

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY TO REQUEST THE DEKALB COUNTY CHIEF AUDIT EXECUTIVE TO ADD AN OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW TO INCLUDE A FISCAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE DEKALB COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO THE 2019 ANNUAL WORKPLAN FOR THE OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDIT.

WHEREAS, DeKalb County, Georgia is committed to ensuring that its taxpayers, citizens and the public are ensured the right to a transparent, reliable and accessible means by which to exercise their franchise within DeKalb County, GA; and

WHEREAS, it is important that voters and candidates alike have confidence that the administration of the duties performed by the DeKalb County Voter Registration and Elections Department are dispatched with integrity in accordance to all tenets of the Georgia election code and other applicable;

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners request that the Office of Independent Internal Audit at the direction of the Chief Audit Executive and approval of the Audit Oversight Committee engage in the competitive solicitation, coordination and management of an external operational overview—to include a fiscal and performance audit, of the DeKalb County Voter Registration and Elections Department through entry unto its 2019 workplan;

WHEREAS, the scope of services for the aforementioned overview and audit should include but not be limited by the following:

Operational Review and Audit based on the department's budget appropriation over the last 3-5 years;

How does the department manage voter registration applications – whether they be new registrations, address updates or absentee ballot applications?

How does the department implement the management practices used for new registration, address updates or absentee ballot applications?

How does the department ensure that this practice is consistent among all employees in the department?

How is information retained and documented in case an election is overturned?

What is the procedure for handling voter irregularities?

Operational comparison to industry standards and best practices;

An internal hierarchical management review of the department;

What are the various roles and responsibilities of employees in the department?

An assessment of what innovation has been implemented by the new director to

What methods does the department use to remain competitive and on the cutting edge to ensure that all elections are fair and transparent? (i.e. implementation of new technology, community outreach, etc.)

An assessment of what has been implemented to provide accurate/real time election results for the public to see during elections;

An assessment of how the department adequately plans for sufficient early voting locations;

Is there a standard procedure/practice of how early voting is handled?

Given the overwhelming turnout during the 2018 election and with a 2020 Presidential Election, does the department see a need to request additional funding to ensure that the County has sufficient locations to serve all of its voters?

An assessment of how the department plans for the new voting system for 2020;

What training is in place to ensure that employees are familiar with the new system?

What is the County doing to ensure that elections are secure with the new change?

Will additional funding be needed to implement the new voting system?

My name is [REDACTED] I am registered to vote in DeKalb County and my address is [REDACTED]

I received my absentee ballot in late September and mailed it in on November 1, 2018. When I found out about the MVP website from my friend, I checked it to see if my ballot was accepted and saw that it was not due to "insufficient oath information." I called the numbers I was able to find online. I called the Stone Mountain office and they forwarded me to someone that handles the absentee ballots. I was told by this person that, "once it's in, it's in. There is nothing you can do about it."

I found this out on Thursday, November 8th. I never received a call or email advising me that the ballot was rejected. By then, it was too late to go to the polling place and vote.

I was not able to vote in the 2018 General Election.



Signed

[REDACTED]
February 25, 2019

I am a resident of DeKalb County in Georgia and my residence address is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For the 2018 Georgia General Election, my daughter experienced an imperfect absentee ballot process that caused anxiety, and for the following runoff election, the absentee ballot process seems to have failed my daughter completely.

My daughter, [REDACTED] and I live in DeKalb County and are registered to vote there. [REDACTED] attends [REDACTED] College in Massachusetts. For the General Election, [REDACTED] requested her absentee ballot around the middle of October and received it around 10 days later. She mailed the absentee ballot before the end of October.

[REDACTED] periodically checked the Secretary of State's My Voter Page (MVP) to see if her ballot had been received. She checked on Election Day, November 6, 2018, and the absentee ballot section of her MVP page did not show that her ballot was received.

[REDACTED] and I were both very concerned because voting in this election was very important to her. So [REDACTED] checked MVP again on the Thursday after the Election

and her absentee ballot status said that it was received on 11/05/2018 and that it was accepted.

