

June 18, 2024

State Election Board
2 MLK Drive
Suite 802, Floyd West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

I request the opportunity to present this rule to the Board at its next meeting, pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 183-1-1-.01(4).

Please accept this respectfully submitted petition for adoption of a Rule Amendment.

This is a follow-up to the rule amendment submitted and discussed at the May 8, 2024, SEB meeting, for transparency for poll watchers in tabulation centers.

Enclosed are three copies of the notarized petition, hand delivered to the State Election Board Office.

The request is respectfully submitted to be considered at your next State Elections Board meeting.

Petitioner:

Julie Adams
240 E Belle Isle Rd
Atlanta, GA 30342

STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR SUCH AMENDED RULE:

At the last State Elections Board meeting I proposed an amended rule to increase the number of poll watchers in the tabulation center. This was to increase the number of poll watchers based on the size of the county and more importantly the ability to fairly observe all processes of the tabulation center.

During the meeting it was determined that the 183-1-13-.05 allowed that there be two poll watchers from each political party to serve in the locations designated by the election superintendent within the tabulation center. Such designated places shall include the check-in area, the computer room, the duplication area and such other areas as the election superintendent may deem necessary to the assurance of fair and honest procedures in the tabulating center.

There was a motion to have Dr. Johnston send a letter to all Superintendents (Elections Boards) and Election Supervisors instructing them of this current SEB rule. The motion passed.

To my knowledge, no communication has been sent by the State Election Board to the counties as was promised at the last meeting. Accordingly, I am resubmitting the proposed rule.

Rule 183-1-13-.05. Poll Watchers for Tabulating Center

In counties and municipalities using central count optical scanning vote tabulation equipment, the election superintendent shall allow each political party to appoint two poll watchers for each primary or election, each political body to appoint two poll watchers for each election, and each independent candidate and each nonpartisan candidate to appoint one poll watcher for each election, to serve in each of the locations designated by the election superintendent within the tabulating center. Such designated places shall include the check-in area, the computer room, the duplication area, and such other areas, **that tabulation processes are taking place to including but not limited to, provisional ballot adjudication of ballots, closing of advanced voting equipment, verification and processing of mail in ballots, memory card transferring, regional or satellite check in centers and any election reconciliation processes,** as the election superintendent may deem necessary to the assurance of fair and honest procedures in the tabulating center. Poll watchers designated for the tabulating center shall be appointed and serve in the same manner as other poll watchers.

Reason and interest for amendment

To clarify the election code that allows for more transparency in the elections that are a service to all eligible voters of Georgia.

I would respectfully make a renewed request that a letter be sent to the county election board members (superintendents) and election supervisors, to ensure no confusion in future elections. Although this rule is clear in the original and proposed amendment, it is not widely understood by elections departments.


Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Adams

VERIFICATION

I JULIE ADAMS personally appeared before the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer oaths and on oath states and swears that the facts stated in the foregoing Petition are true, accurate, and correct.


PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 20th day of June, 2024


NOTARY PUBLIC

