SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was held at the Spalding County Courthouse Annex 119 E Solomon St. Room 108, Griffin, GA 30223 at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. In attendance: Vice-Chairman James Newland presiding, Board members Dexter Wimbish, Lee Howell and Chris Piland attending via telephone. Chairman Ben Johnson 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 the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. (Note: In person Board members, James Newland and Lee Howell, decided to wait until 6:20 p.m. for Board member Dexter Wimbish. Mr. Wimbish arrived at 6:18 p.m.)

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

Pledge to the Flag – Pledge was led by Lee Howell.

Citizen Comments –

James Moore – Mr. Moore has great confidence in the Elections office. He was able to observe first hand the Absentee by Mail process. He did pose the question if any changes to the United Postal Service would affect how we process and send out our ballots.

Debra Hibben – Ms. Hibben advised that she sent an email to the Board twice in August with no reply in regards to not enough Board Members showing up to have a Quorum the last two months.

Lee Garner – Ms. Garner also sent an email to Board with no reply. She asked when Sample Ballots would be available.

Adoption of the Agenda:

Motion/Second by Lee Howell/Dexter Wimbish
Motion Passed: 4-0
Voted for: Vice-Chairman James Newland, Dexter Wimbish, Lee Howell and Chris Piland

Motion to amend the Agenda: (was voted on after the adoption of the agenda) – To include the extension of Advance (Early) Voting hours.

Motion/Second by Lee Howell/Dexter Wimbish
Motion Passed: 4-0
Voted for: Vice-Chairman James Newland, Dexter Wimbish, Lee Howell and Chris Piland

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes **on June 23, 2026. (Action Item)**

Motion/Second by Lee Howell/Dexter Wimbish
Motion Passed: 4-0
Voted for: Vice-Chairman James Newland, Dexter Wimbish, Lee Howell and Chris Piland

New Business: Discussion of extending Advance (Early) Voting Hours 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Board member Dexter Wimbish began the discussion of extending Advance (Early)Voting Hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. He was advised by Director Kim Slaughter that she had already extended the hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m which gave an additional two hours daily. She also stated these hours had already been advertised several times.

Board member Wimbish asked the Board's attorney, Stephanie Windham, if the Elections Director could make this decision. Attorney Windham informed the Board that Director Slaughter is able to make this decision at her discretion.

Election Director Report -

Voter Registration Update – Voter Registration Coordinator - Sandra Hardy – (Total of Registered Voters as of September 8, 2026 – 54,269)

Review of records processed from August 10, 2026 through September 8, 2026.

GARVIS Dashboard Tiles Report:

- Department of Driver Services – 1062
- My Voter Page – 12
- Online Voter Registration – 27
- Vital Records – 41
- Felon Records – 226

Other Processing

- Mail in/Walk in – 79
- Moved out of County – 156
- Request to Cancel – 2

Summary of all processing

- New Voters – 161
- Transfers – 223
- Address Changes – 376
- Name Change – 27
- No Change – 616

Our county received a file from the Secretary of States Office referencing potential felons that were not originally flagged when processing incoming voter registration records. These were all processed and the

procedure was explained to the Board which allows any of the 226 stated audited potential felons to respond to mailed correspondence within 40 days.

Election Calendar:

- November 3, 2026 General Election
    - Polling Precincts have been informed.
    - Scheduling of Poll Officer training will be two weeks in September.
        - Week of 9/1/26
        - Week of 9/8/26
    - Local decisions on the November General ballot:
        - County commission District 5
        - Special Election: SPLOST referendum
        - Special Election: Orchard Hill to fill the vacancy seat of Bryan Hayes
            - Qualifying for this seat will be held on September 9th and 10th – 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on September 11th – 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Logic and Accuracy Testing:

- Logic & Accuracy scheduled for the week of 9/21/2026. (Director Slaughter corrected the L & A start date during the meeting.)

Financial Update:

- Financial printout (Found under "General" tab)
    - Beginning balance sheet: $831,310.00
    - Expenditures for July: $ 26,906.40
    - Ending Balance: $804,403.60

State Election Board Rulings:

Legislative Update:

- We are now required to maintain a handwritten numbered list of voters. At each poll pad will be a document where each voters name will be written down as they are checked in.

- The House gave final passage to SB 3EX during the 2026 Special session.
    - Creates Equipment Specifications and Standards Committee for a new statewide voting system based on hand-marked paper ballots printed on demand.
    - Committee's deadline to provide recommendations is January 31, 2027.
    - This bill also moves the effective date of removing the QR code from the ballot to January 1, 2028.
    - Requires mandatory hand recounts in close statewide races within a margin of 0.5%. Also requires that the State reimburse local governments if the hand count is completed in 17 days.
    - Expands the amount of races to be audited.

Remodeling of newly acquired space:

- After reviewing the bids submitted on July 7, 2026, LJA Engineering has recommended the Spalding County award the project to Headley Construction Company. Note correspondence in General tab. Director Kim Slaughter has verified with Dr. Ledbetter that this item is set for the agenda at the next County Commission meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Annex. She encourages all Board members to attend this important meeting.

- 08/11/2026 Update: Renovation began on Monday, and demolition is completed, with the running of wires beginning today and dry wall began going up on Monday 8/10/2026.

- Move in dates are scheduled for October 5-9, however the construction team is ahead of schedule and could begin as early as the week of October 21st.

Upcoming Events

- Kiwanis Fair – We have secured a booth for the Kiwanis Fair which will be held September 15th – 20th. We will provide voter outreach and election information to the public during this time.

Reminder: Next meeting date and time: October 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Courthouse Annex.

Old Business: None

Board Members Comments –

- **Dexter Wimbish** – No comments.
- **Lee Howell** – Mr. Howell appreciates all of Director Kim's and her staff's hard work. They are doing a great job.
- **Vice-Chairman James Newland** – First, Mr. Newland addressed the issue of Board members missing meetings and it is usually not planned. Second, he advised that if you send an email to the Board it goes to the Board and not just one person. An email to the Board should be answered by the Chairman. Lastly, advised Director Kim she is doing a great job.
- **Chris Piland –** Good work, thank you.

Adjournment –

Motion/Second by Lee Howell/Dexter Wimbish
Motion Passed:4-0
Voted for: Vice-Chairman James Newland, Dexter Wimbish, Lee Howell and Chris Piland at 7:08 p.m.

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James Newland, Vice-Chairman **Kim Slaughter, Elections Director**