

**MATHEWS COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING  
JULY 29, 2020 9:30 am  
GR'S OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 9:30. All EB Board members were present.

**ANNUAL TRAINING DISCUSSION:** Due to COVID, the EB annual training was on-line this year. All 3 members participated/attended. Members felt the presentations were ill-prepared and repetitive with a disappointing lack of clarity.

**NOVEMBER ELECTION DISCUSSION**

**NUMBER OF BALLOTS:** GR Faulkner suggested order more than 100% of registered voters. Because: A VERY high voter turn-out is anticipated ; and 2) Requests for mail voting are also expected to be very high. It is expected that an unpredictable number of voters requesting such ballots will instead vote in-person. Thorpe motioned, Bohn seconded ordering 110% of registered voters ballots. Passed 3-0.

Mail (absentee) envelopes. The board was impressed with the streamlined and graphically-clear new envelopes. The new envelopes have done away with separate directions, and clearly lead the voter through the mail voting process. Since the envelopes are provided by the state and can be used in future elections, GR Faulkner will order a higher-than-anticipated supply.

The Board discussed the drop-off of a mail ballot in-person on election day. Such ballots MUST be dropped off at the GR's office by the voter him/herself by 7:00 pm on election day.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** The Board discussed rule/law/procedure changes as presented in the annual training. Much of the changes require clarification by ELECT. GR Faulkner is attending two days of conferences next week dedicated to implementing these changes.

The no photo-ID law and the affirmation of identity changes were briefly discussed.

GR Faulkner will actively connect with the public and press to explain the ID requirement for voting. Basically, the voter must present documentation when voting with his/her legal name AND physical address. The fear is that hearing "No photo ID" will be translated as "no ID required" by voters. There are also logical inconsistencies in the new language as released. This issue will be addressed at the GR meeting next week.

Clarification on the Affirmation of Identity" form will also be sought at the meeting. The Board's understanding is that a voter appearing without valid ID can complete the form on-site when voting, can cast a regular vote.

**ELECTION OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT UPDATE:** The combination of COVID and heavy voting concerns the board . Early indication is that almost all election officials plan on working at the election. There is one new applicant. Thorpe moved, Broderson seconded and the Board voted 3-0 to accept the application.

**GR OFFICE MOVE:** The GR's office will move into the "new" courthouse complex in the second half of August. The move will be completed before the early voting period (Sept. 18). GR Faulkner has toured the new office and has asked for alterations (creation of equipment storage closet and adding an exterior door directly to the new office. The office will also be more ADA -compliant and have a restroom on the same level.

The new office setup will work well with early voting. A window will be used for outside walk-up voting and the office itself will serve as a walk-in all weather site with smooth traffic flow. The costs of the construction/alterations will be paid for by COVID funds.

By law, individual registered voters are not required to be notified of the changed office/early voting location. However, the board instructed GR Faulkner to gather information on the cost and procedures for mailing a postcard to each registered voter advising the voters of the location change as well as dates and hours of early voting and the no-photo ID law change. The postcard will also advise voters that the postcard itself will serve as valid ID if brought to the poll on election day.

GR Faulkner will investigate and report back to the Board at the next meeting. She will also verify that the Board-allocated COVID funds can be used for the mailing.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** The Board will meet at 9:30 on Aug. 10, 2020 at the present (old courthouse complex) GR office conference room.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 10:48 Thorpe moved, Broderson seconded and the Board voted 3-0 to enter a closed session for the purpose of performing the 2019-2020 GR performance evaluation. The closed session was ended at 11:02.

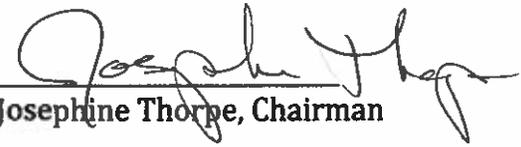
The Board presented and discussed with GR Faulkner her performance evaluation. It is the Board's privilege to have Carla Faulkner as our GR. Her initiative in setting up early voting; her meticulous preparation and supervision of the December recount; Her preparation for the June primary during a COVID crisis were all professional and effective.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:17.

Jeff Bohn, EB secretary 7/30/2020

  
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Jeffrey Bohn, Secretary  
Chairman

  
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Edwin 'Ted' Broderson, Vice

  
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Josephine Thorpe, Chairman