



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

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Chairman John Fervier called the 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 delivered the invocation and Mrs. Tindall Ghazal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Jeffares moved to accept the minutes from the July 9 and July 30, 2024 meeting, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 4-0.

**III. PROCEDURE MATTERS**

**A. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules 183-1-12-.02, 183-1-12-.05, 183-1-12-.01, 183-1-12-.11, 183-1-15-.04; presented by Marilyn Marks**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to reject the petition, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

**B. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule 183-1-15-.03, presented by Marilyn Marks**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Dr. Johnston moved to table the petition and assign it to a working committee for improvements, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

**The Board broke for recess at 10:48 A.M., and returned at 11:05 A.M.**

**C. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule 183-1-13-.05, presented by Julie Adams**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mrs. King moved to initiate rulemaking procedures, Dr. Johnston seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, passed 3-1.

**D. Petition for promulgation of new State Election Board Rule, presented by Peter Simmons**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mr. Simmons withdrew his petition to work with the Chair on improvements.

**E. Petition for promulgation of new State Election Board Rule, presented by Rick Jeffares**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mrs. King moved to initiate rulemaking procedures, Dr. Johnston seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Mr. Jeffares abstained from voting, passed 3-0.

**F. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule 183-1-12-.12(b), presented by John Fervier**

After remarks given, Chairman Fervier withdrew his petition.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals participated in public comment: Representative Saira Draper, Ben Eskew, Ginger Hurmence, Mary Bell Hodges, Larry Lesueur, 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 Carline, Kristen Neighbors, Anna Dennis, Elizabeth Shackelford, Cindy Battles, Rebecca Anglin, Jennifer Logan, Sandra Burchardt, Kathleen Hamil, Jennifer Moore, Pam Hoodley, Paul Hershey.

**The Board broke for lunch at 1:04 P.M., and returned at 1:53 P.M.**

**V. INVESTIGATIONS REPORTS**

The investigation reports to be considered are listed below according to the disposition recommended by the investigation staff.

**Cases Recommended to be Dismissed**

Mr. Jeffares moved to dismiss the cases not pulled for presentation and discussion, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 4-0.

**The following cases were dismissed:**

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, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to dismiss the case, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

**SEB2022-038 – Gwinnett County Ballot Harvesting**

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to continue the case for further investigation as to the unidentified individual, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0. Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to respondent Joyce Loftin, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 4-0.

**SEB2022-278 – Gwinnett County Illegal Assistance to Voter**

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue the complainant a Letter of Instruction to the complainant about improperly changing addresses, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal withdrew her original motion and gave a new motion to continue the case so the complainant could be properly notified, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

**SEB2022-358 – Clayton County Voter Interference with Early Voting**

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to dismiss the case and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

**Violation Cases Recommended for Letters of Instruction or Referral to Attorney General's Office**

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

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to continue the case as to Mark Merchant, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0. Mrs. King moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to Norman Proper, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 4-0. Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to refer the remaining respondents to

the Attorney General's office and the appropriate District Attorneys' offices, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 4-0.

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

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

**SEB2022-223 – Clayton County Voter Challenge**

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. King moved to dismiss the case, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 4-0.

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

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. King moved to dismiss the case, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

**The Board broke for recess at 3:33 P.M., and returned at 3:51 P.M.**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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

After presentation and discussion, Dr. Johnston moved to adopt the proposed rule, Mrs. King seconded, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, Mr. Fervier voted nay, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, Passed 3-2.

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

After presentation and discussion, Mr. Jeffares moved to adopt the proposed rule, Dr. Johnston seconded, Mrs. King voted aye, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, passed 3-1.

**Mr. Jeffares moved to break for the day, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.**

**The Board broke for the day and entered recess at 5:55 P.M.**



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

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Chairman John Fervier called the 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.

**II. 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.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT, Continued**

The following individuals participated in 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.

**IV. PROCEDURE MATTERS, Continued**

**A. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule 183-1-12-.07, presented by Christina Loop**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mrs. King moved to reject the petition, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Dr. Johnston moved to reject the petition and send a recommendation to the Secretary of State's office regarding the concerns at hand, and request a reply or plan in response, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

**B. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules 183-1-12-.01, presented by David Cross**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mrs. King moved to initiate rulemaking procedures, Dr. Johnston seconded, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, Mr. Fervier voted nay, passed 3-2.

**The Board broke for recess at 10:24 A.M., and returned at 10:44 A.M.**

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation of proposals for Fulton County November 2023 election monitor**

After presentation and discussion of both proposals, Mr. Jeffares moved to table the discussion to a future meeting, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 4-0.

**VI. PROCEDURE MATTERS, Continued**

**C. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.11, presented by David Cross**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to initiate rulemaking procedures with the proposed amendment of striking the words “mail or issue”, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 5-0.

**D. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rules 183-1-12-.12 and 183-1-14-.02, presented by Garland Favorito**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mrs. King moved to initiate rulemaking procedures, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

**The Board broke for recess at 12:34 P.M., and returned at 1:21 P.M.**

**E. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule 183-1-12-.13, presented by Garland Favorito**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Dr. Johnston moved to initiate rulemaking procedures, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

**F. Petition for promulgation of new State Election Board Rule, presented by Lucia Frazier**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Dr. Johnston moved to continue the petition to the August meeting, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

**G. Petition for amendment of State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.02, presented by Sharlene Alexander**

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Dr. Johnston moved to initiate rulemaking procedures with the proposed amendments of removing strikes to “or registrar” and replace the words “poll pads/BMDs” with “scanners”, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. King voted aye, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, passed 3-1.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS, Continued**

**B. Discussion of Signage in Polling Locations**

After presentation and discussion, Dr. Johnston moved to send a letter to county election supervisors recommending the proposed signage be posted in polling places and election offices, Mrs. King seconded; Mrs. Tindall Ghazal presented an intervening motion that would clarify the signage be an optional, Mrs. King

seconded, intervening motion passed 4-0. As for the original motion, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, passed 3-1.

**The Board broke for recess at 3:12 P.M., and returned at 3:19 P.M.**

**C. Discussion of SEB2023-025**

After discussion, Dr. Johnston moved to refer the case to 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. Chairman Fervier ruled the motion out of order. Dr. Johnston moved to overrule the decision of the Chair, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, Chairman Fervier voted nay, passed 3-2. As to the original motion, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, Chairman Fervier voted nay, passed 3-2.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS, Continued**

Mrs. King moved to postpone the discussion of SEB bylaws, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 4-0.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. King moved to adjourn, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 4-0.  
The Board adjourned at 3:57 P.M.