



**GWINNETT COUNTY
BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATIONS AND ELECTIONS
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
January 19, 2021
6:00PM
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**

**JUNTA DE INSCRIPCIONES DE ELECTORES Y ELECCIONES
DEL CONDADO DE GWINNETT
Reunión Programada Regularmente
19 de Enero del 2021
6:00PM
ACTAS NO OFICIALES**

1. CALL TO ORDER / INICIO DE LA REUNIÓN

O'Lenick called the meeting to order. Board members present: Alice O'Lenick, Chairman, Wandy Taylor, EdD, Vice Chairman, Stephen Day, George Awuku and John Mangano, PhD. Also, present: Lynn Ledford, Division Director, Kristi Royston, Elections Supervisor and Melanie Wilson, Senior Assistant County Attorney.

Mangano inició la reunión a las 9:34am. Miembros de la Junta presentes: Alice O'Lenick, Presidenta, Wandy Taylor, EdD, Vicepresidenta, Stephen Day, George Awuku y John Mangano, PhD. También presentes: Lynn Ledford, Directora de la División, Kristi Royston, Supervisora de Elecciones y Melanie Wilson, Fiscal Asistente Principal de Condado.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA / APROBACIÓN DE LA AGENDA

Day made a motion to amend the agenda, to add Statement from Democratic member of the Election Board in response to comments made by the Board Chair in the January 16, 2021 Gwinnett Daily Post article to New Business.

(Action- Motion: Day; Second: Taylor)
Vote (3-2) Yes-Mangano, Taylor, Day; No – O'Lenick, Awuku

Day presentó una moción para enmendar la agenda, para agregar Declaración del miembro demócrata de la Junta Electoral en respuesta a los comentarios hechos por el Presidente de la Junta Electoral en el artículo del Gwinnett Daily Post publicado el 16 de enero de 2021 en Asuntos Nuevos.

(Acción – Moción: Day; Secundado por: Taylor)
Voto (3-2) Sí – Mangano, Taylor, Day; No – O'Lenick, Awuku

Day made a motion to approve the amended agenda.
(Action – Motion: Day; Second: Mangano)
Vote (5-0) Yes – Mangano, Awuku, Day, O'Lenick, Taylor; No – None

Day presentó una moción para aprobar la agenda enmendada.
(Acción – Moción: Day; Secundado por: Mangano)
Voto (5-0) Sí – Mangano, Awuku, Day, O’Lenick, Taylor; No – Ninguno

3. OPENING REMARKS / DISCURSO DE APERTURA

O’Lenick read her statement.

O’Lenick leyó su declaración.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES / APROBACIÓN DE LAS ACTAS ANTERIORES

- a. December 3 – Special Called Meeting for Certification of Election Recount Results for the November 3, 2020 General Election

3 de Diciembre / Reunión Especial Convocada para Certificación de Recuento para Los Resultados de La Elección General Del 3 De Noviembre Del 2020

- b. December 11 – Special Called Meeting for Logic and Accuracy Results Certification for the January 5, 2021 Runoff Election

11 de Diciembre - Reunión Especial Convocada para Certificación de Resultados de Lógica y Exactitud para El Desempate del 5 de Enero del 2021

- c. December 15 – Regular Scheduled Meeting for December 15, 2020

15 de Diciembre – Reunión Programada Regularmente para 15 de Diciembre del 2020

- d. December 21 – Special Called Meeting for Challenged Voters

21 de Diciembre - Reunión Especial Convocada para Electores en Disputa

- e. December 29 – Special Called Meeting for Logic and Accuracy Results Certification, Poll Official Approval, and Challenged Voters (Williams and Van Gundy)

29 de Diciembre – Reunión Especial Convocada para Certificación de Resultados de Lógica y Exactitud, Aprobación de Trabajador Electoral y Electores en Disputa (Williams y Van Gundy)

- f. January 5 – Special Called Meeting for Computation, Canvassing And Tabulation of Election Results for the January 5, 2021 General Election Runoff

