

The Laurens County Board of Elections and Registration met on Monday, August 4, 2025 in the Elections and Registration Office for their regular monthly meeting. Present were: J. David Gay, Chair, Christine Baker, Vice Chair and Board Members, Keith Alligood, Alan Scarbrough and Gladine White. Susan Rooks, Election Supervisor was also present.

Call to Order.

David Gay opened the meeting in prayer.

There were no visitors to recognize.

The minutes of the July 7, 2025 meeting were approved as submitted. Christine Baker motioned to approve and Gladine White seconded.

The expenditures were approved as submitted. Alan Scarbrough motioned to approve and Keith Alligood seconded. Keith recommended to the Board that we obtain a breakdown of the salary that our IT representative, Brad Calder, has been paid in the last 5 years. With the salary breakdown, we will possibly be able to approach the Board of Commissioners about hiring someone full-time to shadow Brad and learn all that he does in the election preparation process as Brad is planning to retire in a couple of years.

OLD BUSINESS: Susan stated that the July 15, 2025 Democratic Run-off was conducted with no problems. There were 12 Absentee Ballots mailed with 11 returned and approved to be counted. We also had 76 to Advance Vote in person and 82 to vote on Election Day. She also stated the Audit for the Run-Off had been completed on August 24, 2025 with no changes in the vote count.

Susan let the Board know that the trading pins that had been approved to purchase are delayed as could not receive them in time for the upcoming GAVREO Conference. She stated that she would contact J. T. Hannah again in December to process the order so that they would be available for the 2026 GAVREO Conference in March.

NEW BUSINESS: Susan reminded the Board that she, David and Jennifer would be attending the GAVREO Conference in Savannah, August 10th thru 13th. She also

presented the Board with copies of the new Bylaws of The Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials including a breakdown of proposed membership dues. This membership fee will be discussed at the GAVREO Annual Business Meeting to be held on Monday, August 11, 2025 from 4:45 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

She stated that the Secretary of State had sent 1,383 mailers for Laurens County of voters who had not voted in the last two General Elections. These voters are placed on a 40-day clock once the mailers are mailed. They had already been sent a mailer when they went to Inactive status, and all voters are being sent this mailer to inform them that they will be canceled if they do not respond. Of the 1,383 mailed, Susan stated that she had received approximately 300 returned as undeliverable as addressed, no mail receptacle, refused, moved or insufficient address.

The Secretary of State had also sent 1,041 mailers for Laurens County of voters who have had No Contact meaning they did not vote, submit an updated registration application, or have other activity with the election office. At the end of the 40-day clock when mailed, if there is no response, the voter will be placed at an Inactive Status. Susan stated that only one had been returned undeliverable as of this meeting date.

The November Ballot was then discussed with Susan stating that a County-wide ESPLOST and Bond was being presented by the Laurens County School Board. She has been contacted by the School Board but they had not presented the information to the County Governing Authority to meet on as of the meeting date. For the City of Dublin Election, being held in conjunction with the County Election, they also have an ESPLOST, Council Seats and School Board Seats up for this election. There is also a Referendum to be placed on the ballot, presented by House Representative Matt Hatchett and signed by Governor Brian Kemp on May 9th, 2025 regarding an act to provide Homestead Exemption for educational purposes. A copy of Act 106, HB 805 and Act 329, HB 803 was presented to the Board. Susan stated that she had talked with Heather Browning, Clerk for the City of Dublin, and Josh Powell, City Manager about getting their City attorney to write this Referendum up to be placed on the ballot. Susan said that she had informed both Heather and Josh that she would need this Referendum and all other items to be sent to her no later than September 5th as that is the last day that the Election Project Coordinators, (ballot builders) have designated as the deadline to have all

ballot information. They want us to get this information to them ASAP so the ballot builders can get started on our ballots and we can DOUBLE CHECK everything. David suggested we mail a letter to the City of Dublin Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk stressing the importance of having this information ASAP. He also asked that we copy to the County Administrator, County Attorney and Board of Election Members.

Susan also stated that she had talked with the City of Dudley about moving their Municipal Voting Precinct (City Hall) to the new Dudley Precinct (Fire Station). She had informed the Mayor, Jason Locke, that the Dudley City Council would need to approve this transition and send a letter to our Board of the approved request. David recommended that a letter also be sent to the Mayor and Council of the City of Dudley with a copy to the County Administrator, County Attorney and Board of Election Members.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. with the next regular monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025.