



MINUTES
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
9:00 A.M.
Georgia State Capitol, Room 341
Atlanta, Georgia

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Fervier called the meeting to order at 9:02 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. Mr. Rick Jeffares attended telephonically for a portion of the meeting. Chairman Fervier left the meeting before the discussion of voter challenges complaints.

Dr. Johnston delivered the invocation and Mrs. King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals participated in public comment: Nancy Curdy, Sandra Burchardt, Lisa Rutherford, Mary Belle Hodges, Richard Shroeder, Mason Hill, Betsy Shackelford, Michael Beach, William Bush, Marisa Pyle, Kathleen Hamil, Christine Sugrue, Sam Carnline, Field Searcy, Ginger Bradshaw, Kate Denny, Vic Tripp, Lucia Frazier, Jason Frazier, Victoria Cruz, Jovan Davis, Dan Gasaway, Gail Lee, Saira Draper, Earl Ferguson, Meg Meserly, Garland Favorito.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. King moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on September 20 & 23, 2024, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 3-0.

IV. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mrs. King requested to amend the agenda to move the discussion of SEB Vice Chair to before lunch.

Dr. Johnston requested to amend the agenda to discuss the policy of allowing complainants to testify during the presentation of investigation reports. After discussion, the Board agreed to decide on a policy at a future meeting.

Dr. Johnston requested to amend the agenda to hear a report from the Chairman on the Fulton County monitor team. Dr. Johnston also requested to discuss a litigation case regarding encryption keys, and to discuss future SEB meeting dates.

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

Dr. Johnston requested to pull the following cases for presentation and discussion: SEB2022-278, SEB2022-370, SEB2022-298.

Mrs. King moved to dismiss the cases not pulled for presentation and discussion, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 3-0.

The following cases were dismissed:

SEB2024-084 – Habersham County (Residency Issue May 2024 GP)
SEB2020-296 – Henry County (Multiple AB)
SEB2024-043 – Richmond County (VR Applications)
SEB2022-038 – Gwinnett County (Ballot Harvesting)
SEB2022-140 – Henry County (Problems at the Polling Place)
SEB2022-241 – McIntosh County (Wrong Ballot)
SEB2024-037 – McIntosh County (Poll Worker Issue, Voter Privacy)

The following cases were pulled for presentation and discussion:

SEB2022-278 – Gwinnett County (Illegal Assistance to Voter)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to dismiss the case, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 3-0.

SEB2022-298 – Muscogee County (Rides to the Poll)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to continue the case to a future meeting for additional research and to notify the respondents, Mrs. King seconded, passed 3-0.

SEB2022-370 – Fulton County (Buckhead Library Interference by Poll Watcher)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to dismiss the case, Mrs. King seconded, passed 3-0.

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

SEB2018-104 – Habersham County (Eligibility of Voters)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Dr. Johnston moved to continue the case to a future meeting, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

Chairman Fervier provided an update on the status of the Fulton County Monitoring Team. Dr. Johnston moved to issue subpoenas to the Fulton County Clerk of Court for certain 2020 election documents, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, Mr. Jeffares voted aye, Chairman Fervier voted nay, passed 3-2.

B. Discussion of SEB Vice Chair

Janelle nominated Dr. Johnston as Vice Chair, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, passed 2-1.

C. Report from Executive Director Coan on voter challenges complaints

VII. INVESTIGATIONS REPORTS, Continued

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

SEB2019-038 – City of Arlington (Improper handling of AB)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mrs. King seconded, passed 3-0.

SEB2022-240 – Appling County (Repeat Voter)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Reprimand, Mrs. King seconded, passed 3-0.

SEB2020-064 – Liberty County (AB Processing)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to refer the case to the Attorney General's office, Mrs. King seconded, passed 3-0.

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

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to refer the case to the Attorney General's office, Mrs. King seconded, passed 3-0.

SEB2021-148 – Henry County (Possession of Absentee Ballot)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to refer the case to the Attorney General's office, Mrs. King seconded, passed 2-0.

SEB2021-171 – City of Morrow (Illegal Campaigning)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mrs. King seconded, passed 2-0.

SEB2022-030 – Richmond County (Application Sent to any Elector w/o Disclaimer)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to refer the case to the Attorney General's office, Mrs. King seconded, passed 2-0.

SEB2022-047 – Rockdale County (Durand Qualifying Issue)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. King moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 2-0.

SEB2023-090 – McIntosh County (Photograph of Ballot)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mrs. King seconded, passed 2-0.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Johnston withdrew her request to discuss communications with county election superintendents.

The Board hear the remaining individuals who wished to give public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. King moved to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 2-0.

The Board adjourned at 4:54 P.M.