



**BALDWIN COUNTY
WORK SESSION**
December 5, 2023
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
5:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Emily Davis
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig

OTHERS PRESENT

Brandon Palmer
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Emily Davis called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE 1 FISCAL MATTERS

Proposal for Establishment of Board of Elections

Chair Emily Davis stated the purpose of this meeting is to discuss proposal for the establishment of a Board of Elections. Chair Davis stated the Committee composed of Vice Chair Westmoreland and Commissioner Butts has met with Senator Rick Williams and Judge Todd Blackwell as well as other interested parties to develop a proposal for the establishment of a Board of Elections. She asked Mr. Westmoreland and Mr. Butts if they would like to make comments prior to the County Attorney's discussion. They declined comment at this time.

County Attorney Brandon Palmer stated a potential proposal is being presented for discussion which would be given to the local delegation to take to Atlanta to drop a bill that would transition the County from elections being handled by the Probate Judge to a Board of Elections. Attorney Palmer stated that action by this Board would be to authorize submission of the proposal to the local delegation; and it is up to the local delegation to drop a bill to be approved by the General Assembly.

County Palmer discussed the proposal in detail including the composition of the initial board, staggered elections for members, appointment of successor members of Board of Elections for the initial terms ending in 2028 and 2030, removal / vacancies of members, and supervisor of registration and elections. Discussion was held about the method of appointment of members of the Board of Elections.

After further discussion regarding the proposal, Commissioners recommended changes to Section V— Supervisor of Registration and Elections. The section was amended as follows to add: c. The supervisor may be terminated or disciplined for cause by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners. d. The Board of Elections shall advise the Board of Commissioners on the issue of discipline of supervisor or termination of employment. The remainder of the section was not amended.

Discussion was held regarding whether or not the vote must be unanimous by the Board of Commissioners for the legislative delegation to introduce the bill.

County Attorney Palmer explained the process. He stated this Board is putting together a general outline to be submitted to Senator Williams who will then send the outline to the Office of Legislative Counsel to prepare a first draft of the bill. The draft will be sent back to the Board of Commissioners for their review and comment. Senator Williams asked that the outline be submitted earlier rather than later in order for a bill to be introduced.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily C. Davis
Chair



Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk