

The Laurens County Board of Elections and Registration met on Monday, March 3, 2025 in the Elections and Registration Office for their regular monthly meeting. Present were Christine Baker, Vice Chair and Board Members, Keith Alligood, Alan Scarbrough and Gladine White. Susan Rooks, Election Supervisor was also present.

Call to Order.

Christine Baker opened the meeting in prayer.

Visitors were welcomed.

The minutes of the February 3, 2025 and February 11, 2025 meetings were approved as submitted. Alan Scarbrough motioned to approve and Gladine White seconded.

The expenditures were approved as submitted. Gladine White motioned to approve and Alan Scarbrough seconded.

OLD BUSINESS: Susan stated that she had emailed the Courier Herald about publishing the closings of the Cadwell and First Baptist Church Family Life Center precincts. She asked that the newspaper run the notifications in the legal ads in block form to be published March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. These notifications will be charged to the Board of Elections and Registration budget.

Susan also let the Board know that Genola Jackson, former Election Superintendent, had given an appreciation luncheon for the poll workers on Friday, February 28, 2025. Genola expressed her appreciation to all for their service to the community and the election process over the past years. Susan stated that she and Jennifer asked the poll workers to sign an information sheet with their name, precinct, address, phone number and email address. This was a great help in preparing our Poll Worker Contact List for our use in future elections.

Susan said that a few of the workers had expressed their concerns about the closing of the Cadwell and First Baptist Church Family Life Center precincts asking if they would be able to work at other precincts. Susan assured them that their names would remain on the Poll Worker list and would be contacted if needed. She also said that she had contacted all the Poll Managers and informed them that a Special

Primary Election was scheduled for June 17, 2025 to be followed by a Special General Election in November.

NEW BUSINESS: Susan stated that she had contacted Greg Whiten with Easy Vote Solutions about their Easy Campaign/Finance program. This is a cloud-based, electronic filing solution that brings efficiency and transparency to the administration, reporting, and public viewing of campaign disclosure reports. This program would take a heavy burden off our staff in reporting this information to Ethics Commission. The cost of the program would be \$2,000.00 per year with a \$500.00 one-time set up fee. She stated that Greg would come to our office and fully set up the program. She asked that the Board approve the program with Easy Vote to be put into the 2025-2026 budget. The Board approved for the program to be included. However, Senate Bill 199 has been presented to the legislative committee requesting to remove ethics filing responsibilities from local election officials. If this bill passes, we may not need the program.

Susan also informed the Board that we would need to work on the 2025-2026 Budget in the next couple of weeks. She said that she would ask Donna Lumley, Finance Manager, to meet with us in a special called work meeting to help in the preparation of the budget. This will be our first budget as a new Board of Elections and Registration.

At this time the visitors were recognized and asked if they had any questions. Attending were: Rae S. Bloodworth and James H. Lindsey. Mr. Lindsey asked if he could help the residents at the VA Hospital with registering to vote and making applications for Absentee Ballots for future elections. Susan stated that the forms were available in our office for him to utilize for the residents of the VA. Mr. Lindsey also stated that he would like to be considered to be a poll worker. Susan received his information and stated that she would put him on the poll worker contact list.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. with the next regular monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2025.