



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

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025 @ 4pm

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

Supervisor Compton requested the board introduce a motion to relax the agenda and allow the swearing in of newly confirmed Rep. Thompson to the board before proceeding with the meeting. Rep. Thurman makes the motion, Chairman Harris seconds, motion approved 2-0.

Rep. Thompson is sworn in, hereby becoming a fully participating board member.

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

Old Business:

1. Tift Circuit District Attorney Special Election Update

a. Qualifying was held by the Secretary of State's Office in their Tifton regional office from January 21st until January 24th, having been extended due to the inclement weather.

i. Interim District Attorney Patrick Warren was the only candidate who qualified, and as such, is de facto the newly elected District Attorney, with the March Special Election having been canceled.

ii. We are still waiting for the Secretary of State's Office to provide our office with a copy of the call for election cancellation for us to be able to post.

New Business:

1. Board Member Updates

- a. Vice-Chair Hutchinson has tendered her resignation to the Irwin County Board of Elections and Registrations, and Wyatt Thompson has been voted by the Irwin County Republican Party to be their nomination for her replacement and confirmed by the Irwin County Commission on its February 3rd meeting.
- b. Representative Thompson shall be sworn in, at such time becoming a full and active member of the Irwin County Board of Elections and Registrations, serving the remainder of the term ending in January 2027.
- c. We shall hold a vote for a new vice-chair after swearing in the new board member.

Rep. Thompson nominates himself for the position of Vice-Chair. Rep. Thurman nominates herself for the position of Vice-Chair. Vote tied 1-1, Broken in favor of Rep. Thurman by Chairman Harris on the grounds of seniority. Vice-Chair Thurman was elected 2-1.

Chairman Harris expressed a desire for board collaboration and a setting of partisanship aside for the sake of our duties and welcomed Rep. Thompson to the board. He also explained the frequent turnover that this board has historically experienced, and that Rep. Thompson's time as vice-chair will likely come soon, as appointments by the County Commission to Chair have usually been focused on experience above partisanship as have been votes for Vice-Chair.

2. Updates from regional and state level meetings

- a. Supervisor Compton attended a regional meeting in Lowndes County on January 29th, a GA Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials' Executive Committee planning meeting in Macon on January 31st and was recognized on the floor of the Georgia House of Representatives on February 4th as our state's local elections officials conversed with lawmakers regarding local elections administrative concerns.
 - i. Topics discussed were planning for the August 2025 GAVREO conference, training of new election officials, providing a higher standard of training and continuing education moving forward on both the state and association level, current legislation, and state election board rule drafting procedures.

Public Comment:

Assistant Supervisor Romans discussed the various options of GAVREO conference attendance, legal requirements for annual attendance for continuing education and for required county representation, and cost-benefit analysis for how many physical versus virtual attendees should be sent this year, given that Savannah is a considerably more expensive convention location versus prior sites.

Board Comment:

Vice-Chair Thurman requested that Supervisor Compton provide Rep. Thompson with a copy of the Secretary of State's Comprehensive 2025 Elections Calendar by the next meeting.

Rep. Thompson inquired as to the benefits to board members becoming certified. Supervisor Compton replied that redundancy has already been achieved in case of emergencies with both himself and Assistant Supervisor Romans having active certifications, so there would be no benefit at this time for board members to attain certification beyond personal improvement but would then require them to maintain those certifications through continuing education which would be an additional county expense.

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

~~Exited executive session @~~

Meeting Adjourned: *Vice-Chair Thurman motions to adjourn, Rep. Thompson seconds, meeting adjourned 3-0 at 4:54pm.*

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 @ 4pm