

**MACON-BIBB COUNTY**

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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***Jeanetta R. Watson***

**ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR**

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**AGENDA**

**EVIDENTIARY PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL CALL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020**

**“HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE”**

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Henry Ficklin, Chairperson called the meeting to order at \_\_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

1. Welcome & Recognition of Visitors via Teleconference

EVIDENTIARY HEARING:

Challenge to qualifications of Mrytice Champion Johnson, candidate for Bibb County Board of Education District – 1.

The Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections, having conducted a public hearing on the matter, hereby finds that Mrytice Champion Johnson is: (ACTION)

Decision as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Qualified as a candidate for Bibb County Board of Education, District 1, OR

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Not qualified as a candidate for Bibb County Board of Education, District 1.

This 26th day of March 2020

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, request approval from the Board to conduct all MBBOE meetings and hearings by teleconference, until an all clear on how we should proceed is so Ordered by the President and/or Governor/Mayor. (ACTION)

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Announcement from Brad Raffensperger, Secretary of State and Chris Harvey, Elections Director held a teleconference held with elections officials on Tuesday, March 24th to notify counties of the following:
   1. Preparation for the May 19, 2020 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election will proceed as planned. Counties will be made aware if anything changes.
   2. All “ACTIVE” voters in the State of GA (6.9 million) will be mailed an absentee ballot application to encourage voting by mail to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus; also, to encourage voting and maximize turnout during this pandemic.
   3. All public schools K – 12 will be closed through April 24, 2020.
2. Supplemental Budget Request – Update
3. Items from the County Attorney
   1. Response letter from Attorney Virgil Adams (Legal Counsel for the Macon Water Authority) – Regarding the appointment of Sheddrick Clark to fill the MWA District 2 seat left vacant by the late Javors Lucas.
   2. Attorney opinion regarding letter From Merritt Johnson, candidate for Macon Water Authority District 2 – Believes he should be viewed as “incumbent” on the May ballot as well as being sworn in on April 1, 2020.
4. Items from the Supervisor
   1. Request approval from the Board to move the Thursday, May 21, 2020 Board meeting to Friday, May 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for the Board to conduct a hearing for any challenges from the May 19, 2020 election; also, because tabulation and reviewing provisional ballots may take longer, this will become the scheduled date and time of the Board meeting. If any changes need to be made prior to this date, the Elections Supervisor will contact the Chair to make the necessary arrangements. (ACTION)
   2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on social gatherings, this office has decided to invest in Webinar Software for training poll workers. We are in the process of assessing poll workers access to the internet and to determine an alternative for how we would be able to accommodate those without web access.
   3. This office is currently re-assessing polling place availability for access for the May Primary Election. The polling places currently in question are: Middle GA State University, Northeast HS and Brookdale Elementary – which are all closed indefinitely.
   4. To assist with help with sanitizing during voting, the Secretary of State has committed to providing hand-sanitizer to all election’s offices for distribution to poll workers.
   5. I will keep the Board up to date as to progression of the May Primary and any other updates and announcements that warrants the Boards attention and/or action.
   6. Sample Ballots – Update.
5. Correspondence: (For Board meeting files)
   1. Public Hearing procedure and decision to be signed by the Chairman
   2. Letter(s) and notifications:
      1. Jones\*Cork, Legal Counsel – Regarding Mrytice Champion Johnson and the Bibb County Board of Education (BOE) Nepotism Policy and her qualifications to run as a candidate for BOE District 1.
      2. Mrytice Champion Johnson – Notification that a challenge has been made
      3. Charles Boulware – Letter of intent to challenge qualifications of Mrytice Champion Johnson, candidate for Board of Education District 1
      4. Email notification to Mrytice Johnson and Charles Boulware of Evidentiary Hearing
      5. Response from Virgil Adams, Attorney for the Macon Water Authority concerning the appointment of Sheddrick Clark, who was appointed to fill the unexpired for MWA District 2
      6. Merritt Johnson – Believe he should be viewed as “incumbent” on the May ballot as well as being sworn in on April 1, 2020

ADJOURNMENT:

1. Motion for adjournment at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ p.m.