

**SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2025**

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was held at the Spalding County Courthouse Annex at 119 E Solomon St. Room 108 Griffin, GA 30223 at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. In attendance: Vice-Chairman James Newland, presiding, Board members Chris Piland and Dexter Wimbish. Not in attendance: Chairman Ben Johnson and Board member Lee Howell. Also present were Elections Director Kim Slaughter, Attorney Stephanie Windham, and Kelly Romero to record minutes.

Call to Order – Vice-Chairman James Newland called meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Invocation/Moment of Silence – Invocation was given by James Newland

Pledge to the Flag – Pledge was led by Chris Piland

Citizen Comments – The following concerns were shared in spoken opposition of precinct consolidation: Accessibility, longer lines, suppression...

- Ebony Kompelien, 195 Steele Road, Griffin, GA - Believes consolidating these precincts will cost the voters accessibility and even if not the intention, this will appear to be voter suppression.
- Kathleen Ohalloran – Believes the proposal will not save money but shift the costs to individual voters. Stated this will result in a lower turn out.
- Anne Finnin – Would rather take precincts away gradually. Many do not have the luxury of traveling to a different precinct.
- Lin Sun, 562 Beautyberry Drive, Griffin, GA – Facilitating everyone at all levels to be able to vote, with no long lines, taking off work is what should be focused on.
- James Moore – Spalding County has a well-deserved reputation for running a free, fair and efficient elections. Voters have gained trust because it works. If it isn't broken, don't fix it.
- Lee Garner, 601 Bellflower Court, Griffin, GA – At a time where the existing early voting and absentee by mail voting are facing efforts to restrict their use, it would seem we need to keep the precincts as they are.
- Bob Beyer, 516 Orchid Lights Court, Griffin, GA – Stated Director Kim Slaughter has done a great job, however we have some big elections coming up in 2026 and believes precinct consolidation will bring, longer lines, longer distances to travel and even discourage some to get out and vote.
- Linda Rotti, 110 Jasper Court, Griffin, GA – Has had a wonderful experience voting in Spalding County. We still have several months before the elections begin for next year and believes the state can make changes to the election laws that could hurt our citizens if a consolidation is done.
- Richard Carruthers – Voting here is a smooth and very professional process. The workers are extremely courteous. People are habitual and will be bewildered when they get to a precinct to vote and it is closed. There will be a rise of provisional ballots cast.
- Diana Nicholson – Georgia already has a reputation for longer wait lines in some areas, suppression even if reductions are justified administratively the optics suggest it is an attempt to suppress turn out.
- Robert Nicholson, Signed up, but did not speak.
- Elbert Solomon, 815 Eagle Drive, Griffin, GA – It is rumored that the proposal is not about cost saving but about some outside forces. An aggressive investigation is now in progress to connect the dots and could end in possible legal litigations.

- Jewel Walker-Harps, 103 McEthel Drive, Griffin, GA – Believes that if the proposal passes, it will be the citizens who are deprived of what they are entitled to have.
- Majorie Davis, Signed up, but did not speak.
- Taynay Matsumoto- It is a citizen's right to go vote and they need a place that is easy and convenient for them to go to. She doesn't want the right to vote to be taken away.
- Helena Moss, Signed up, but did not speak
- Jan Lamro – Thanks Kim Slaughter for running some great elections in the past couple of years. Advised that if it smells like voter suppression and looks like voter suppression, in a court of public opinion it will be considered voter suppression.
- Tom Walker, Signed up, but did not speak.
- Kenny Mills, Signed up, but did not speak.

Adoption of the Agenda –

Motion/second by Chris Piland/Dexter Wimbish

Motion passed: 3-0

Voted for: Vice-Chairman James Newland, Chris Piland and Dexter Wimbish

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Nov 10, 2025, Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motion/Second by Dexter Wimbish/Chris Piland

Motion Passed: 3-0

Voted for: Vice-Chairman James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish

Election Director Report –

Voter Registration Update: Sandra Hardy - (Total number of Registered Voters as of December 8, 2025 – 53,081.)

Summary of Processed files:

- New Voters – 194
- Transfers into County -183
- Address Change - 204
- Name Change - 50
- No Change – 680
- Vitals – 44
- Request to Cancel – 6
- Moved out of County - 127

Card Audit Update – The office has completed 74% of the physical card audit.

