

SUMMARY
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 6, 2024
9:00 A.M.
Georgia State Capitol, Room 341
Atlanta, Georgia

As required by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e)(2)(A), the following is a summary of the subjects acted on and the Board members present at the meeting.

Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

Mr. John Fervier, as Chairman, called the State Election Board (the “Board”) meeting to order at 9:11 A.M. A quorum was present for each Board action taken. The following Board members attended the meeting: Mr. John Fervier, Mrs. Sara Tindall-Ghazal, Dr. Janice Johnston, Mr. Rick Jeffares, and Mrs. Janelle King.

Dr. Johnston moved to amend the agenda by moving items 43 and 44 under New Business to be heard after item 5 on under Procedure Matters, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

Dr. Johnston moved to amend the agenda to add under New Business a report from Executive Director Mike Coan regarding the ballot image audit process, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

The Board voted to approve the minutes of Board meeting held on July 9, 2024, and July 30, 2024.

Procedure Matters

A. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules, presented by Marilyn Marks

After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to reject the petition.

B. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule, presented by Marilyn Marks

After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to table the petition and assign it to a working committee for improvements.

C. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule, presented by Julie Adams

After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to initiate rulemaking procedures.

D. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule, presented by Peter Simmons

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mr. Simmons withdrew his petition.

E. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule, presented Rick Jeffares

After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to initiate rulemaking procedures.

F. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule, presented by John Fervier

After remarks given, Chairman Fervier withdrew his petition.

Public Comment

The following individuals provided public comment: Representative Saira Draper, Ben Eskew, Ginger Hurmence, Mary Bell Hodges, Larry Lessuer, Lisa Rutherford, Bethanne Frillman, Tonnie Adams, Michelle Sarkisian, Matt Rowenzak, Rachel Lastinger, Jennifer Lee, Norma Reboredo, Salleigh Grubbs, Paul White, Janet Grant, Kevin Muldowney, Sam Carnline, Kristen Neighbors, Anna Dennis, Elizabeth Shackelford, Cindy Battles, Rebecca Anglin, Jennifer Logan, Sandra Burchardt, Kathleen Hamil, Jennifer Moore, Pam Hoodley, Paul Hershey.

Investigations Reports

A. Cases Recommended to be Dismissed

The Board voted to dismiss the following cases:

SEB2023-030 – GA – Pa – Cross State voter Nov 2022 GE
SEB2022-258 – Liberty County Voter Registration Fraud
SEB2023-041 – AG Opinion – Walker County Chickamauga Qualifying Fee Issue
SEB2023-036 – Henry County – Failure to Hold Special Election June 2023
SEB2022-234 – Rockdale County Ballot Incumbent Challenge
SEB2022-215 – Newton County Voter Registration Fraud
SEB2022-315 – Newton County Voting Equipment Issues
SEB2022-326 – Newton County – Voting Issue
SEB2023-057 – Newton County – Covington Ballot
SEB2022-323 – Gwinnett County – Disability Issue
SEB2022-350 – Gwinnett County – Missing Candidate Nov 2022 GE
SEB2023-069 – Gwinnett County – Peachtree Corners Illegal Campaigning Nov 2023
SEB2023-070 – Gwinnett County – City of Norcross Election Worker Intimidation
SEB2022-291 – Clayton County – AB Issue
SEB2023-076 – Clayton County – City of Riverdale

The following cases were pulled for presentation and discussion:

SEB2023-023 – Fayette County – Out of District Ballot Discrepancy

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to dismiss the case.

SEB2022-038 – Gwinnett County Ballot Harvesting

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to continue the case as it pertains to the unidentified individual, and issue a Letter of Instruction to Ms. Loftin.

SEB2022-278 – Gwinnett County Illegal Assistance to Voter

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to continue the case so that the complainant could be properly notified of a potential violation.

SEB2022-358 – Clayton County Voter Interference with Early Voting

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to the Board to dismiss the case.

B. Cases Recommended for Letters of Instruction or Referral to the Attorney General’s Office

SEB2020-241 – Multiple Counties – Out of State Excess Voting

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to continue the case as to Mark Merchant, issue a Letter of Instruction to Norman Proper, and refer the remaining respondents to the Attorney General’s office and the appropriate District Attorneys’ offices.

SEB2022-344 – Fayette County – Ineligible Voter Nov 2022 GE

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction.

SEB2022-223 – Clayton County Voter Challenge

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to dismiss the case.

SEB2023-019 – Clayton County – Mishandling Ballots at Benizi Catholic Church

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to dismiss the case.

New Business

A. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-12-.02

After presentation and discussion, the Board voted to adopt the proposed rule amendment.

B. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-14-.02

After presentation and discussion, the Board voted to adopt the proposed rule amendment.

The Board voted to recess for the day at 5:55 P.M.

SUMMARY
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 7, 2024
9:00 A.M.
Georgia State Capitol, Room 341
Atlanta, Georgia

As required by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e)(2)(A), the following is a summary of the subjects acted on and the Board members present at the meeting.

Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

Mr. John Fervier, as Chairman, called the State Election Board (the “Board”) meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. A quorum was present for each Board action taken. The following Board members attended the meeting: Mr. John Fervier, Mrs. Sara Tindall-Ghazal, Dr. Janice Johnston, Mr. Rick Jeffares, and Mrs. Janelle King.

New Business, Continued

Executive Director Mike Coan presented an update on the hiring of an SEB investigator, and an update on the November 2024 ballot audit tool.

Public Comment, Continued

The following individuals provided public comment: Beverly Rice, Joan Shork, Scott Bailey, Elizabeth Hendrickson, Kenny Johnson, Tamara Favorito, Richard Schroeder, Ralph O’Conner, Salleigh Grubbs, Nan Stephens, Garland Favorito.

Procedure Matters, Continued

- A. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules, presented by Christina Loop**
After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to reject the petition.
- B. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules, presented by David Cross**
After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to initiate rulemaking procedures.

Old Business

- A. Presentation of proposals for Fulton County November 2024 election monitor**
After presentation and discussion of both proposals, the Board voted to table the discussion and deliberate at a future meeting.

Procedure Matters, Continued

- C. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules, presented by David Cross**
After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to initiate rulemaking procedures as amended.

D. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules, presented by Garland Favorito
After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to initiate rulemaking procedures.

E. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules, presented by Garland Favorito
After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to initiate rulemaking procedures.

F. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules, presented by Lucia Frazier
After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to continue the petition to the August 19 meeting.

G. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules, presented by Sharlene Alexander
After presentation and discussion of the petition, the Board voted to initiate rulemaking procedures as amended.

Old Business, Continued

B. Discussion of signage in polling locations
After presentation and discussion, the Board voted to send a letter to the counties recommending posting the proposed signage in polling locations.

C. Discussion of SEB2023-025
After discussion, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's office with the instruction to immediately investigate with outside investigators, request a report within 30 days; if they are unwilling/unable, to seek outside legal counsel to conduct the investigation.

New Business, Continued

The Board voted to postpone the discussion of SEB bylaws to a future meeting.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 3:57 P.M.