

SUMMARY
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 3, 2023
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. Mashburn, as Senior Member and acting as Presiding Officer, called the State Election Board (the “Board”) meeting to order at 9:06 A.M. A quorum was present for each Board action taken. The following Board members attended the meeting: Matthew Mashburn, Sara Tindall-Ghazal, Edward Lindsey, Dr. Janice Johnston.

Procedure Matters

The Board discussed the nomination and election of a new acting chair to serve until a Permanent Chairman is appointed. Mr. Lindsey nominated Mr. Mashburn as acting chair. Mrs. Ghazal seconded the nomination. The vote to elect Mr. Mashburn passed unanimously.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of Board meeting held on August 1, 2023.

Investigations Reports

A. Cases Recommended to be Dismissed

***The Board voted to continue the following cases:**

SEB2020-086 (Floyd County 8/11/20 Runoff)
SEB2021-085 (Muscogee County Residency Issue)
SEB2021-012 (Chatham County AB Processing)

***The Board voted to dismiss the following cases:**

SEB2022-049 (Floyd County Media Photo)
SEB2022-079 (Troup County VR Fraud)
SEB2022-126 (Muscogee County Miscellaneous)
SEB2022-152 (Muscogee County Problems at the Polls)
SEB2022-153 (Multi-County Primary 2022)
SEB2022-227 (Muscogee County Buying Votes and AB Fraud)
SEB2022-257 (Polk County Double Ballot)
SEB2022-262 (Polk County Voter Assistance)
SEB2022-293 (Douglas County-Illegal Picture Taking)
SEB2022-349 (Douglas County Poll Worker Issue)
SEB2022-355 (Cherokee County – AB Issue December 2022 Runoff)
SEB2022-357 (Multi-County Failure to Comply with Election Night Reporting)
SEB2022-301 (Muscogee County Illegal Possession of an AB)

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

SEB2018-110 (Coweta County Cast Ballot)
SEB2020-001 (November 2019 Absentee Signature Irregularities)
SEB2020-010 (Lee County VR Issue)
SEB2020-029 (DeKalb County Election Day Issues)
SEB2020-043 (DeKalb County AB Tabulation)
SEB2020-078 (DeKalb County Illegal Campaigning)
SEB2021-060 (Paulding County Felony Voting)
SEB2021-117 (Bartow County Residency Issues)
SEB2021-158 (Carroll County Voting Incentive)
SEB2022-131 (Cherokee County Complaint Against Richard Jordan)
SEB2022-135 (Storage of Equipment)
SEB2022-254 (Muscoogie County Security of the Elections Equipment)
SEB2022-301 (Muscoogie County Illegal Possession of an AB)
SEB2022-310 (Cherokee County Trouble at the Polling Station)
SEB2022-312 (Troup County Candidates on Wrong Ballot)
SEB2022-365 (Muscoogie County Voter Registered to Vote in GA and SC)
SEB2022-371 (Cherokee County Vote Buying)
SEB2023-001 (Walker County Voter Privacy Issue)

SEB2018-110 (Coweta County Cast Ballot)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer Ethellyne Watson and Sara Brooks to the Attorney General's office, and to dismiss the allegations against Coweta County Board of Elections and Registration and Jane Scoggins.

SEB2020-001 (November 2019 Absentee Signature Irregularities)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to find a technical violation and send a Letter of Instruction to Joel Wallace and Joan Blackmon, and to refer Denise Cobb to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2020-010 (Lee County VR Issue)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer Jeremiah Irby and Vontrisa Davis to the Attorney General's office.

SEB2020-029 (DeKalb County Election Day Issues)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to find a technical violation and send a Letter of Instruction to DeKalb County Board of Voter Registration and Elections, and to refer Erica Hamilton to the Attorney General's office.

SEB2020-043 (DeKalb County AB Tabulation)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to find a technical violation and send a Letter of Instruction to DeKalb County Board of Voter Registration and Elections, and to refer Erica Hamilton to the Attorney General's office.

SEB2020-078 (DeKalb County Illegal Campaigning)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer Andrew Bell and Bennie Franklin Jr. to the Attorney General's office.

SEB2021-060 (Paulding County Felony Voting)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to dismiss the allegations against Jerel Lamont Beal and Susan M. Kent, and to refer James Franklin Murray and Mathew L. McBerry to the Attorney General's office.

SEB2021-117 (Bartow County Residency Issues)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer Erick Anthony Ferguson and Laura Lea Ferguson to the Attorney General's office.

SEB2021-158 (Carroll County Voting Incentive)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to find a technical violation and send a Letter of Instruction to Brent Harris and US Med Clinic.

SEB2022-131 (Cherokee County Complaint Against Richard Jordan)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the allegations against Richard Jordan as it related to GA Code 21-2-569 and 21-2-597 to the Attorney General's office, and to dismiss the allegations against Richard Jordan as it related to GA Code 21-2-413(e), including sending the Respondent a letter of instruction.

SEB2022-135 (Storage of Equipment)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to find a technical violation and send a Letter of Instruction to Anne Dover.

SEB2022-254 (Muscookee County Security of the Elections Equipment)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to find a technical violation and send a Letter of Instruction to Muscookee County Board of Elections & Registration and Nancy Boren.

SEB2022-301 (Muscookee County Illegal Possession of an AB)

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

SEB2022-310 (Cherokee County Trouble at the Polling Station)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer Michael Andrew Soha to the Attorney General's office.

SEB2022-312 (Troup County Candidates on Wrong Ballot)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to find a technical violation and send a Letter of Instruction to Troup County Board of Election and Registration and Andrew Harper.

SEB2022-365 (Muscookee County Voter Registered to Vote in GA and SC)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer Angela McGill to the Attorney General's office.

SEB2022-371 (Cherokee County Vote Buying)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to dismiss the allegations against Jessie A. Blankenship, and send a Letter of Instruction.

SEB2023-001 (Walker County Voter Privacy Issue)

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to find a technical violation and send a Letter of Instruction to Danielle Montgomery and Richard Barclift.

Attorney General Report

The Board voted to approve the action recommended by the Attorney General in the following cases:

Consent Orders

SEB2019-048	Burke County
SEB2016-080, SEB2020-223	Chatham County

Final Orders

SEB2020-035	Talbot County
SEB2016-080	Chatham County

Procedure Matters

On behalf of the Coalition for Good Governance, Marilyn Marks presented three (3) petitions for amendment of State Election Board rules. These petitions covered Ballot Secrecy/Touchscreen BMDs, Logic and Accuracy Testing, and Security Evaluations. After her presentation and discussion among the Board members, the Board voted to reject all of the aforementioned petitions.

Public Comment

The following individuals made public comments: Ginger Hurmence, Sam Carnline, Cindy Battles, Richard Porter, Judy Sophionopoulos, Patty Nathan, Kristin Nabers, Andrew Bell, Kelli Persons, Joy Wasson, Gabriel Sanchez, Field Searcy, Jennifer Hillegas, Marisa Hopper

Adjournment

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M.