



MINUTES
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING
Friday, September 20, 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 9:09 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 Mr. Jeffares led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Johnston requested to amend the agenda to add the discussion of a petition for rule amendment previously submitted by Salleigh Grubbs, Chairman Fervier denied the request, Dr. Johnston moved to appeal the decision of the Chair, Mrs. King seconded, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, Chairman Fervier voted nay, motion passed 3-2.

Dr. Johnston requested that under new business, the item of “discussion of voter challenges complaints”, be addressed after the Board returns from lunch. After discussion, Dr. Johnston withdrew her request.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

State Election Board Meeting – August 6 & 7, 2024

Mr. Jeffares moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mrs. King seconded, Dr. Johnston requested that the minutes be amended to add the rule citations to the rule proposals and petitions heard; without dissent, passed 4-0.

State Election Board Meeting – August 19, 2024

Dr. Johnston moved to approve the minutes with the amendment of adding the rule citations to the rule proposals and petitions heard, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals participated in public comment: Mason Hill, Natalie Crawford, Brook Schreiner, Barbara Gooby, Larry LeSueur, Elizabeth Hendrickson, Tate Fall, Valerie Kennedy, Marisa Pyle, Ellen Apte, Jacqueline Isaacson, Marci McCarthy, Jane Branscomb, Sam Collier, Akiva Freidlin, Mary Belle Hodges, Michael Beach, Travis Doss, Tonnie Adams, Kevin Muldowney, Kathleen Hamil, Matt Rowenczak, Milton Kidd, Joseph Kirk, Julie Adams, Ethan Compton, Sandy Schoepke, Richard Schroeder, Kristin Nabers, Saira Draper, Salleigh Grubbs, Earl Ferguson, Tracy Moore, George Balbona, Joey McKimon, Michael Kincaid.

IV. PROCEDURE MATTERS

A. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-12-.12 (Tabulating Results). Subject of Rule: Hand Counting. Presentation from Sharlene Alexander and Janelle King

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

B. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-14-.02 (Advance Voting). Subject of Rule: Absentee Ballot Hand Counting. Presentation from Sharlene Alexander.

After presentation and discussion of the proposal, Mrs. King moved to table the rule for discussion after the November General Election, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Dr. Johnston voted nay, Chairman Fervier voted aye, passed 4-1.

C. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-12-.01 (Conduct of Elections). Subject of Rule: Absentee Ballot Distinction. Presentation from David Cross.

After presentation and discussion of the proposal, Mrs. King moved to table the rule for discussion after the November General Election, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Dr. Johnston voted nay, passed 3-1.

D. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-14-.11 (Mailing and Issuance of Ballots). Subject of Rule: Chain of Custody. Presentation from David Cross.

After presentation and discussion of the proposal, Mrs. King moved to table the rule for discussion after the November General Election, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Dr. Johnston voted nay, passed 3-1.

E. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-12-.12 (Tabulating Results). Subject of Rule: Reconciliation Reports. Presentation from Gail Lee and Janelle King.

After presentation and discussion of the proposal, Dr. Johnston moved to adopt the proposed rule, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, passed 4-0. Rule adopted.

F. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-12-.19 (Preparation of the Electors List and Use of Electronic Poll Book). Subject of Rule: Voter Lists. Presentation from Lucia Frazier.

After presentation and discussion of the proposal, Mrs. King moved to reject the proposed rule, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Dr. Johnston voted aye, passed 4-0.

G. Discussion and voting on proposed rule SEB Rule 183-1-12-.21 (County Participation and Totals Reporting). Subject of Rule: Daily Reporting. Presentation from Rick Jeffares.

After presentation and discussion of the proposal, Dr. Johnston moved to adopt the proposed rule, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Mr. Jeffares abstained from voting, passed 3-0. Rule adopted.

H. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-13-.05 (Poll Watchers for Tabulating Center). Subject of Rule: Poll Watchers in Tabulating Center. Presentation from Julie Adams.

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

I. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-12-.13 (Storage of Returns). Subject of Rule: Storage of Returns. Presentation from Garland Favorito.

After presentation and discussion of the proposal, Mrs. King moved to table the rule for discussion after the 2025 Legislative Session, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, Dr. Johnston voted nay, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, passed 3-1.

J. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-14-.02 (Advance Voting). Subject of Rule: Reconciliation. Presentation from Garland Favorito.

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

K. Discussion and voting on proposed rule amendment to SEB Rule 183-1-12-.12 (Tabulating Results). Subject of Rule: Reconciliation. Presentation from Garland Favorito.

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

Mrs. King moved to continue the Old Business and New Business items on the agenda to Monday for discussion, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 5-0.

Without dissent, the Board agreed to hear the remaining individuals who signed up for public comment.

V. RECESS

Mrs. King moved to enter recess for the day, and continue business on the following Monday, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

The Board entered recess at 4:50 P.M.



MINUTES
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 23, 2024
9:30 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 9:37 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

A. Petition for amendment of SEB Rule 183-1-12-.13

Presented by Salleigh Grubbs

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Dr. Johnston moved to initiate rulemaking procedures, with the amendment of replacing the language “24 hours” with “72 hours”; Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, Chairman Fervier voted aye, passed 5-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Petition for adoption of new State Election Board Rule

Presented by Lucia Frazier

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Mrs. Frazier withdrew her petition.

B. Petition for amendment of SEB Rule 183-1-12-.19

Presented by Lucia Frazier

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

C. Petition for amendment of SEB Rule 183-1-15-.03

Presented by Marilyn Marks

After presentation and discussion of the petition, Dr. Johnston moved to reject the petition, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Mrs. King voted aye, passed 4-0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED

B. Discussion of voter challenges complaints

After presentation from Ms. Marci McCarthy and discussion amongst the Board, Dr. Johnston moved to request that Executive Director Mike Coan investigate the voter challenge complaints received, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Mr. Jeffares absent, passed 3-0.

Dr. Johnston moved to invite county election board members to attend the October 8 SEB meeting to provide information and answer questions regarding their voter challenge policies, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Mr. Jeffares absent, passed 3-0.

C. Report on the Monitor Team for Fulton County 2024 General Election

Chairman Fervier provided an update on the status of the monitorship. Chairman Fervier and Dr. Johnston agreed to meet with Ryan Germany and the Fulton BOE Chair to discuss the monitorship further.

Without dissent, the Chair announced that the remaining business items would be continued to the October 8 meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Johnston moved to adjourn, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted aye, Mr. Jeffares absent, passed 3-0.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 4:47 P.M.