- The annual Poll Officer Christmas appreciation gathering was enjoyed by all who attended.
- The State Election Calendar has been set and is included in the left pocket of the Board members' Notebooks.
- The 2026 BOER calendar schedule is also located in the left pocket and is ready for the Board's acceptance and approval under "New Business" tonight.
- **Remodeling of newly acquired space:**

- A meeting is scheduled with County Manager Dr. Ledbetter and Assistant County Manager Erica Dye for this Friday at 10:30 a.m. to review renovation plans and to determine start date.
- Board members are welcome to stop by the office at anytime to review the proposed renovation plans.
- **Precinct Consolidation:**
 - Proposal revised to move present Election Day Precinct 3 (new number Precinct # 2) to our office where Advanced (Early) voting is presently held. This would eliminate working around the Senior Citizen's scheduling of events and would ensure there is always adequate space.
 - Proposal revised to absorb Precinct 16 into the following precincts:
 - Precinct 14
 - Precinct 19
 - Precinct 21
 - While eliminating additional combos (ballot styles) in different precincts
 - Partial of Precinct 8 to be absorbed into current Precinct 11. (new number will be 8)
 - Director Slaughter is working with Gina Wright in the Reapportionment office with the Secretary of State to ensure we are checking all required boxes in regard to proposed precinct changes.
 - Proposal maps for both the City and County precinct consolidations will be posted to our website this week.
 - Advertisement for the meeting for January 13, 2025 which includes Precinct consolidation comment and as an Agenda action item will be advertised twice in the legal organ, Griffin Daily News as well as posted to our social media sites.

We are saddened to announce the passing of Poll Officer Carol Jones. Carol served at Precinct 3 under the management of Emma Jean Foster-Taylor and was dedicated to the Election process. She will be missed by all.

Old Business – None

New Business – Approval of the 2026 BOER Meeting Calendar

Motion/second by Dexter Wimbish/Chris Piland

Motion passed: 3-0

Voted for: Vice-Chairman James Newland, Chris Piland and Dexter Wimbish

Board Members Comments –

- **Chris Piland** – Thanked everyone for coming out and for their comments. Citizen involvement is imperative to the success of our nation. Also wanted to reiterate what Director Kim said, although her and her team have done an amazing job, he advised that without volunteers it is impossible for that to happen. He encouraged everyone there to bring their passion, come out and be a poll officer. Chris Piland advised he has worked the polls as well as been a manager. Going through the process gave him so much more confidence in the election process.
- **Dexter Wimbish** – He advised that using Sandra Hardy to speak was a great idea because going forward if Director Kim was not able to attend a meeting, they could still have it. He also talked about staff and salary advising that if the staff isn't taken care of, they are not going to stay around. We have had salary discussions not only for the director but across the board. This is

how we get better as a Board of Elections. We have qualified people come in and take the reign when we need them to. Dexter Wimbish thanked Kim Slaughter for involving her staff. Tonight's turn out is an example of how the community can impact democracy. It is hard to believe that with everyone that spoke tonight, it is still just 7:00 pm and that couldn't have happened before. That is a testament to the Board and to the community. The Board's job is to increase participation and not to limit participation. He asked everyone to come back on January 13, 2026. He advised that once people get adjusted to doing things a certain way, it is hard for them to re-adjust. We don't want anyone to feel like they don't have the opportunity to cast a ballot. He enjoyed the Poll Officer Appreciation Day and especially the chocolate peanut clusters.

- **Vice-Chairman James Newland** –The purpose of the Board is to serve the electors and the voters of Spalding County and to do the best for them. We are not a business. There are 25 ballot styles for Spalding County and each voter must receive the correct ballot. Director Kim must ensure that each election takes place, there are no options or second chances. The voting machines can be a problem in the polling locations at times. If we consolidate polling precincts, it is to help us streamline and pull off the election not to save money.

Adjournment –

Motion/Second by Dexter Wimbish/Chris Piland

Motion Passed:3-0

Voted for: Vice-Chairman James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish at 7:13 pm

James Newland, Vice-Chairman

Kim Slaughter, Elections Director