



Thomas County Board of Elections and Registration

1402 E. Jackson Street, Thomasville, GA 31792 | PO Box 110, Thomasville, GA 31799
229-225-4101 (Phone) | 229-225-3133 (Fax) | thomascountyboc.org

August 18, 2026

The Thomas County Board of Elections held the August 2026 board meeting on the above date at 10:00 AM at the Thomas County Elections and Registration office at 1402 E. Jackson Street, Thomasville, Georgia, with the following board members present:

Terry Ross, Chairman
Sharon Fykes, Board Member
Mike Borden, Board Member

Staff present:

Savannah Sorrentino, Elections Supervisor
Hannah Phillips, Assistant Elections Supervisor
Abbey Jackson, Administrative Clerk

Guests Present:

Patricia Christian
Shirley Jackson
Gloria Glass
Louise Phillips
Lucinda Brown

Invocation: Shirley Jackson

Chairman Ross called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to accept the July 2026 minutes. Ms. Fykes moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Ross. The motion passed, and the minutes were accepted by all board members signifying Aye.

Old Business:

Ms. Sorrentino reported that qualifying for the special election for County Commissioner District 6 was held on August 4-6. She stated that three candidates qualified to be on the ballot in November – Otis Boyd (Nonpartisan), Adrian Burns Smith (Republican), and Jonathan Wood (Nonpartisan). Ms. Sorrentino stated that the election is nonpartisan since it is a special election; however, candidates in special elections for partisan offices may choose to designate their party affiliation on the ballot.

New Business:

Chairman Ross introduced the new Elections Supervisor, Savannah Sorrentino.

Staff Reports:

Savannah Sorrentino:

Ms. Sorrentino shared her background before joining the elections office. She previously worked at the Thomas County Probate Court for about six years. She stated that she was sworn in as the Elections Supervisor by the Probate Judge during her first week at the elections office. Ms. Sorrentino said that one of her goals is to ensure that Thomas County has a professional and accessible elections office where



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citizens can find the information they need. She stated that she has completed her Georgia Election Official Certification.

Ms. Sorrentino provided an update on the new Douglass polling location since the Jack Hadley Black History Museum building has been demolished. She stated that the elections office pursued Scott Senior Center as an option for the new Douglass polling place. However, the location was not a viable option at this time. She stated that she needed to decide on the new polling location for Douglass by August 18 at noon to publish required notices in the newspaper before the November election. She stated that the elections office will be moving forward with Dawson Street Methodist Church as the new Douglass polling place.

Hannah Phillips:

Ms. Phillips explained that the Dawson Street Methodist Church was successfully used as the emergency Douglass polling place for the June 16 Runoff. She stated that prior to the June 16 Runoff, she and Chairman Ross reached out to multiple locations to ask if they would be a polling location for Douglass voters, but they were not open to being a polling place. Mr. Borden offered Dawson Street Methodist Church as the Douglass polling location for the June 16 Runoff. Ms. Phillips stated that he has also offered the church as an established polling place for Douglass voters.

Ms. Phillips informed the Board and guests present that Thomas County is listed on the State Election Board Meeting agenda for August 19, 2026. She said that the case is from 2022 and will possibly be referred to the Attorney General. She stated that she contacted the State Election Board because she had no knowledge of the allegations and was informed that no charges were filed against Thomas County. Ms. Phillips said that the case involves an alleged non-citizen registering to vote through the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS). DDS is supposed to verify citizenship before allowing individuals to register to vote. Ms. Phillips stated that in recent years, DDS has enacted more guardrails to ensure that non-citizens are not allowed to register to vote.

Ms. Phillips said that she and Ms. Sorrentino went to Lowndes County last week for a regional meeting. They saw demonstrations of new ballot-on-demand systems and high-speed scanners. Ms. Phillips stated that since Georgia requires a statewide voting system, each county must use the voting system that the legislature and Secretary of State choose in the future.

Abbey Jackson:

Ms. Jackson provided important dates for the upcoming General/Special Election on November 3:

- October 5: Last day to change your address or register to vote;
- August 17-October 23: Submission period for absentee ballot applications;
- October 13-October 30: Early voting at the elections office; and
- October 17 and October 24: Saturday early voting at the elections office.

Ms. Fykes asked for dates related to a potential runoff for the County Commissioner District 6 contest. Ms. Sorrentino stated that if a runoff is required, it would be held on December 1. Ms. Phillips stated that early voting would most likely occur Monday-Wednesday, November 23-25, possibly with extended hours due to the Thanksgiving holidays that week.



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Guest Questions/Comments:

Shirley Jackson asked that the county website calendar be updated to show any board meeting date changes. Ms. Jackson asked if an individual from a polling location had to remain during voting hours. Ms. Phillips stated that it was not a requirement, but the elections office needs access to deliver the equipment to a secure area before Election Day.

Patricia Christian asked what “permanent” meant regarding the new polling location. She stated that Douglass was restoring some of the buildings on campus and would like the voting location to return upon completion. Ms. Phillips stated that the new location would be established for now, and new precinct cards will be mailed to Douglass voters; however, the location could change in the future.

Gloria Glass said that she was opposed to moving the Douglass polling location out of the south area of the precinct. Ms. Glass suggested the Weston Park and the Judicial Center, a government building. She asked why Douglass could not vote at the library. Ms. Phillips explained that the elections office had explored moving Douglass to the library, but it is already for the polling location for Jerger/Scott. Ms. Phillips stated that the library did not have another secure room large enough to hold voting machines.

Louise Phillips stated that she and others were interested in attending voter registration drive training.

Lucinda Brown suggested the gym at the Weston YMCA as the Douglass polling location. Ms. Phillips stated that the Weston YMCA does not have a large parking lot and often holds programs for children. Ms. Brown thanked the Board and staff for answering their questions.

Adjournment:

Chairman Ross gave the date of the next board meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Chairperson Ross made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Fykes seconded. All were in favor by signifying Aye.

Terry Ross, Chairman

ATTEST: Abbey Jackson

Thank you,



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