SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2026
6:00 p.m.

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 on Tuesday, October 6, 2026. In attendance: Secretary Chris Piland presiding, Board members Dexter Wimbish and Lee Howell. Chairman Ben Johnson and Board member James Newland 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 – Secretary Chris Piland called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

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

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

Citizen Comments –

James Moore – He is concerned about the recent efforts by the Georgia State Election Board to involve Federal authorities in Georgia's election administration and wants us to protect our independence.

Taynay Matsumoto – Wanted to encourage those that have been doing this job. We need to remember not to carry the weight of the nation on our shoulders, but to do what we can do and take care of ourselves as well.

Adoption of the Agenda:
(Action Item)

Motion/Second by Dexter Wimbish/Lee Howell
Motion Passed: 3-0
Voted for: Secretary Chris Piland, Dexter Wimbish, and Lee Howell

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2026.
(Action Item)

Motion/Second by Dexter Wimbish/Lee Howell
Motion Passed: 3-0
Voted for: Voted for: Secretary Chris Piland, Dexter Wimbish, and Lee Howell

New Business: None

Election Director Report -

Voter Registration Update – Voter Registration Coordinator - Sandra Hardy – (Total of Registered Voters as of October 5, 2026 – 54,191)

Review of records processed from September 8, 2026 through October 5, 2026

GARVIS Dashboard Tiles Report:

- Department of Driver Services – 972
- My Voter Page – 44
- Online Voter Registration – 69
- Vital Records – 66
- Felon Records – 1

Other Processing

- Mail in/Walk in – 99
- Moved out of County – 249
- Request to Cancel – 2

Summary of all processing

- New Voters – 141
- Transfers – 198
- Address Changes – 175
- Name Change – 13
- No Change – 606

Third Party Absentee Applications and Mailings:

- Allowed by law but only with a box identifying the third party organization.
- The Secretary of State nor the Elections office can automatically mail out absentee applications to voters by law.
- Upon request and after verification of the voter, the elections office can mail out an application for absentee ballot by mail.
- All voters are urged to use caution when submitting and/or sharing information with organizations.

Absentee Ballots by Mail:

- There have been 790 ballots mailed out through today.

Election Calendar:

- November 3, 2026 General Election
    - Polling Precincts have been informed.
    - Poll Officer training is complete.
    - Advance Voting begins Tuesday, Oct 13th.
    - Sample Ballots are available
    - Local decisions on the November General ballot:
        - County commission District 2 and 5
        - Special Election: SPLOST referendum

- Special Election: The Orchard Hill election was cancelled because Bryan Hayes was the only candidate to qualify for this seat and therefore due to being an unopposed candidate is deemed voted for himself and is the Candidate of Choice.

Logic and Accuracy Testing:

- Logic & Accuracy testing for the November 3, 2026 General and Special Election has been completed.

Financial Update:

- Financial printout (Found under "General" tab)
  - Beginning balance sheet: $831,310.00
  - Expenditures to date: $ 93,499.51
  - Ending Balance: $737,810.49

State Election Board Rulings:

- SEB RULE 183-1-12-.11(2)(A)

- "The voter's name shall then be recorded in ink and entered on the appropriate numbered list of voters. "Numbered list of voters" means one or more sheets of uniform size containing consecutively numbered blank spaces for the insertion of voters 'names at the time of and in the order of receiving their ballots."

Kiwanis Fair: Participation in the Kiwanis Fair proved to be successful once more and an opportunity to distribute information to the community about the upcoming November election.

Remodeling of newly acquired space: Phase 1 has been completed, and Phase 2 began October 6, 2026. There was a smooth and quick transition from the original location of our main office to right up the sidewalk to the new main office location. Signage has been in place since Thursday of last week directing all voters to the correct door to the main office. Our staff have worked diligently to ensure a smooth transition while continuing to service voters without interruption. A big thank you to staff, poll officers, Lance Griffin and his team along with all County Employees, LJA Engineering, Headley Construction, Spalding Board of Commissioners and the Board of Elections.

Reminder:

- Friday – November 6, 2026 – Review of Election Results – 10:00 a.m.
- Monday – November 9, 2026 – Election Certification – 10:00 a.m.
- Both meetings will be held at the Elections and Voter Registration office located at 825 Memorial Drive, Griffin GA 30223

Old Business: None

Board Members Comments –

- **Dexter Wimbish** – To the staff and Kim, thank you for the incredible job you continue to do and in preparing for this next election. I am looking forward to it.

- **Lee Howell** – I'm perfectly satisfied with the elections office and with Director Kim and her report**.** Did question why the election staff couldn't register voters at the Kiwanis Fair and was advised by Attorney Stephanie Windham and Director Kim Slaughter that because of legislation we are not allowed to.

- **Chris Piland** – Wants to thank Kim and all those that participated in the move and remodel especially right here at election time. It did add a lot of work. Is glad that so many were able to help with the process. Also thanked the citizens that come to the meetings.

Adjournment –

Motion/Second by Lee Howell/Dexter Wimbish
Motion Passed:3-0
Voted for: Voted for: Secretary Chris Piland, Dexter Wimbish, and Lee Howell at 6:38 p.m.

_____ _____

Chris Piland, Secretary-Presiding **Kim Slaughter, Elections Director**