



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

January 14, 2026

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

Sharon Fykes, Chairperson
Michael Borden, Board Member
Terry Ross, Board Member

Staff present:

Frank Scoggins, Elections Supervisor
Hannah Phillips, Assistant Elections Supervisor
Abbey Jackson, Administrative Clerk

Guest present:

Wanda Borden
Shirley Jackson
Marchelle Walden
Audrey Lindor

Invocation: David Cook – retired hospice Chaplin

Chairperson Fykes called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to accept the December 2025 minutes. Mr. Ross moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Borden. The motion passed, and the minutes were accepted by all board members signifying Aye.

Old Business:

Ms. Phillips answered Mr. Borden's question about the law prohibiting weapons in polling places. She provided O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127, which does not define weapons to specifically include knives. Ms. Phillips said that she will obtain the GAVREO president's contact information if the board members wanted to suggest any proposed law/rule changes. Mr. Borden stated that he was curious as to what local law enforcement defined as a weapon, and Mr. Scoggins stated that he would reach out to the sheriff's office for a response. Chairperson Fykes stated that they could also reach out to a local representative.

New Business:

Chairperson Fykes stated the first new business of the new year was to elect a new Chair. Mr. Borden nominated Mr. Ross as Chair for 2026, and Chairperson Fykes seconded the nomination. All were in favor by saying Aye. The board members along with staff stated they would support Chair Ross. Mr. Ross stated that he will begin as Chair in February 2026.

Chairperson Fykes presented a calendar for all 2026 board meetings. Mr. Scoggins stated that he will add the calendar to the website and Facebook page.



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Staff Reports:

Frank Scoggins:

Mr. Scoggins stated that the City of Coolidge contacted him about a vacancy in their city council and would like to have an election in March. Mr. Scoggins told them that would be the only item on the ballot in March. He told them he would be happy to hold a special election in March for them, or they could wait until a later election in 2026 when they would not have to cover the entire cost. He is waiting to hear back from them regarding their decision.

Mr. Scoggins stated the elections office will be getting a ballot folding machine.

Mr. Scoggins stated that he was contacted by an investigator with the Secretary of State's office this week about an incident that occurred during a 2024 election.

Hannah Phillips:

Ms. Phillips previously stated that elected officials would have to file their PFDS paperwork directly with the State Ethics Commission this year; however, the change in filing procedures has been extended to next year. Local elected officials will begin filing their PFDS directly with the State Ethics Commission in 2027.

Abbey Jackson:

Ms. Jackson presented a calendar with the 2026 election dates and corresponding absentee-by-mail submission periods. Voters can review the calendar at the elections office, on the website, or on Facebook.

Guest comments/questions:

Shirley Jackson asked if someone could suggest to the municipalities to add a provision in their charter giving them direction if a city council member resigned before an election. Mr. Borden stated that the city council and their lawyer would have to discuss and come to an agreement for what they would do in that situation.

Audrey Lindor asked how long the municipalities have to decide to hold a special election. Mr. Scoggins stated they have up to 29 days prior to the election.

Adjournment:

Chairperson Fykes gave the date of the next board meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Chairperson Fykes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Borden made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ross seconded the motion. All were in favor by saying Aye.



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Sharon Fykes, Chairperson

ATTEST: Abbey Jackson

Thank you,

Frank Scoggins

Thomas County Elections Supervisor



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