5 de Enero - Reunión Especial Convocada para Cálculo, Escrutinio Y Tabulación De Resultados Electorales para El Desempate Elección General Del 5 De Enero Del 2021

- g. January 11 – Special Called Meeting for Provisional Ballots for the January 5, 2021 General Election Runoff and Certification Results for the January 5, 2021 General Election Runoff

11 de Enero - Reunión Especial Convocada para Boleta Provisional para El Desempate Elección General Del 5 De Enero Del 2021 y Certificación De Resultados para El Desempate Elección General Del 5 De Enero Del 2021

Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes.
(Action: Motion: Taylor; Second: Day)

Taylor presentó una moción para aprobar las actas.
(Acción: Moción: Taylor; Secundado por: Day)

Vote (5-0) Yes – Day, Mangano, O’Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – None
Voto (5-0) Sí – Day, Mangano, O’Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – Ninguno

5. REPORTS AND UPDATES/ INFORMES Y ACUTALIZACIONES

- a. Committee Reports/ Informes del Comité
None

Ninguno

- b. Chairman’s Update / Actualización del Presidente
None

Ninguno

- c. Elections Supervisor’s Update/ Actualización de la Supervisora de Elecciones

Royston updated the Board about the Elections Office and proposed options to the Board for Challenge voters.

Mangano made a motion to table the challenge hearing until committee recommendation is accepted by the Board.

(Action: Motion: Taylor; Second: Day)

Vote (5-0) Yes – Day, Mangano, O’Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – None

Royston actualizó a la Junta sobre la Oficina de Elecciones y propuso opciones a la Junta de Electores en disputa.

Mangano presentó una moción para posponer la audiencia de impugnación hasta que la recomendación del comité sea aceptada por la Junta.

(Acción: Moción: Mangano; Secundado por: Day)

Voto (5-0) Sí – Day, Mangano, O’Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – Ninguno

- d. County Update / Actualización del Condado

- i. Financial Report – General Fund / Reporte Financiero – Fondo General

Ledford stated that currently for the 2020 Election Budget is 27.56% remaining for the year and for the 2020 Administrative Budget -4.2% remaining for the year

- ii. Grant Information / Información de Subsidio

Ledford provided an update on remaining funds of each grant.

Ledford proporcionó una actualización sobre los fondos restantes de cada subvención

- e. Litigation Update / Actualización de litigious

Wilson stated lawsuits should be discussed in Executive Session.

Wilson proporcionó que las demandas deben discutirse en la Sesión Ejecutiva

6. OLD BUSINESS / ASUNTOS PASADOS

- a. Broadcasting Meeting (Moving to Wednesday) / Reunión de radiodifusión (pasando al miércoles)

O'Lenick made a motion to move Board Meetings to the third Wednesday of the month to be able to broadcast the meeting from at Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center.

(Action: Motion: O'Lenick; Second: Awuku)

Vote (5-0) Yes – Day, Mangano, O'Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – None

O'Lenick presentó una moción para mover la reunion al tercer miércoles del mes para poder transmitir la reunion ubicada en Centro de Justicia y Administración de Gwinnett.

(Acción: Moción: O'Lenick; Secundado por: Awuku)

Voto (5-0) Sí – Day, Mangano, O'Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – Ninguno

- b. At Large Member Appointment / Miembro para el Mandato

Day made a motion for the letter to be drafted for legal counsel recommendations.

(Action: Motion: Day; Second: Taylor).

Vote (5-0) Yes – Day, Mangano, O'Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – None

Day present una moción para que se redactara la carta para recomendaciones de asesores legales.

(Acción: Moción: Day; Secundado por: Taylor)

Voto (5-0) Sí – Day, Mangano, O'Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – Ninguno

7. NEW BUSINESS / ASUNTOS NUEVOS

- a. Feedback from area managers and poll mangers regarding the last election cycle to the board / Comentarios de los administrado de zona y administrado electoral sobre el último ciclo electoral a la Junta.

