



Board of Elections & Registrations Irwin County Georgia

Waymond Harris, Chairman

Ethan Compton, Election Supervisor

Patricia Thurman, Democratic Party Representative / Vice-Chair

Wyatt Thompson, Republican Party Representative

Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 24th, 2026 @ 4pm

Call to Order: Called to order @ 4:26pm

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Compton asked the Board to consider introducing a motion to relax the agenda in order to add a Recap of the Recount as well as Voter Challenges to the meeting agenda. Member Thompson motions to do so, Vice-Chair Thurman seconds, passed 2-0.

Approval of Minutes: Member Thompson motions to approve minutes as presented, Vice-Chair Thurman seconds, approved 2-0.

Old Business: Recount Recap: The results of the May Public Service Commission District 3(R) Recount were a true and perfect match to the original results so no recertification of that contest is necessary.

New Business:

1. FY 27 Budget

- a. As requested in our last meeting, the budget has been revisited in order to add funds for technological investments in polling place security.
- b. After a month of searching and asking other counties for what solutions they use or considered, only the Runbeck Emergency Support Technology from Runbeck Election Services remained viable.
- c. Runbeck is the same company that facilitated our purchase of the FlexMet Voting Hub cabinets we currently use in Irwinville, but they have since partnered with Response Technologies to provide Mobile GPS Panic Button Systems for polling places, as well as a robust ballot on demand printing solution that will likely be considered as a part of our next voting system in 2028.
- d. Equipping Irwinville and Ocilla's polling places with 2 panic buttons each (in case the operator is in the restroom or otherwise indisposed during an incident) will initially cost \$4,500 on this

budget including the equipment, set-up and dashboard integration as well as the annual subscription.

- i. This service comes with a 5-year agreement where next year's subscription will be \$1,032, then \$1,064, then \$1,096 then finally \$1,128.
- ii. When not in use during elections, these units can be reassigned as general panic buttons staff throughout the Irwin County Administrative Building can use for emergency response to keep this whole building safer year-round.
- iii. Supervisor Compton intends to apply for GEMA grant reimbursement or funding of future years' subscription fees if possible for this expense, but it would still need to be budgeted for in case the grants do not come through.

Member Thompson motions to approve budget as presented, Vice-Chair Thurman seconds, budget approved 3-0.

2. 2026 General Assembly Special Session impacts on November Election

- a. On June 20th, an amendment to SB 3EX was added on the Senate floor to mandate mandatory hand recounts for the top two contests on every election ballot to be completed before county certification, and then it narrowly passed the Senate. On June 23rd, the House Committee on Governmental Affairs introduced an amendment to SB 3EX removing the mandatory hand recounts for the top two contests for every election and instead mandating hand recounts for the following offices if they fall within the 0.5% threshold to otherwise trigger an electronic recount, and only if they are one of the top two contests on the ballot:
 - i. Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Commissioner of Labor.
- b. The state will pay counties to perform these hand recounts and they would take place after county certification but before state certification, providing nearly 17 days in which to accomplish the task if it were to be needed.
- c. SB 3EX as amended by the House also creates an Election Equipment Specifications and Standards Committee that shall investigate and create a report recommending specifications, standards and requirements for the General Assembly and Secretary of State to consider next year when acquiring a new voting system before the 2028 election cycle.
 - i. The Georgia Association for Voter Registration and Election Officials' Executive Board have submitted a letter unanimously recommending Supervisor Compton to be one of the three electors of the state to be appointed to said Committee by Governor Kemp.
- d. To allow proper time to assess, test, acquire and train on new equipment, the QR code removal deadline at stated in SB 189 of 2024 has been postponed to instead go into effect on January 1st, 2028 instead of its prior effective date of July 1st, 2026.
- e. This bill still has the changes to how to conduct Risk Limiting Audits within it discussed last month, greatly increasing the number of contests we will need to audit moving forward.
 - i. For November, the following 7 contests will be audited by state law:
 1. US Senate

2. US Representative

3. Governor

4. Lt. Governor

5. Secretary of State

6. Attorney General

7. One selected contest from:

a. State School Superintendent

b. Commissioner of Insurance

c. Commissioner of Agriculture

d. Commissioner of Labor

e. Public Service Commission District 3

f. Public Service Commission District 5

ii. Supervisor Compton, in collaboration with GAVREO, is in contact with elections officials across the state and nation to acquire new best practices with how they conduct their own audits with multiple contests on the ballot and will make best practice recommendations to other counties and the Secretary of State's Office on how to most efficiently comply with the new guidelines in the coming months, well in time before the November elections.

f. This amended version of SB 3EX passed both the House and Senate with comfortable margins and was signed into law by Governor Kemp.

3. Voter Challenges

a. As we've mentioned since late March, despite multiple attempts to contact the 9 voters registered in a single-family home on Rainbow Drive for 4 months now, we have received no response.

i. Supervisor Compton asks the Board to initiate a challenge of all 9 registrants under O.C.G.A. §21-2-228.

Member Thompson motions to initiate challenge procedures against the 9 registrants registered at the same address on Rainbow Drive, Vice-Chair Thurman seconds, passed 3-0.

b. In addition, there are 13 voters who have newer voter registrations on file in other states that have recently been shared with us.

i. 12 of which have already been moved to inactive status due to filing permanent change of address requests with USPS, with one due to be moved to inactive for the same reason after the next wave of NCOA notices are mailed out.

ii. All of these persons have newer, active voter registrations in their new states of residence and processing these challenges will not impact their ability to vote but simply clean their outdated records from our lists to better withstand scrutiny of our records and inspire confidence.

iii. Supervisor Compton asks the Board to initiate a challenge of all 13 registrants under

O.C.G.A. §21-2-228.

Member Thompson motions to initiate challenge proceedings against the 13 individuals with newer voter registrations and NCOA records in other states, Vice-Chair Thurman seconds, passed 3-0.

- c. All persons challenged tonight will be mailed notices and their challenges will be determined at our next meeting.

Public Comment:

Board Comment:

Executive Session:

Meeting Adjourned: Next Meeting: 4pm August 4th, 2026

Vice-Chair Thurman motions to adjourn, Member Thompson seconds, meeting adjourned @4:45pm.
