

**SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
February 10, 2026**

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, February 10, 2026. In attendance: Chairman Ben Johnson presiding, Board members Chris Piland, Lee Howell and Dexter Wimbish (arriving at 6:10 pm). Not in attendance was Board member James Newland. Also present were Elections Director Kim Slaughter, Attorney Stephanie Windham, and Kelly Romero to record minutes.

Call to Order – Chairman Ben Johnson called meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Invocation/Moment of Silence – Invocation was given by Lee Howell

Pledge to the Flag – Pledge was led by Chris Piland

Adoption of the Agenda –

Motion/second by Lee Howell/Chris Piland

Motion passed: 3-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, Chris Piland and Lee Howell

Citizen Comments –

- Elbert Solomon – Mr. Solomon has been thinking about the consolidation since the last BOER meeting and thinks it would be a good idea to only have 1 precinct as was suggested by a board member. He advised it would provide better security for ballots, reduce staff, less amount of deputies needed on election day, less poll workers and better communication.
- B. Frank Harris – Mr. Harris asked what prompted this move to reduce the number of voting places. What was the logic?

Approval of Minutes: Approval of January 13, 2026, Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second by Chris Piland/Lee Howell

Motion Passed: 3-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, Chris Piland, and Lee Howell

Election Director Report –

Voter Registration Update: Sandra Hardy - (Total number of Registered Voters as of February 10, 2026 – 53,036.)

Summary of Processed files:

- New Voters – 53
- Transfers into County - 81
- Address Change - 72
- Name Change - 20
- No Change – 223

- Vitals – 301
- Request to Cancel – 7
- Moved out of County - 219

Card Audit Update – The office has completed 82% of the physical card audit.

Records to Review – Will begin again as the Precinct Consolidation project is wrapped up.

- **Qualifying for the May 19, 2026 General Primary**

- Qualifying week will begin March 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 noon on March 6, 2026.
- Local seats up for Election this year:
 - County Commission Districts 2 & 5 Qualifying fee: \$695.96
 - State Solicitor General Qualifying fee: \$4,587.50
 - Board of Education Districts 1, 3 & 5 Qualifying fee: \$289.19
- District seat once MOA is approved:
 - Soil & Water Conservation Qualifying fee: \$0.00
 - Unpaid position
 - Soil & Water Conservation Department advertises its own qualification notice and will run in the paper this month.
- Qualifying packets will be ready for pickup, Wednesday, February 25, 2026, the week prior to qualifying week but paperwork and fees will not be accepted until the beginning of qualifying week.

- **Remodeling of newly acquired space:**

- County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter, provided an update that according to LJA, CPL, the Architectural firm is to update the required portion of the plans and insert their architectural stamp on the drawings. Once completed and as quickly as possible, the bid for the work, pricing, and time will begin. LJA expects the bid to be released in early April.

- **Precinct Consolidation:**

- 100% of consolidation processing has been completed and all voters affected have been updated within the GARVIS system.
- 80% of affected voters have been contacted via mailed correspondence. Completion of mailouts will be completed by end of business day on 2/10/2026 and we will begin the process of ordering precinct cards for all affected voters.
- 50,783 voters were affected by some type of related change.
- It's important to note that 21,625 voters did not move locations but were affected by a "precinct number change" only.
- We are required by law to notify voters of any changes.
- Nine phone calls/emails have been received about the precinct consolidation:
 - 3 phone calls just confirming the information – no complaints
 - 2 complaints via email
 - 1 phone call confirming that they could still vote ABM
 - 1 voice mail of concern which was returned without success
 - 1 phone call inquiring why and then hung up

- 1 phone call with a concern that they were afraid of Jury Duty.
 - All polling locations which no longer serve as polling locations due to the precinct consolidation have been contacted via email and correspondence is also being sent as well.
 - Signage will be placed at each old and new polling location for voters who are affected by the change. Board member Chris stated that posting these precinct changes on social media as well as public service announcements on the radio would be a help getting the word out as well. Director Slaughter did advise we have posted these changes on Facebook, Instagram and X.
- GAVREO Conference will be attended by three staff members from March 22 to March 25, 2026
 - Poll Officer Training Dates have been set beginning on April 7th and ending on April 23rd, and the process of poll officer assignments and equipment assignments have begun.
 - Advance Voting dates for the May 19, 2026 General Primary/Non-Partisan Election are as follows:
 - * April 27, 2026 to May 2, 2026
 - * May 4, 2026 to May 9, 2026
 - * May 11, 2026 to May 15, 2026

Old Business - None

New Business –

- Approval of a ten-minute wait time for a quorum to be established at Board Meetings unless the wait time is changed by Board Members present. Board member Lee Howell advised that being on time is important and we don't need to establish a wait time.

Motion/Second by Dexter Wimbish/Chris Piland

Motion Passed: 3-1

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, Chris Piland and Dexter Wimbish and in opposition Lee Howell

- MOA between Georgia Soil and Water Conservation commission and the Elections Superintendent of Spalding County.

Motion/Second by Lee Howell/Dexter Wimbish

Motion Passed 4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, Chris Piland, Dexter Wimbish and Lee Howell

Board Members Comments –

- **Chris Piland** – Thanks to Kim and staff for all you do. We miss Mary. If there is anything he can do to assist in getting the word out to the public about the consolidation he will.
- **Dexter Wimbish** – Agreed with what Chris Piland said.
- **Lee Howell** – He is impressed with the staff, and all the work Kim has done.
- **Chairman Ben Johnson** – Thanks Kim and staff and thinks Elbert's suggestion about the consolidation is interesting, but he is not sure if taking it to one precinct is a good idea.
- **Director Kim Slaughter** – Thanked her staff for their hard work and dedication.

Adjournment –

Motion/Second by Lee Howell/Dexter Wimbish

Motion Passed:4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, Chris Piland, Dexter Wimbish and Lee Howell at 6:31 pm

Ben Johnson, Chairman

Kim Slaughter, Elections Director