

MINUTES
STATE ELECTION BOARD
WEBINAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 – 10 a.m.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.*, the State Election Board (“Board”) conducted its public meeting with the minutes of such recorded as follows:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew Mashburn, Acting Chair
Sara Tindall Ghazal
Dr. Janice Johnston
Ed Lindsey

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ryan Germany, General Counsel
Blake Evans, Elections Director
Charlene McGowan, Attorney General’s Office
James Callaway, Deputy Chief Investigator
Steven Ellis, Deputy General Counsel
Vincent Zagorin, Investigator
Paul Braun, Investigator
Maggie Haisty, Legislative Affairs Director
Meaghan Kelling, Legal Affairs Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Mashburn called the State Election Board (“Board”) meeting to order at approximately 10:08 a.m. A quorum was established for each Board action with the following Board members in attendance: Acting Chair Matthew Mashburn, Sara Tindall Ghazal, Dr. Janice Johnston, and Ed Lindsey. Dr. Johnston prayed and led the Board in the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag.

II. ELECTION OF ACTING CHAIR

Acting Chair Mashburn called for the election of an Acting Chair. Dr. Johnston seconded a motion to elect Mr. Mashburn. Motion passed 4-0.

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Acting Chair Mashburn called upon new members Ed Lindsey and Dr. Janice Johnston to introduce themselves.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the minutes of the State Election Board meetings and hearings held on December 14, 2021. Mrs. Ghazal made a motion to approve. Mr. Lindsey seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair Mashburn called for public comment as the next order of business. The following individuals provided public comment: Lindsey Favero, Nngina Sydney Jemmott, Kent Buis, Naomi Bock, Patty Pflum, Opal Baker, Pamela Reardon, Michael Garza, Larry LeSueur, Sally Larrick, Latonia Jenkins, Jane Mezoff, Daniela Sullivan-Marzahl, Sonia Frix, Kyle Carter, David Cross.

VI. UPDATE ON RULEMAKING

Secretary of State General Counsel Ryan Germany provided updates on future rulemaking.

VII. UPDATE ON FULTON COUNTY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Secretary of State General Counsel Ryan Germany provided updates on the Fulton County Performance Review. Mr. Germany noted that it is expected to be completed by May.

VIII. INVESTIGATIONS REPORTS

Acting Chair Mashburn called for the next order of business regarding the cases prepared by the Investigations division. Mrs. Ghazal and Mrs. McGowan provided clarification regarding the different types of cases.

Mrs. Ghazal made a motion to approve the consent cases in a block. Mr. Lindsey seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Consent Cases

SEB Case No. 2020-012 Emmanuel County – Multiple Complaints

SEB Case No. 2020-093 Telfair County – Vote Buying

SEB Case No. 2020-193 Hall County – Chain of Custody

SEB Case No. 2020-196 Gilmer County – Problem at the Polls

SEB Case No. 2020-208 Muscogee County – AB

New Cases

SEB Case No. 2021-129 DeKalb County – AB Box Procedures

Acting Chair Mashburn continued SEB Case No. 2021-129 DeKalb County – AB Box Procedures.

SEB Case No. 2021-181 Fulton County – Data Review

Deputy Chief Investigator James Callaway called upon investigators Vincent Zagorin and Paul Braun to present the case. The Investigations division recommended Respondents Richard Barron and the Fulton County Registration and Election Division be referred to the Attorney General's Office for violation of State Election Board Rule 183-1-15-.04.

Joseph Rossi was recognized to speak to the case.

Jack James was recognized to speak to the case.

Cheryl Ringer was recognized to speak to the case.

Nadine Williams was recognized to speak to the case.

Dr. Johnston motioned to accept the recommendation and refer the Respondents to the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Lindsey seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1 with Mrs. Ghazal voting nay.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND/OR BREAK

Mrs. Ghazal motioned to enter executive session. Dr. Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. The Board entered executive session at approximately 12:15 p.m.

The Board returned at approximately 1:02 p.m.

Acting Chair Mashburn made note that while in executive session, the Board authorized subpoenas for SEB Case No. 2020-010 Dougherty County and SEB Case No. 2022-003 Fulton County.

VI. ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT

Acting Chair Mashburn called for the next order of business regarding the Attorney General Report. Assistant Attorney General Charlene McGowan presented the cases.

Mrs. Ghazal motioned to approve the Consent Orders in a block. Mr. Lindsey seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Consent Orders

2016-036	Houston County
2016-166	Habersham County
2018-025	Habersham County
2018-048	Sumter County
2019-019	Webster County
2019-045	City of Guyton
2019-047	Lowndes County
2020-138	Pickens County
2020-191	Forsyth County
2020-194	Floyd County
2020-260	Dougherty County/Miller County
2021-062	Walker County

Dr. Johnston motioned to approve the Consolidated Consent Orders in a block. Ghazal seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Consolidated Consent Orders

2011-059; 2012-037; Hancock County
2012-167; 2013-038;
2014-009; 2016-026;
2018-079; 2020-018;
2020-254

2016-184; 2017-023; Cobb County
2017-033; 2020-044

Dr. Johnston motioned to approve the Final Orders in a block. Mr. Lindsey seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Final Orders

2011-059 Hancock County
2016-139 Fulton County
2016-160 Newton County
2018-074 Fulton County
2021-010 Houston County

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Mashburn entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:12 p.m. Ghazal made a motion. Dr. Johnston seconded the motion. Motioned passed 4-0.

STATE ELECTION BOARD

APPROVED BY: _____

DATE: _____