



Board of Elections & Registrations



Irwin County Georgia

Waymond Harris, Chairman

Ethan Compton, Election Supervisor

Charlene Hutchinson, Republican Party Representative / Vice-Chair

Patricia Thurman, Democratic Party Representative

Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 24th, 2024 @ 5:15pm

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

Individuals Present: *Waymond Harris, Charlene Hutchinson, Patricia Thurman, Ethan Compton, Evelyn Romans.*

Approval of Minutes: *Vice-Chair Hutchinson moves to accept the minutes as presented, Rep. Thurman seconds the motion, motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.*

Old Business: *N/A*

New Business:

1. Certification of Results of May 21st, 2024 General Primary, Nonpartisan General and Special Election.
 - a. The results are attached to the minutes, and each contest and the total cast votes for each option for each contest must be read aloud prior to certification.

Vice-Chair Hutchinson motions to certify the election results as read, Rep. Thurman seconds, results unanimously certified and signed.
2. Planned Audit of Results of May 21st, 2024 General Primary, Nonpartisan General and Special Election.
 - a. While the original plan was to audit 2 contests on the ballot which will be on every ballot, we have been asked by members of the Irwin County Republican Party to perform a full audit of every contest on the ballot, including unopposed candidates and non-binding straw poll

questions.

- b. After discussing the practicability of such an audit, the security complications involved with ballot chain of custody that are compounded exponentially each time they need to be accessed, as they would need to be many times over the course of such a lengthy audit as a full ballot audit for this election which would take at least three full days, we countered with expanding our audit to only covering opposed contests and ignoring the straw poll questions, for a total of 9 contests being audited:
 - i. Irwin County Probate Judge
 - ii. Southern Regional Commission Transportation Investment Act
 - iii. U.S. House of Representatives District 8- Democrat
 - iv. Georgia House of Representatives District 169- Republican
 - v. Irwin County Commission Chair- Republican
 - vi. Irwin County Commission District 1- Republican
 - vii. Irwin County Board of Education District 4
 - viii. Georgia Court of Appeals (To replace the Hon. Judge Miller)
 - ix. Georgia Supreme Court Justice (To replace the Hon. Justice Pinson)
- c. Due to elections law changes signed into law on May 6th, with an immediate effective date, mandating that the top contest on each ballot shall be audited statewide for every election, an additional two contests are being added to the audit for a total of 11 contests being audited on every ballot:
 - i. U.S. House of Representatives District 8- Republican
 - ii. Georgia Supreme Court Justice (To replace the Hon. Justice Boggs)
- d. Each county political party will supply 8 auditors and the Irwin County Commission has offered use of their meeting room for the audit to prevent the security risk of transporting all voted ballots for this election to an alternative location.
- e. Given the increased number of races being audited and the increased number of ballots to audit, even with the increased amount of auditing teams we are giving the audit an increased timeframe of 9am until Noon and 2pm until 4pm on Thursday May 30th, with current estimates being that the audit will be completed shortly after 3pm if all goes well.
- f. With these changes to the frequency and scope of post-election audits moving forward, it is Supervisor Compton's request that this Board investigate over the next two months the feasibility of establishing an Audit Special Committee.
 - i. This Special Committee would be tasked with coordinating with the Irwin County Democratic and Republican Parties to have a list of willing, party approved volunteer auditors at the ready for each election.
 - ii. They would also be able to communicate to our Board both parties' desired scope for each audit (how many contests, what contests, etc) for our Board to come to a decision upon for each election.
 - iii. If we chose to establish such a Special Committee, we would need to find a person

interested in being Chair of said committee as well as establishing how many members that committee would need and finding those members for it.

Vice-Chair Hutchinson expresses concerns that we lack the required number of volunteers to be able to maintain such a Special Committee and has expressed opposition to forming it as such.

Public Comment: N/A

Board Comment: *Supervisor Compton wishes to enter into the record the fact that for the May 21st, 2024 General Primary, Nonpartisan General and Special Election, Irwin County was congratulated by the Georgia Secretary of State's Office for being the first county in Georgia to completely tally and report their results on election night.*

Vice-Chair Hutchinson commented that everything they observed went smoothly, the newly completed parking lot looks good and added that one improvement she noticed was that the entrance door could act as a chokepoint, that while well-mitigated through posting staff at the door to direct traffic, could only clog the doorway further if too many workers were assigned to that task.

Representative Thurman commented that she was proud of our work.

The members of the board agreed that the office staff should consider efficient deployment and placement of additional Poll Pads for the increased traffic expected in November.

Executive Session: ~~Entered executive session @ _____ due to request by _____ to discuss:~~

~~Exited executive session @ _____~~

Meeting Adjourned: *Vice-Chair Hutchinson motions to adjourn, Rep. Thurman seconds, board unanimously votes to adjourn @ 6:07pm.*

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 11th, 2024 @ 4:00pm