

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 23, 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, June 23, 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, Voter Registration Coordinator Sandra Hardy and Elections Assistant Kelly Romero to record minutes.

Call to Order – Vice-Chairman James Newland called meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. (Chairman Ben Johnson arrived just as the meeting was called to order.)

Invocation/Moment of Silence – Invocation was given by Dexter Wimbish.

Pledge to the Flag – Pledge was led by Chris Piland.

Amend the Agenda – To include closing the Elections Office on July 2, 2026 and turning two part time positions into one full time.

Motion/second by James Newland/Dexter Wimbish

Motion passed: 4-0

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

James Moore – Stated he was a poll watcher on both elections. Mr. Moore congratulated the office and poll workers on a superb job during the elections. He did want to point out that during the primary, towards the afternoon, there was bottleneaking due to no voter cards being available. He advised no one was sent away, but they were delayed. Suggested giving the precincts more voter cards that can be used only if they get backed up again.

Also, advised on the runoff, he went to all precincts. Advised that when he was at Precinct 2-Office of Elections, he saw approximately 15 people were turned away in an hour due to that not being their Election Day voting location getting it confused with that also being the location for Advanced Voting.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes on May 26, 2026 and Special Called Meeting on June 18, 2026. (Action Item)

Motion/Second by Chris Piland/James Newland

Motion Passed: 4-0

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

New Business:

- a. Calling of the June 16, 2026 General Primary Runoff Results by the Elections Director.
- b. Certification of Results for the June 16, 2026 General Primary Runoff. (action item)

Motion/Second by James Newland/Dexter Wimbish

Motion Passed: 4-0

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

- c. Call for SPLOST Referendum. (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

- d. Call for Orchard Hill Special 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

- e. Director Slaughter requested that the office be closed on July 2, 2026.

Motion/second by James Newland/Dexter Wimbish

Motion passed: 4-0

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

- f. Discussion was opened about taking two of the department's part-time positions and turning them into one full-time. That would still leave one part time position. The Board advised that they had delegated that authority to Director Kim Slaughter and they were good with her decision.

Election Director Report –

Voter Registration Update – Sandra Hardy – (Total of Registered Voters as of June 23, 2026 – 53,510.)

Review of records processed from May 1, 2026 through June 23, 2026.

GARVIS Dashboard Tiles Report:

- Vital Records – 82
- Felon Records – 23

Other processing:

- Request to Cancel – 7

After certification has been completed and the Secretary of State has advised counties to begin processing Voter Registration Applications, our office will begin processing the Dashboard tiles as follows:

- Department of Driver Services – 1930
- My Voter Page – 68
- Online Voter Registration – 64
- Walk in/Mail in - 146

May 19, 2026 and June 16, 2026 Election update:

- Both elections were successful.
- Some wait time was incurred during the afternoon of the May 19th Election Day due to the length of the ballot and voters making decisions at the ballot box.
- June 16th Runoff Election Day experienced no wait time at all. This is an example of the difference between very lengthy ballots and shorter ballots.
- Moving forward, we will reevaluate precincts when there is a very lengthy ballot to be voted on by the voters.
- The biggest challenge/hurdle faced were the Poll Pads in both elections. We believe this was associated with the 26.3 and 26.4 IOS as this was the first time Poll Pads were divided approximately half and half between the IOS versions, more so in the May election.
- In May, most Poll Pads were behind in keeping up with the voter data flow but in checking the voter certificates to the generated report from EPulse, all information flowed to Elections and Voter Registration System (GARVIS) as expected.
- In June, Precincts 6 and 7 Poll Pads were not visible at all through EPulse; but all voters are accounted for through the balancing of the voter certificates to the GARVIS report. Next the GARVIS report will be balanced to the EPulse report.
- We received four complaints between both the May and June elections that were related to precinct consolidation.

Board and State Mandated Audits for the May and June Elections:

- May 19th, General Primary NP Election (Board Mandated):
 - Solicitor General – Precinct 1 – Election Day
- May 19th, State Risk Limiting Audit
 - U. S. State Representative (Republican)
 - Governor (Democratic)
 - ICP1 (Advanced Voting)
 - ICP2 (Advanced Voting)
 - Election Day (Precinct 4)
 - Absentee By Mail (Batch 8)
 - Provisional (Batch 1)
- June 16th, General Primary Runoff (Board Mandated)
 - Lt. Governor (Democratic and Republican)
 - Election Day (Precinct 6)
 - Absentee By Mail (Batch 15)
 - Advanced Voting (Precinct 8)
- June 16th, General Primary Runoff (State Risk Limiting Audit)
 - Dice roll by State to be conducted the morning of June 25th.
 - To begin on June 25th at 1:00 p.m. and possibly carry over to June 26th.

Ballot Image Audit (State Mandated)

- June 26th at 9:00 a.m.

Remodeling of Newly Acquired Space:

- I met with LDD Blueline and LJA Engineering on Friday June 19, 2026 for the pre-bid meeting and there were about seven contractors at the meeting. A walkthrough of the facility was conducted and questions answered accordingly.
- Open bid is set for July 7th and a letter to the BOC from LJA Engineering will more than likely be sent the same week.

Recount: The Georgia Secretary of State's Office has received a recount request from Brandon Martin, candidate in the Republican PSC District 3 General Primary Contest in the General Primary Election that was held May 19, 2026. Given that the margin of the victory in that contest was less than one-half of one percent, a recount is being ordered.

Other Information:

- The EMS (Election Management System Server) quit working yesterday 6/22/2026. The state has made a visit and loaned one to us while they order one for us.
- We will continue as usual
- Next meeting date is set for July 14th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at our regular meeting location, 119 E. Solomon Street, Room 108.

Tammy Trace: Last day as an Office Assistant with us is June 30th, 2026.

Old Business: None

Board Members Comments –

- **Chris Piland** – Thank you for a great election.
- **Dexter Wimbish** – Great job.
- **James Newland** – We always learn with every election, which is a good thing. We have come a long way.
- **Chairman Ben Johnson** – Great job and was happy that the Secretary of State came out as quickly as they did in reference to the EMS System.

Adjournment –

Motion/Second by James Newland/Chris Piland

Motion Passed:4-0

Voted for: Chairman Ben Johnson, James Newland, Chris Piland, and Dexter Wimbish at 11:19 a.m.

Ben Johnson, Chairman

Kim Slaughter, Elections Director