To see that her ballot counted was a relief but also caused us anxiety because the status of her ballot did not show up until after the election. We thought the ballot may not have arrived on time.

Alex came home for Thanksgiving. She wanted to vote in the Run-off Election but was leaving right before Early Voting would start. In order to get an Absentee Ballot mailed to her at Wellesley as quickly as possible and to make sure the ballot request form arrived, we decided that I would deliver the form in person.

She filled out the Absentee Ballot Request form and I went in person to deliver it to the DeKalb Board of Elections office on Memorial Drive on November 26.

When I arrived, I handed [REDACTED] Absentee Ballot Request form to the woman working at the Elections office. She took the form, stamped the ballot request form using a type of stamping machine, and said it should be sent out that day.

As of today, [REDACTED] has not received her absentee ballot at [REDACTED] College. Her MVP says it was issued 11/27/18 but she never received it and did not have time to request another one.

For the general election, my daughter [REDACTED] was left wondering whether her absentee ballot had actually counted until two days after the election. Then, [REDACTED] requested her ballot well-ahead of time in order to vote in the Run-off election, but never received her ballot.

The absentee ballot process was imperfect at best for the General Election. For the runoff election, the absentee ballot process seems to have prevented [REDACTED] from exercising her right to vote altogether.

Signed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
February 25, 2019

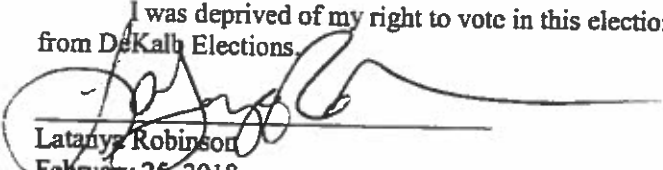
STATEMENT OF LATANYA ROBINSON

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a registered voter in DeKalb County, GA. My residence address is [REDACTED]. I was working temporarily out of state during the election period for the 2018 general election held on November 6, 2018.

I wanted to vote an absentee ballot, and I emailed a request for an absentee ballot to voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov on October 18, 2018. I received a response from Mary Frances Weeks saying, "Your request has been printed off and delivered to our absentee department for processing." A copy of the email thread is attached. I do not know when or if an absentee ballot was actually mailed to my temporary address out of state.

I did not receive the absentee ballot, and so I called the Democratic Party of Georgia voter hotline. The hotline volunteer put me on a three-way call with an employee at DeKalb County Elections. The DeKalb County employee told me that I would have to come in person to vote. It was too late to get another absentee ballot. I was working in Massachusetts, and I could not come home to vote. That is the reason I requested an absentee ballot. I have never received the ballot, either at my temporary address or at my home address in DeKalb County.

I was deprived of my right to vote in this election because I never received an absentee ballot from DeKalb Elections.



Latanya Robinson
February 25, 2018

My name is [REDACTED] I am a registered voter in DeKalb County and my registered address is in Stone Mountain, GA. I am currently working in DC as a Research Fellow at the National Journal through July 2019.

In 2016, I was a student at [REDACTED] University of Chicago and I voted in IL. I had been told by other people that it is customary for students to vote in the state where they are studying in rather than their residency. I have now graduated and, for the 2018 Election, wanted to vote in Georgia.

My GA driver's license expired in mid-August. I was concerned that I would not be able to register to vote with my expired license. I tried to register to vote online on the Secretary of State's website and it said my registration was pending. But I had a feeling that it wouldn't go through because my license was expired. I know that when you order a new state ID you can tick a box that says automatically register me to vote, so I did that.

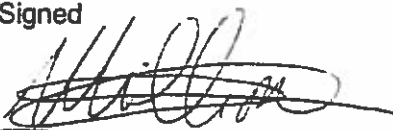
I checked back periodically on the Secretary of State's website and called my local Election Center to see if they had received my voter registration form. I saw online that my registration was confirmed a few weeks before the election, perhaps three. At that point, I requested an absentee ballot by printing out the form and mailing it to the local Election Center between the 16th and 22nd of October. I considered flying back to vote in person because I really wanted my vote to count and was concerned that my absentee ballot wouldn't arrive in time. I turned out to be right.

