

**Union County Board of Elections**  
**Board Meeting**  
**September 25, 2023**

The September meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to Order at 10:00 am by Chair Libby Stephens. Linda Hill led the invocation.

A Quorum was established. Board members in attendance: Libby Stephens, Pat Christ, Riccardo Rivas, Jim Fitzgerald and Linda Hill. A number of people from the voting public were in attendance.

The Agenda was distributed. Minutes for the August meeting were approved with the correction for the spelling of the word "voting".

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Voting Modules Update: Riccardo spoke with Sales Rep. Question about power cords – the main cord is not provided. Libby reported that we have the cords – no issue. Modules are ready for delivery. We've asked that they do not deliver until we are in our new building. There should be no issue with our ability to use the modules beginning with the March Presidential Primary.
- Timetable for Moving: Each board member is to pack up their items - plan to take everything. Get boxes from Ingles. Riccardo will be responsible for warehouse operations and placement of all that will be moved. Jim will be responsible for Poll Pads and Pat will be responsible for ORRs and assist Linda with the forms/supplies for election day. Move date will be scheduled shortly. Expecting to be around November 1. February 19 is first day of early voting for March 12 primary.
- ORRs: Pat will facilitate the ORR process for BoE.
- Security Threats: Libby contacted Homeland Security. They will come and assess any risks that we have for equipment or staff. We will only provide a Pass/Fail rating for the public. Details of the assessment will be addressed by the Board. The Health Check that was performed by the SOS office was successful. No machines were connected where they were not supposed to be, they were secured and properly maintained.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Education Committee: New committee will develop PSAs/articles to be placed in the newspaper. Goal: increase participation by the community. Mission statement is to educate the voting public regarding the process and timing of the 2024 voting cycle. Jim drafted an article that speaks to the election process for UC – includes changes that we will experience with our move. Draft attached. Discussion about budget for ads was discussed. The BOE has budget for the required ads for each election. The Education Committee will generally use the form of articles for information that is shared with the public. We will use PSAs as appropriate understanding that there may be fees associated with these.

The next board meeting is Monday, October 9, 2023 at 10:00 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Hill  
Secretary

Board of Elections  
Education Committee  
September 12, 2023

Last month, the Board of Elections voted to establish an Education Committee. This committee is charged with the task of keeping Union County voters up-to-date with the latest information available on all things related to elections.

In Union County, we have a Board of Registrars and a separate Board of Elections. The former Board is primarily responsible for registering new voters and maintaining the voter registration list. They are currently located in the new courthouse. The latter Board is primarily responsible for conducting elections and is located on Hunt Martin Street.

If you have been to the new Sports Complex lately you have noticed a new building under construction on the right side of the complex. That is the new home of both Boards and we hope to start moving into the building sometime in November. Starting with the Presidential Preference Primary Election on March 12, 2024, this new building will be the location of early advanced voting (2/19/24 - 3/8/24).

If you choose to vote by mail, you can submit your application anytime between December 25, 2023 to March 1, 2024. If you are not registered to vote, you have until February 12, 2024 to submit your voter application if you want to participate in the Presidential Preference Primary.

✓ There may be up to five elections in 2024. The first is mentioned above on ~~February~~<sup>March</sup> 12, 2024, followed by the General Primary on May 21, 2024, the General Primary Runoff on June 18, 2024 (if needed), the General Election on November 5, 2024, and the General Runoff on December 3, 2024 (if needed).

In following articles, we will address the issue of election equipment security. The public has a right to be concerned about the security of our elections, ranging from proper voter lists to election equipment properly recording their votes.

On July 10, 2023, we hosted a representative from the Voting and Elections Data Systems, a division of the Georgia Secretary of State office. This person conducted a random check of all of our physical voting system software to verify that the original software had not been tampered with since the machines were introduced in 2019. We are proud to say that we passed with flying colors. Of course we were not surprised because before every election we conduct Logic and Accuracy testing on every machine. This testing it is open to the public and we advertise the dates in this newspaper.

In short, with Logic and Accuracy Testing each piece of voting equipment is tested to assure each contest is voting properly. We do this by testing every candidate and ballot position on the Ballot Marking Devices (the screen you use to record your choices in the precincts) followed by ensuring all scanners are reading the ballots properly. In short, we know how we vote the machine, can verify the printer has the exact same vote, and can verify that the scanner records the exact same vote.

In the coming days, we are expecting a visit by the Department of Homeland Security. They will closely examine the physical security of the location where we store our voting equipment. They want to ensure that no one has access to the equipment other than the Board of Elections, who serves under oath. We keep all equipment behind multiple locked doors and under camera at all times. We have new equipment on the way that will further enhance physical safety of the ballot marking devices.

Our next Board meeting will be September 25, 2024 and the public is invited to attend. This meeting deviates from our second Monday of every month at 10am which will resume in October.