

ALABAMA VOTER REGISTRATION ADVISORY BOARD

-Minutes-

10/17/2019

(3rd Floor) Regions Board Room
Alabama Department of Archives and History Building
624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130

Members present were Chairman Jo Stiefel, Adonis Bailey, Don Milligan, Debbie Page, Fay Poole, Robert (Bob) Sanders, and Kathy Thompson and Benjamin Jones. Member Alleen Barnett was not present. Clay Helms was present to represent the Secretary of State's Office. Also, present was Rachel Knowles from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Acknowledgement of Quorum/Review of Minutes from 4/4/2019

Chairman Stiefel called the meeting to order. Chairman Stiefel notified the Board that the meeting notice was published online to comply with the Alabama Open Meetings Act and said notice was attached to the agenda. Chairman Stiefel called the roll and notified the Board that eight members were present which accomplished the quorum requirement. Chairman Stiefel asked the members of the Board to review the Agenda for the day and the official Meeting Minutes for the 9/12/2019, meeting. Board Member Jones motioned to approve the Agenda and Board Member Bailey seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor to approve. Board Member Thompson motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes from 9/12/2019, and the motion was seconded by Board Member Poole. The Board voted all in favor to approve.

Old Business

Chairman Stiefel reopened the discussion about the training of new registrars. Clay Helms discussed plans for Auburn University to hold the usual seven regional trainings per year, plus two new, extra trainings each year for new registrars only in which they will go through a crash course of the duties of the job. Board Member Milligan mentioned having seasoned registrars train the new registrars in a multi-day setting. Board Member Thompson mentioned that training needs to take place well before the 2020 Primary Election. The options of staggering appointments or moving appointments to an off-election year were discussed.

New Business

Chairman Stiefel opened the floor to new business. Clay Helms reminded the Board of upcoming events and a pending new contract for the voter registration and election management system. Chairman Stiefel shared a handout of county by county voter registration statistics compared to the number of working days registrars in each county are allowed to work as provided in the Code of Alabama (1975), section 17-3-8. The Board discussed how the current allotment of working days does not align with total registered voters or population that the registrars serve. The Board discussed possibilities for legislative changes and how county commissions may supplement registrar pay at the counties expense.

Motions

Board Member Thompson motioned for the Board to draft a survey to determine which counties are dissatisfied with the number of working days allotted to them in relation to the number of registered voters in their county and workload, and to gauge which counties may not be using all of their allotted working days. The motion was seconded by Board Member Page. The Board voted in favor of the motion with seven ayes and 1 nay. Board Member Poole held the one dissenting vote.

Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

Board members discussed setting the next meeting on January 23, 2020 at 2:00 pm, with an alternate date of January 30, 2020 to serve as a backup.

Adjournment

Board Member Thompson motioned to adjourn and Board Member Page seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor to approve.

Debbie Page

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Adrian Bailey

Jay Spool

Karby Thompson

Jo W. Stiefel, Chairman 02.13.2020