



# *Board of Elections & Registrations*



## *Irwin County Georgia*

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*Waymond Harris, Chairman*

*Ethan Compton, Election Supervisor*

*Charlene Hutchinson, Republican Party Representative / Vice-Chair*

*Patricia Thurman, Democratic Party Representative*

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### **Board Meeting Minutes**

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 3pm

Call to Order: @3pm

New Business:

1. November 5<sup>th</sup> General and Special Election Paperwork Review and Numbered Voter List Reconciliation
  - a. To comply with newly passed, then overturned, and pending appeal State Elections Board rules, although this county's board members have unrestricted access to all elections documents not currently under court seal, this is the first of two meetings to be held today, specifically to have this Board compare the Numbered Voter List totals per precinct as generated from Poll Pad voter certificates with those from the voter registration system's number of voters given credit for voting, compared to the totals per precinct of votes cast in the election system results.
  - b. These are all checks done every election, but normally done informally as we confirm receipt of these reports are they are downloaded or printed, then reported to the Secretary of State's Office within a month of the election.

*Checked, confirmed correct, all paperwork made available to board for pre-certification review.*

Board Comment:

*N/A*

Meeting Adjourned: @4pm



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### **Board Meeting Minutes**

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5:15pm

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

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

Old Business: *N/A*

New Business:

1. November 5<sup>th</sup> General and Special Election Certification
  - a. The results of each contest on the ballot shall be read
  - b. A vote to certify the results of Irwin County's returns for the November 5<sup>th</sup> General and Special Election shall be held, all dissenting members shall provide their reasoning in writing for records retention, and if the vote passes, all board members shall sign the certifying document. If the vote does not pass, a call for a special called emergency meeting shall be made beginning exactly 24 hours from the time of the majority dissenting vote, where we shall hold another vote to certify and in the meanwhile work to address any reasons for not voting to certify at this time.
    - i. Upon certification, the Winner's Certificates for each local winning candidate shall be prepared.

- ii. With this election certified and its results final, Supervisor Compton would wish to request recognition of the staff of the Ocilla Post Office for their service in this election.
  1. Throughout the entirety of the Absentee by Mail ballot issuance period, their staff has gone above and beyond to ensure as swift of delivery as possible for ballots in the wake of Hurricane Helene's devastation to our region and issues within the national United States Postal Service's sorting facilities.
  2. They have made multiple deliveries each day to our office if needed to deliver ballots in their possession and in the case of local ballots to and from voters, their delivery time varied from the same to next day.
  3. Ballots were mailed to soldiers in Texas, North Carolina, Germany and the Middle East and to citizens working in far flung regions varying from Singapore to Spain to the Artic Circle to Israel. And in the span of a month, their ballots were delivered, they were voted on and they were returned to be counted. Only a single domestic ballot failed to be returned to our office in time for Election Night, which was far better than previous elections. No matter where the citizens of Irwin County were on this Earth, their voices were heard here in Ocilla and counted, natural disaster or not.

*Rep Thurman motions to certify the results of the Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Election, Vice-Chair Hutchinson seconds, vote to certify passes 3-0*

*Supervisor Compton added that only 1 civilian Absentee by Mail ballot was unreturned to our office by the deadline, which was requested by a voter out of state on the final day to request an Absentee by Mail Ballot, and that 3 UOCAVA overseas ballots remained unreturned by the deadline, all from overseas voters.*

## 2. Post Election Updates

- a. After the election is locally certified, the next post-election steps are as follows:
  - i. After this meeting concludes, an Official and Complete Certified copy of the results will be uploaded to the statewide results reporting website and a copy of the certification document and Official and Complete Results Reports will be emailed to the Secretary of State's Office. They will also be posted in our lobby, on the county website and at the courthouse.
  - ii. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, the Official and Complete Results of the SPLOST referendum, a copy of the referenda ballot text, a copy of the City and County resolutions ordering this referendum and a copy of the public notice of the referendum shall be sent to the GA Department of Revenue, to Ocilla City Hall and the Irwin County Commission to prepare for *when it* will take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
  - iii. All ballot images from all ballots cast shall be uploaded tonight to a Georgia Secretary of State's Office open records database, where they will be available for all members of the public to inspect and will be used in a statewide image audit of all ballots cast compared to the results. On November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am within our office, we will manually review all ballots from that image audit that require additional review.
  - iv. November 14<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for a candidate to request a recount, if the margin is close

enough to call for one. The date and time for such a recount if it is called will be announced by the Secretary of State.

- v. November 18<sup>th</sup> at 9am is when we will start our Risk Limiting Audit, where 6 volunteers supplied by the Irwin County Republican and Democratic Parties will form teams to hand count all batches selected by the Secretary of State's Office for auditing for all selected contests, as well as all ballots for all contests which meet the additional auditing standards within our Board's Bylaws.

- 1. The Irwin County Commission District 3 contest meets the conditions to be fully hand audited.

- a. Due to the districts this contest is on, Election Day ballots for the Irwinville precinct will not be part of this full hand-audit since this contest is not on any ballots for the Irwinville precinct.

- vi. At a classified date and time, Supervisor Compton will hand deliver the official results and all records belonging within the Georgia Archives in custody of the Secretary of State to a designated member of law enforcement at a classified location, in a container that only our office and the Secretary of State possess the keys for. That member of law enforcement shall then hand carry that container to the Georgia Archives.
      - vii. December 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to send the final report for this election: a Reconciliation Report comparing the number of voters per precinct given credit, separated by early voting, election day, provisional and absentee by mail, versus the election system records. Although the State Elections Board rules mandating additionally posting this report in the office and on the county website were overturned in court, Supervisor Compton would wish to voluntarily post this information in the spirit of complete transparency, as nothing within this report is exempt from open records. That report is ready today, with zero discrepancies present for this election.
      - viii. At the conclusion of this election cycle, Supervisor Compton would like to hold an appreciation holiday party for the Poll Workers who served Irwin County through an eventful and obstacle-filled year. We are still deciding on an exact date and time, but between December 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> would be preferable.

### 3. End of Board Member Term Reminders

- a. By our Board's founding legislation and charter, as passed in 2013, all board members serve two-year terms that coincide with the terms of members of the General Assembly, meaning that their terms will expire and/or begin in January of each odd numbered year when the General Assembly begins session. Board members are specifically allowed in our charter to serve an unlimited number of terms.
  - i. As such, the Irwin County Republican and Democratic Parties need to meet and nominate their respective Board of Elections and Registrations representatives for presentation to the Irwin County Commission for confirmation in their December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in order to be in place for term renewals in January 2025.
  - ii. In addition, the Chair of the Board needs to be confirmed for the new term by the Irwin

County Commission during their December meeting in order to be ready for term renewals in January 2025.

*Vice-Chair Hutchinson motions to recommend to the Irwin County Commission that they renew Chairman Harris for another 2 year term, Pat seconds, recommendation approved 2-0, with Chairman Harris abstaining.*

Public Comment: *N/A*

Board Comment: *N/A*

Executive Session: Entered executive session @ \_\_\_\_\_ due to request by \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss:

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~~Exited executive session @~~

Meeting Adjourned: *Rep Thurman motions to adjourn, Vice-Chair Hutchinson seconds, meeting adjourned 3-0 at 5:40pm*

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 4pm