bylaws be sent to the Board.

Director’s Report:

Ms. Stephens stated HB Bill 49-19 was still on the table and changes were made. Initially, a County of our size should have had at least seven Early Voting sites. Now each County may choose to have a minimum of one and a maximum of seven sites. The SEC will reimburse for a certain amount of workers per voting site. Mrs. Harris has looked at several locations that will allow one Saturday for early voting. Voting will take place on the Saturday prior to the election. The hours for early voting changed to regular business hours.

There is an item on the table to open outer Absentee envelopes beginning Sunday prior to an election. The inner envelopes will still be opened on Election Day at 7:00 A.M.

Redistricting has been finalized and error reports have been received from the SEC, and the office is working to ensure the codes are correct. The office collaborated with GIS about County Council, concerning split precincts that needed to be put into their correct districts. The SEC will then begin to load the database into the Voting and Elections System.

Richland School District Two has twenty-six locations that are not available for our use. The School District is re-evaluating that decision. Summer school will be in session, and we are waiting for an update from Will Anderson in District 2 to determine how to move forward.

Open Enrollment for Poll Workers will take place for two weeks. Director Stephens and Precinct Coordinator Lakeisha Diggs met with IT to find a simpler way for candidates to submit their applications. One option was to use DocuSign and uploading their IDs securely on the website. The other option is to submit the application and bring their IDs to the Office to be photocopied. Director Stephens is also looking into using Poll Management Systems such as Integra and Easy Vote. The SEC is currently using Integra for Security Management. If the office uses Integra, asset management, Poll Worker Management System and Equipment Inventory could be managed in one place. Easy Vote is the less expensive option and allows the person to receive text messages and phone calls for updates.

Director Stephens will attend a Budgeting meeting on April 26, 2022 to request funds to assist Precinct and Election Systems Divisions.

Absentee Services has not received many requests to vote Absentee. Voters could be waiting to see if the Bill passes before they take action. Absentee Services is prepared for 30 days of Absentee Voting and two weeks of early voting. There will likely be a runoff on June 28, 2022 due to the number of candidates on the ballot. All divisions are prepared for the primaries and runoff at this time. Temporary workers have been hired for Absentee services, Precincts and Election Systems. Absentee Services also has to new employees.

Old and New Business:

There was noold or new business to discuss.

Board & Director Comments:

Mrs. Washington asked if the Board could share Open Enrollment information via social media. Director Stephens said that would be great. There will be Voter Registration opportunities at local events in the next two weeks, including collaborating with Lexington County. Mrs. Washington also inquired about speaking with Richland School District Two’s Superintendent in regards to the twenty-six locations that were not available for polling locations.

Mrs. Taylor offered to help the office and thanked the Staff for their hard work. Director Stephens asked the Board to visit the office to help during election time.

Executive Session:

No session was needed.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Adjournment:

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. There was no further discussion.