

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
Regular Monthly Minutes
May 26, 2026

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was held at the Office of Elections and Voter Registration at 825 Memorial Drive Griffin, Ga 30223 at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. In attendance: Chairman Ben Johnson presiding, Board members James Newland, Chris Piland and Dexter Wimbish. Board member Lee Howell did not attend. 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 10:19 a.m.

Invocation/Moment of Silence – Invocation was given by Chris Piland.

Pledge to the Flag – Pledge was led by Dexter Wimbish.

Adoption of the Agenda –

Motion/second by James Newland/Dexter Wimbish

Motion passed: 4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, James Newland, Chris Piland and Dexter Wimbish

Citizen Comments – None

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes on March 10, 2026, Special Called Meeting on May 12, 2026 and Special Called Meeting on May 22, 2026. (Action Item)

Motion/Second by Dexter Wimbish/James Newland

Motion Passed: 4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish

New Business:

- a. Calling of the May 19, 2026 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election Results by the Elections Director.
- b. Certification of Results for the May 19, 2026 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election. (action item)

Motion/Second by James Newland/Chris Piland

Motion Passed: 4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish

- c. Call for SPLOST Referendum – Motion to table till June 22, 2026 Board Meeting.

Motion/Second by Dexter Wimbish/James Newland

Motion Passed: 4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish

Election Director Report –

a. Report by Elections Director

- Two complaints were received out of the 6,345 voters that cast their ballot on election day concerning wait time and one additional complaint came from a State Democratic Poll Watcher concerning wait time as well as more equipment needed. Most voters arrived after 3:00 and compounded with the length of the ballot it took some voters over 30 minutes to cast their ballot. We did try to educate our voters beforehand. Chairman Ben Johnson wants us to track everything and make sure we are well equipped.
- We have received the proofs for the June election and have already reviewed the first set of proofs. There will be six contests on the Republican ballot and four on the Democrat ballot.
- Logic and Accuracy Testing is set to begin on June 2, 2026.
- Advance Voting will begin June 8, 2026 on Monday and continue through that Friday.
- This week we will be conducting the ballot image audit as well as the State and Board mandated audits on Friday.

Chris Piland requested to see a staffing model under the 19 precincts (including AV) vs now with the 9 precincts (including AV) to include staff and equipment.

Board members also requested a list of items that they could write to the SOS and try to get them to respond in getting these items handled.

Old Business:

a. Election of Vice-Chair and Secretary for the Board. (Action Item)

James Newland was nominated by Dexter Wimbish for Vice-Chair.

Motion/Second by Chris Piland/Dexter Wimbish

Motion Passed: 4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish

Chris Piland was nominated by Dexter Wimbish for Secretary.

Motion/Second by James Newland/Chris Piland

Motion Passed: 4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish

b. Chairman to appoint a Chair to the By-Laws Committee. (Action Item)

Lee Howell was appointed by Chairman Ben Johnson for this position.

Board Members Comments –

- **Chris Piland** – Advised great job by staff but believes we did see impact to the smaller precincts with the new amount of equipment. On election night, they did not start getting to the office until 9:00 p.m. Director Kim Slaughter did advise that she would like to have a set up and break-down team that would assist the precincts with this job.
- **Dexter Wimbish** – Said that a 45 minute wait is not something to complain about when there are countries around the world where people still don't get to vote or line up for days to vote. He stated Kim and staff did a great job especially since we did the consolidation just a couple months ago and only received 3 complaints. This is a testament to the work Kim and her staff have done and he appreciates it. We have come a long way.
- **James Newland** – Thinks the election went very well. He thanked the staff. Advised 45 minutes is not that bad, but we want to do better than that. If everyone is going to show up at the same time there isn't anything we can do. He understands this was the max time. When he went around to the polls around lunch time there were only 2 or 3 people in line so the lines were a lot shorter.
- **Chairman Ben Johnson** – Kim and everyone working together has made this work. We are accomplishing this mission. It is ongoing and agrees with Dexter's comments.

Adjournment –

Motion/Second by James Newland/Dexter Wimbish

Motion Passed:4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish at 11:06 a.m.

Ben Johnson, Chairman

Kim Slaughter, Elections Director