

EXHIBIT A

**BY-LAWS
SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND VOTER REGISTRATION**

As Amended February 9, 2010

**BY-LAWS OF THE SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND VOTER REGISTRATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF SUMTER**

We, the members of the Sumter County Board of Elections and Voter Registration, hereinafter referred to as "Member or Members," in compliance with Georgia law in order to establish and maintain orderly and equitable working relations among its members; to provide prompt and complete arrangements and facilities for the citizens of Sumter County, Georgia in the conduct of voter registration and elections, do amend and re-establish these By-Laws for the Sumter County Board of Elections and Voter Registration, hereinafter referred to as "the Board".

A. REFERENCES TO LAW

1. The references shown, such as "21-2-xxx", identify the applicable Section of the Georgia Election Code. All references, unless otherwise stated, refer to Title 21 - Elections - of the Official Code of Georgia, as amended.
2. The references shown, such as "Act. No. 87,(HB. 786)" shall identify the Bill enacted by the 2001 Session of the Georgia General Assembly creating the Board.

B. DEFINITIONS

The following words, when used in these By-Laws shall have the following meaning, unless otherwise clearly apparent from the context.

1. Board. Shall refer to the Sumter County Board of Elections and Voter Registration.
2. Superintendent or Superintendent of Elections. Shall refer to the Members of the Board of Elections and Voter Registration, acting as a whole.

3. Registrar(s). Shall refer to members of the Board of Elections and Voter Registration, individually and collectively.
4. Supervisor. That person who is appointed by the Board and who shall be administrator of the Board. The Supervisor shall have all powers to act for the Board in all matters of voter registration and of elections, such powers to be agreed upon by the Board as of the adoption of these procedures. The Supervisor shall be directly accountable to the Board.

SECTION I MEMBERS

1. The Board shall consist of five (5) members to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Sumter County. The members shall serve for four-year terms, except that the initial terms of office of three members shall expire December 31, 2003, and upon the appointment and qualification of their respective successors. The initial terms of office of the remaining members of the Board shall expire December 31, 2005, and upon the appointment and qualification of their respective successors. (As per enabling legislation: Act. No. 87, HB 786). A Member may serve a maximum of two, consecutive four-year terms as a Member. No Member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms until that Member has been off of the Board for a minimum of one year prior to reappointment.

2. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of any member, before the expiration of a term by reason of removal, death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board of Commissioners of Sumter County, Georgia shall appoint a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

SECTION II ORGANIZATION

1. The Board shall elect one of its members to serve as Chair, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Chair shall facilitate all Board meetings, and in conjunction with the Supervisor, shall develop an agenda for all meetings.

The members shall also elect a Vice-Chair, who shall perform the same duties as the Chair in his/her absence.

2. A Secretary shall be designated by the Board, who shall keep the minutes of the meeting of the Board. The Supervisor may be designated as Secretary.

3. The Official Minutes, and all other records of the Board, shall be in the custody of the Supervisor and available at all times to all members of the Board. A copy of the minutes shall be sent to each Board members after each meeting.

SECTION III MEETINGS

1. The Board shall hold meetings at the Sumter County Courthouse, or some other location within Sumter County, Georgia as designated from time to time by the Board. These meetings shall be held quarterly in years in which there is no county-wide election and monthly in years in which there is a county-wide election. All such regular Board meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., except that the Board may, by majority vote, change the meeting date and time for any future meeting. Any such change shall be included in the public notification of the time and place of the holding of such meeting and shall be communicated in writing to the Supervisor so that he/she may provide said public notice of the meeting as required by law. Any change of meeting date and time or any special called meetings shall be held only after notification of the time and place of the holding of such meeting has been communicated in writing to the Supervisor and public notice of the meeting was provided as required by Georgia law.

2. A Quorum for meetings shall consist of the Chair, (or Vice-Chair acting as Chair) and two other members. No vote at a meeting shall be held unless there is a quorum present. In the absence of a quorum, the members of the Board may conduct a meeting for informational purposes only. The Supervisor should either always be present or shall have consulted with the Chair or Vice-Chair before the meeting.

