



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 Outline

Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 @ 4pm

Call to Order: *Led by Waymond*

Approval of Minutes: *Vice-Chair Hutchinson motions to approve the minutes as presented, Rep. Thurman seconds, minutes approved 3-0.*

Old Business: *N/A*

New Business:

1. November Election Updates
 - a. Poll Workers have been trained, Absentee by Mail ballots have been issued and we have received no damage from Hurricane Helene besides one window at the Irwinville Community Center that has required boarding up which may or may not be replaced in time for Election Day. Everything remains on schedule.
 - b. Neither party has submitted letters for Poll Watchers for Absentee ~~by Mail~~ *In Person* voting, so there will be no Poll Watchers for that period.
 - i. October 29th is the Poll Watcher designation deadline for election day for political parties. This is just letting us know who they will be.
 - ii. November 2nd is the Poll Watcher designation letter deadline for election day.
 1. This is where we will need to receive a letter either in person or by email where

the Candidate or Party affirms:

- a. The identity of the Poll Watcher, listing their name and address;
 - b. Where that Poll Watcher is assigned, either Ocilla or Irwinville;
 - c. And that the Poll Watcher was given training regarding their powers, responsibilities and restrictions, either via the official Secretary of State's office handbooks I handed each board member a few months ago or via party specific training.
- c. Early Voting starts Tuesday October 15th at 8am and will continue Monday through Saturday 8am to 5pm until November 1st at 5pm.
- d. Board members need to be in our office by 5pm on Election Day November 5th.
- i. At 5pm, we will close the Early Voting Scanner and the results from that scanner will be kept in a sealed envelope in the Election Server room until their reveal at 7pm.
 1. The results from Early Voting will be uploaded into the Election Management Server and not published for viewing until 7pm, while their ballots will be counted by members of the Board into stacks of 50, with each member having to confirm the count of each batch to keep in line with State Elections Board Rules.
 - ii. At 6pm, Board members, or their substitutes as delegated by their respective county parties, shall be sworn in as our Adjudication, Duplication and Absentee by Mail processing panels.
 1. We will then process absentee ballots, confirming that required signatures, identifying information and office staff date/timestamp and certification signatures are present on the oath envelopes, removing the ballot secrecy envelopes, shuffle the secrecy envelopes then open those, removing the ballots within into stacks of 25.
 2. Ballots needing adjudication or duplication will be addressed after processing of all other ballots as needed.
 3. Those ballots will then be scanned in and their results made known at the closing of polls at 7pm or when completed, whichever is later.
 - iii. All Early Voting and Absentee by Mail ballots (except for unreturned UOCAVA and uncured Provisional ballots) must be counted and fully reported before 8pm on Election Day by new state law.
- e. As polls close at 7pm, Poll Workers will close the precinct as swiftly as possible within the confines of the law, and the results for the Ocilla precinct on Election Day will be made available a few minutes after 7pm.
- i. Once the Ocilla precinct is closed, office staff will ensure public order while allowing the general public into the voting area to be able to observe the Election Supervisor while working in the Elections Management Server room through the provided window.
 - ii. Poll watchers have this expanded access into the voting area at all times during Election Day.

- f. Results will be posted in the following order, first provided to those present on paper then sent electronically to the Secretary of State's Office for online statewide posting:
 - i. Early Voting and all processed Absentee by Mail @7pm
 - ii. The above, plus any additionally processed Absentee by Mail and Ocilla's Election Day @7:05-7:10pm
 - iii. The above, plus any remaining to process Absentee by Mail and Irwinville's Election Day- ELECTION NIGHT COMPLETE @ 7:15-7:45pm
 - iv. One finalized upload of results will be printed and sent to the state for publishing after certification, including any cured provisional ballots and any UOCAVA ballots that arrived after Election Day but before 5pm November 8th, as required to be accepted by federal law.
- g. Board members will be required to meet in our office at 3pm on Friday November 8th in order to jointly review the Ballot Recap forms for each precinct, the Scanner Recap forms for each precinct and the Numbered List of Voters for each precinct to check for inconsistencies, as well as to review any other documentation in order to provide for better confidence for the vote for certification at the regular meeting to be held that same day at 5:15pm.

Public Comment: N/A

Board Comment:

Rep. Thurman inquired as to the current status of the State Election Board's Ballot Count Rule. Supervisor Compton replied that while the rule is currently being challenged in court, it is in our best interest to make preparations to comply.

Chairman Harris asked if the same procedure would be followed on Election Night 2020, where a representative provided by the Georgia Democratic Party replaced our Board's Democratic representative for Absentee by Mail Processing, Ballot Duplication and Ballot Adjudication. Supervisor Compton expressed his limited understanding of the event, and that it was most likely due to the Irwin County Democratic Party's status of being unrecognized by the Georgia Democratic Party at that time, which is no longer the case. Supervisor Compton knows of no rule or law that would permit this to happen again, and reiterates that he has had no communication with the Georgia Democratic Party regarding such a matter.

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, meeting adjourned 3-0 at 5:13pm.*

1. Next Meetings:

1. Friday, November 8th, 2024 @ 3:00pm *Review and Reconciliation of Returns for the November 5th, 2024 Presidential General and Special Election*
2. Friday, November 8th, 2024 @ 5:15pm *Certification of Results of the November 5th, 2024 Presidential General and Special Election*