

ALABAMA VOTER REGISTRATION ADVISORY BOARD

-Meeting Minutes-

February 1, 2024

2:00 PM

624 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104

Members present were Adonis B. Whitlow, Eugenia Stone, John Lackey, Bob Sanders, and Dr. Benjamin Jones. Absent members were Don Milligan, Debbie Page, and Kristie Pinyan. Candace Payne was present to represent the Secretary of State's Office.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Acknowledgement of Quorum/Review of Minutes from 11/30/2023

Candace Payne, Supervisor of Voter Registration called the meeting to order. Member Dr. Benjamin Jones led the board in the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was done by the group. The attendance of five members was acknowledged and a quorum was present. Candace Payne led the acknowledgment of the notification of the meeting on Open Meetings was posted two weeks in advance. The Agenda was reviewed and approved by all members of the board.

Old Business

The board acknowledged that there was no need for a Mission Statement due to Administrative Code of Alabama outlining the Voter Registration purpose. No further Old Business was discussed.

New Business

Eugenia Stone asked if after the Voter Registration Advisory Board can Candace Payne discuss with Secretary of State Wes Allen a process of submitting recommendations of the Advisory Board and also if the suggestions can be presented to the Appointing Board. Mrs. Stone suggested the board include the Voter Registration Advisory Board Chair to formally introduce suggestions to the Appointing Board. John Lackey asked could Ms. Payne be the point of contact to report the suggestions and meeting minutes presented from the Advisory Board.

Adonis B. Whitlow mentioned each year the Board of Registrars must ask the Alabama Legislature and present a bill asking for a raise. Mrs. Whitlow said there was only one documented instance of a raise in the past 30 years for the Boards of Registrars. Mr. Lackey suggested compensation for the Registrars should reflect the importance of the appointed position. Mrs. Stone said the registrars are not adequately compensated or the cost of living.

Dr. Jones suggested the State of Alabama use other states' Board of Registrars salaries as a benchmark and Mrs. Stone told the board that other states have a different structure where a staff is employed by their states or counties to register voters.

Mr. Lackey, Mrs. Whitlow, and Mrs. Stone suggested Registrars be paid for the four hours of overtime they work on each election day and asked if Secretary Allen could get this process in motion. There was discussion of this may have to go through the legislature. Dr. Jones suggested the Alabama Association of Boards of Registrars get the word out to the public about what registrars do and how important it is to get trustworthy individuals.

Mrs. Stone asked about the updated Board of Registrars Handbook and Mrs. Payne said there has been some discussion with some of the Registrars on updates to the Handbook and that the Secretary of State is open to receiving more input from Registrars to update the handbook to reflect new laws and voter registration system updates.

Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

The next meeting is set for Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM in the Archives Regions Room.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Adonis Whitlow, seconded by Dr. Ben Jones, approved by all board members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.