3. Meetings shall be conducted, insofar as practicable, in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, and shall be public meetings conducted pursuant to

Chapter 14 of Title 50 of O.C.G.A. as amended, related to open meetings.

4. Members are expected to attend all meetings. If a member cannot attend a meeting, prior notice shall be given to the Supervisor. Any Member that fails to attend three (3) meetings during the calendar year shall be automatically removed as a Member of the Sumter County Board of Elections and Registration. An excused absence shall not count toward removal of any Member. An excused absence shall be for providential cause, such as illness, family death or any unavoidable emergency that requires the Member to be absent from a regular meeting. In the event of a mandatory removal, the Supervisor shall notify the Sumter County Commissioners of the removal and a new Member shall be appointed by the Sumter County Board of Commissioners as soon as possible.

5. Any formal action of the Board, including adoption of Rules and Regulations or changes thereof, shall require a favorable vote of a majority of the members.

SECTION IV ADOPTION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Board shall, when necessary, adopt rules and regulations not inconsistent with law to further the conduct of fair, legal and orderly elections and the registration of voters. A copy of such rules shall be certified by the Chair and copies sent to all parties directly concerned.

2. When deemed advisable by the Board, public meetings may be held to allow interested citizens to make objections or suggestions on any proposed rule or regulations.

3. Any rule or regulation promulgated by a County Executive Committee of a political party under the provisions of subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-111 of the O.C.G.A. with regard to the conduct of primaries, shall be null and void if in conflict with a valid rule or regulation of the Board.

4. The Board shall have the authority to serve as municipal registrar and to conduct municipal elections and primaries for any municipal corporation located within Sumter County, if such municipal corporation has entered into a contract for

that purpose with the Board of Commissioners of Sumter County, Georgia.

5. With the approval of the Board of Commissioners of Sumter County, Georgia, the Board shall be authorized to expend public funds for the purpose of preparing and distributing material(s) solely to inform and instruct electors of the County adequately with regard to elections. No material distributed by the Board shall contain or express, in any manner or form, any commentary or expression of opinion or request for support with respect to any political issue or matter of political concern.

SECTION V COURT ACTION

1. Upon a majority vote, the Board shall have the authority to institute or intervene in any court action to compel compliance with the Code or the duly adopted Rules and Regulations of the Board.

2. The Board shall, upon majority vote, call upon the County Attorney of Sumter County, Georgia, to institute or intervene in such court action, or when any legal question is raised by the Board that cannot be resolved by the Board. The County Administrator shall be advised by the Supervisor of any such action before the County Attorney is retained.

3. Upon receipt of any copy of a proceeding required to be served upon the Supervisor, the Supervisor shall immediately forward said service copy to the County Attorney, and shall immediately inform the Chair and the other Board Members and the County Administrator. In such cases and after consulting with as many members of the Board available, and where the situation requires emergency action, the Supervisor shall be authorized, without the necessity of a meeting, to request the County Attorney to take any appropriate action. In all other instances where time is not the essence and emergency action is not required, then a meeting of the Board shall be called to decide the course of action.

SECTION VI AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

1. These By-Laws may be amended or supplemented upon a favorable

majority vote of the Board.

2. Notice of any change or addition to the By-Laws shall be given in advance of called meetings wherever practicable.

SECTION VII ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

1. The Supervisor, serving as Administrator for the Board, shall keep all members informed of any changes that concern elections and primaries, voter registration, and any other business connected with the Board of Elections and Registration. Members as individuals shall not initiate or promote any actions or changes not approved by the Board.

2. Superintendent of Elections as used in the Georgia Election Code and its supplements shall be construed to mean "The Board".

3. Board members shall, whenever possible, resolve all questions and disputes in Polling Places peaceably and in compliance with the law and by request or in concert with the Poll Manager. On such occasions as may require decisions of a judicial nature, the Poll Manager may contact the Supervisor. If the Supervisor is not available, the County Attorney may be contacted.