Set up focus group for area managers and poll managers for feedback.

Configure un grupo de administrador de zona y administrador electoral para recibir comentarios.

- b. Response to the article in the Gwinnett Daily Post / Respuesta al artículo del Gwinnett Daily Post

Taylor read Statement from Democratic.

Taylor leyó Declaración del miembro demócrata.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS

The public shared comments with the Board.

El Público compartió comentarios con la Junta.

9. CLOSING REMARKS / COMENTARIOS FINALES

Good night.

Buenas Noches.

10. ADJOURN / CLAUSURA

At 10:12pm, Day made a motion to adjourn.
(Action: Motion: Day; Second: Taylor)

A las 10:12pm, Day presentó una moción para levantar la sesión.
(Acción: Moción: Day; Secundado por: Taylor
Vote (5-0) Yes - Day, Mangano, O'Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – None

Voto (5-0) Sí - Day, Mangano, O'Lenick, Taylor, Awuku; No – Ninguno

Dr. Taylor and Stephen W. Day concerning Alice O'Lenick's remarks in the Gwinnett Daily Post 1-16-21 (printed on 1-17-21)

January 19, 2021

The Chairwoman of the Gwinnett County Board of Registrations and Elections, Alice O'Lenick, was quoted extensively in an article in the Gwinnett Daily Post on January 16, 2021 in which she advocates for major elections changes at the state and local levels. More specifically:

1. Rollback from "no excuses" absentee ballots
2. Banning all ballot dropboxes
3. Updating voter registration rolls

These initiatives were shared at a GOP meeting in which she also stated that 2020 was a "terrible election cycle". One can only assume that it was terrible because of the significant losses experienced by the Republican Party. The most egregious statement made by Ms. O'Lenick was in reference to Georgia Election laws and the state legislature in which she said: "They don't have to change all of them, but they've got to change the major parts of them so that we (Republicans) have at least a shot at winning". Simply put they want to change the rules to bias the laws against Democrats to help Republicans win elections. This attitude violates the fundamental principles of our representative democracy- and frankly, is un-American! The idea that one political party can only win by suppressing the vote of another political party is an abomination to our system of governance. Any attempt to reduce access to any of the methods of voting whether by mail, or early in person, or on election day is an attempt to suppress access to the ballot.

The efforts to restrict absentee by mail voting by eliminating no excuse absentee ballots and drop boxes as Ms. O'Lenick suggests is not only an attempt to make elections more difficult for Democrats to win, but it is an attempt to suppress voters of color from engaging in the democratic process. Also, this so-called updating voter registration rolls is an unnecessary list maintenance activity which the state already undertakes and the procedures for such are clearly specified by federal law.

Georgia has had a shameful and racist history of voter suppression of African-American voters going back to poll taxes, registration tests, and physical intimidation. These new attacks are cloaked in a different form but are clearly designed to do the same -suppress votes. Because of the Covid-19 epidemic a significant percentage of African-American voters chose to use absentee by mail ballots to avoid possible exposure. The Republican Secretary of State in a humanitarian gesture sent applications for absentee by mail ballots out to every Georgia voter during the first stages of the Covid-19 epidemic during the primary season in order to help prevent voter exposure to the disease. Many voters of color took advantage of that opportunity (which has existed without excuse since 2005), but ALL voters had equal access.

There has been absolutely **no** evidence of any voter fraud on any significant scale that occurred during the 2020 election cycle. Through all of the investigations, which included the Republican Secretary of State of Georgia, numerous courts across the nation, and even the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and various official investigative bodies, these myths of voter fraud are simply baseless falsehoods and conspiracies. The only voter fraud that occurred in Georgia was when a sitting President called and tried to intimidate the Secretary of State to change the results of the Presidential election.

We the undersigned want to make it abundantly clear that we stand in opposition to Ms. O'Lenick's statements and that she **does not** represent in any way, shape, or form the majority opinion of the Gwinnett County Election board. She is only speaking on her behalf as a Republican activist.