I waited about a week and called DeKalb County to ask if they had received my application. They said that they were not sure and that it takes a while. They said if I had mailed it, they should have received it, but could not confirm it. I checked every day for the next three days until I saw that my ballot request had been approved and my ballot mailed. It took two full weeks after my request for my absentee ballot to arrive. I received it on Saturday, November 3rd. The post office was already closed by the time I received it Saturday. On Sunday, November 4th, I decided to send my ballot via FedEx 2-day tracking to arrive by 3pm on November 6th. I was told that as long as my ballot was received by 7pm it would be counted but I was still concerned given earlier challenges so I chose to have it arrive at 3pm. There was no free way for me to send back my ballot.

I called the DeKalb County to make sure my ballot had arrived in time and they confirmed that it had. I paid about \$30 to ship it. In total, I spent \$45 and 3-4 hours between registering, checking my status, and hunting down my ballot, to make sure my vote was counted.

The person I talked to at the DeKalb County Board of Elections was extremely helpful and was doing a great job. If this person had not been as helpful as they were, I would not have been able to vote.

Signed



[REDACTED]
February 25, 2019

My name is [REDACTED] I am a resident of DeKalb County in Georgia and my residence address is [REDACTED]. For the 2018 Georgia General Election, I attempted to vote absentee but my ballot was mishandled. I was disenfranchised from my right to vote for state and local offices.

I am an experienced voter who has exercised my right to vote absentee by mail many times before. For the 2018 Georgia General Election, I requested an absentee ballot but I elected to receive my absentee ballot electronically, for the first time. Previously I have received my absentee ballot by post.

I emailed the DeKalb County to make sure that my absentee application had been accepted. DeKalb County told me that the signature had not come through so they asked me to sign and re-submit the application. I re-submitted and signed the application. DeKalb County said they would issue a link with an electronic ballot.

By October 10, since it had been a while since my previous correspondence, I was concerned because I had not received my ballot. I emailed the county again and they said they would reissue the ballot. When I received the ballot, I saw that my ballot had only federal races on it -- no statewide or local offices.

I have always been able to vote for local offices, statewide offices, and statewide amendments on my ballot. I spoke with my mom because I thought this was

I have always been able to vote for local offices, statewide offices, and statewide amendments on my ballot. I spoke with my mom because I thought this was strange. My mother said she had other issues on her ballot herself, so that prompted me to follow up. I surmised that my ballot was delivered with important parts missing due to its electronic delivery. I emailed the county on October 22 and two different officials confirmed that I had received the correct ballot.

As far as I am aware of, I filled out the application in the same way as I had in previous years, and I have always received the full ballot. After the election, I reviewed my application and confirmed that I had checked the box for "temporary overseas resident," which means I should have gotten the full ballot with statewide and local candidates.

I was not able to vote for statewide or local offices this year, because DeKalb County refused to deliver me a full ballot. I was deprived of my right to vote for statewide and local offices this election cycle.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Samuel", written over a thick black horizontal redaction bar.

February 26, 2019

Good afternoon! I am [REDACTED] I live in Tucker. Due to the fact that my husband is unable to walk any distance or stand for very long, for the past several election cycles we have voted by absentee ballot. During the first week of October, 2018, I went on-line and printed forms to request absentee ballots for myself and my husband and sent them by mid-October. Coincidentally, that same week, a form came in the mail for my daughter, who lives in Iceland, to request her absentee ballot. I filled out the form, sent it in, and a week later her absentee ballot arrived in the mail and I mailed it on to Reykjavik. In the time I sent my daughter's sealed ballot to Reykjavik and she filled it out and sent it back, and my husband's and my ballots still had not arrived. On October 29, a friend advised that I call the voter hot line and I was told by the woman who answered that our ballots were never sent out, along with several thousand other absentee ballots that also weren't mailed. She suggested that my husband and I vote early, but my husband was not up to the ordeal of voting in person. Instead, I went alone and voted early. My husband was not able to vote at all. I feel that his physical condition should not have prevented his vote from being counted.