



Grady County Board of Elections & Registration
250 North Broad Street, Suite 3
Cairo, Ga 39838

*****OFFICIAL*****

September 2, 2025

The Grady County Board of Elections and Registration (BOE&R) held their September monthly meeting at 10:30 AM at the Grady County Courthouse located at 250 North Broad Street, Cairo, Ga 39828 with the following board members present:

Kathy Mills, Secretary
Sandy Reagan: Board Member
Bobby Gwaltney: Board Member

Staff present:

Jason Tate, Elections Supervisor
Melinda Butler, Elections Clerk

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Kathy Mills called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM, opened with a prayer and thanked everyone for attending.

Kathy requested the agenda be approved, Bobby Gwaltney made a motion to approve, Sandy Reagan second the motion, approval carried by all signifying aye. Kathy asked members to review the August meeting minutes, and Sandy made a motion to approve, Bobby second the motion, approval carried by all signifying aye.

Kathy turned the meeting over to Elections Supervisor, Jason Tate. Jason distributed thumb drives to members present containing information from the GAVREO Conference. Jason also discussed the need to produce a new/more current policy book with the rationale being the need to standardize procedures and prevent future ambiguity. Jason also discussed the need for modernizing the County Election Website, proposal for a county voter information guide, and a guide for security and emergency preparedness. Due to the length of this conversation written minutes will not be included, there is a voice recording and transcript available through an open records request, of the complete conversation for anyone desiring to listen to the tape or read the transcription.

Jason provided the following information for Board Members. November Election Logistics and Key Dates: Absentee ballot applications are being accepted (none received to date).

October 6: Deadline for voter registration and change of address for November election.

October 14: First day of early voting.

October 24: Last day to submit an application for an absentee ballot.

Training:

L&A (Logic and Accuracy) Testing: Dates are to be determined, anticipated for the third or fourth week of September.

Poll Worker Training: Dates are to be determined. The training will be hands-on, requiring poll workers to set up and break down voting equipment.

Upcoming Legislative and Procedural Changes

Legislative Outlook: The legislative session beginning in January is expected to be "tumultuous," with the potential for significant changes to election laws as most officials are up for re-election. A Blue Ribbon Study Committee has been meeting to discuss potential changes.



QR Code Mandate: A law effective July 1st requires removing QR codes from ballots. This will require the legislature to either change the law's verbiage or find \$60-\$65 million to update all Dominion voting equipment.

Alternative Voting Systems:**A proposal would allow counties to opt into a pilot program using hand-marked paper ballots (Law 21-2-334), effectively invalidating current Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs). There is a consensus that any new system should be applied uniformly across all election types.

Potential Voting Procedure Adjustments:**Discussions are underway regarding potentially eliminating Saturday voting and shortening the early voting period from three weeks to two or one. Sunday voting remains a partisan issue.

Certification Process: A court ruling has established that certification is a required administrative duty that cannot be held up by a single board member. State law (183-1-12) now mandates a pre-certification meeting to compare the number of ballots cast against unique voter IDs for each precinct. If discrepancies are found, the board must investigate and determine a just method to compute the votes.

Jason gave an update on the City of Cairo Elections in which the City has decided to purchase their own voting equipment, this is expected to nullify the intergovernmental agreement with the County. Jason also followed up the potential March special election for the Clerk's Office in March; this is not recommended. State law for an even-numbered year only allows ballot questions during the May primary or November general election. Holding it in May would be at no additional cost to taxpayers, whereas a March election would be an unnecessary expense and create a compressed, high-risk timeline conflicting with a mandatory conference.

Kathy informed the board that the next meeting will be held **October 6th at 5:30 PM**

Kathy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bobby made a motion and Sandy second the motion, approval carried by all signifying aye. Meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM

Renee' Gee-Theophille, Chair

Sam Carnline, Vice-Chair

Kathy Mills, Secretary

Sandy Reagan, Board Member

Bobby Gwaltney, Board Member