SECTION VIII DUTIES

A. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The Board, as Superintendent of Elections, shall exercise all the powers granted to it by Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., Georgia Election Code, and shall perform all the duties imposed upon it by the Code, which shall include the following:

1. To receive and act upon all petitions presented by electors, or the County Executive Committee of a political party, for the division, redivision, alteration, change or consolidation of precincts;

2. To receive and determine the sufficiency of nomination petitions of candidates filing notice of their candidacy with the Elections Office in accordance with provisions of the Georgia Election Code;
3. To act as Filing Officer for Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports for candidates, as per the Ethics in Government Act, enacted by GA L. 1986, p. 957, Sect. 21-5-34;
4. To act as Filing Officer for Financial Disclosure Statements of public officers (every elected County official) as per the Ethics in Government Act, enacted by GA L. 1986, p.957, Sect. 21-5-50;
5. To prepare and publish, in the manner provided by the Georgia Election Code, all notices and advertisements in connection with conduct of elections, which may be required by the law, and to transmit immediately to the Secretary of State a copy of any publication in which a call for a Special Primary, Election or Runoff is issued;
6. To select and equip polling places for use in Primaries and Elections in accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Election Code;
7. To purchase, preserve, store and maintain election equipment of all kinds, including voting booths, and optical scan tabulators and to procure ballots and all other supplies for primaries and elections;
8. To appoint poll officers and other officers to serve in all applicable primaries and elections in accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Election Code. Such officers shall be appointed insofar as practical from lists provided by the County Executive Committees of any political party whose nominee for President of the United States received at least 10% of the vote in Sumter County during the most recent general election for that office. It shall be the responsibility of any such political party to provide said list to the Board in a timely fashion and to supplement said list upon a reasonable request to do so;
9. To make and issue such rules, regulations and instructions, consistent with law (including the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Election

Board), as it may deem necessary for the guidance of poll officers, custodians and electors in primaries and elections;

10. To instruct poll officers and others in their duties, calling them together in meetings whenever deemed advisable, and to oversee systematically and thoroughly the conduct of primaries and elections in the several precincts to the end that primaries and elections may be honestly, efficiently and uniformly conducted;
11. To receive from poll officers the returns of all primaries and elections, to canvass and compute the same, and to certify as soon as practicable following the primary and election, the results thereof to such authorities as may be prescribed by law;
12. To publicly announce on election night and by posting in the office the day following elections, the results of all applicable primaries and elections;
13. To perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

B. POWERS AND DUTIES OF REGISTRARS

The Board, as Board of Registrars, shall exercise all powers granted to it by Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the Georgia Election Code, and the Supervisor is authorized to act on behalf of the Board as follows:

1. Approve all applicants for voter registration;
2. Hold hearings, when necessary, for applicants rejected by the Registrars;
3. Prepare the list of qualified electors for use in primaries and elections;
4. Notify, in writing, any applicant whose right to remain on the voters list is questions;
5. Approve and set up additional sites and hours for voter registration, both permanent and temporary, as consistent with the rules and regulations of the State Election Board and the Georgia Election Code.

6. Appoint Deputy Registrars as necessary to aide in the discharge of their duties.
7. Handle all absentee voting in primaries and elections.
8. To perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

SECTION IX GENERAL

A. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Members of the Sumter County Board of Elections and Registration may not hold elective public office, nor shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Board during the term of such office. The position on the Board shall be deemed vacant upon such member qualifying as a candidate for elective office.
2. As per Georgia Election Code Section 21-2-100, at least one member of the Board or a designee of the Board shall obtain a minimum of 12 hours of training on registration and election laws as may be selected and/or authorized by the Secretary of State. Each member shall also obtain such training during a four-year term of office to remain qualified to serve as a Member. Any Member that fails to obtain training during their four year term will not be eligible for reappointment by the Sumter County Board of Commissioners.

B. COMPENSATION

The compensation of the Supervisor of Registration and Elections shall be fixed by Board and payable from county funds. The members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services as members of the Board, but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

C. POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

Members of the Board of Elections and Registration shall not be precluded from supporting candidates of their choice as would any other citizen. However, discretion should be used regarding their position as a Board Member. Per Georgia Election Code Section 21-2-214(c) no member shall engage in any political activity while conducting the duties of office.

Amended and Approved by Resolution the 9th day of February, 2010.