



MINUTES
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 25, 2025
9:00 A.M.
Virtually, via Zoom
<https://www.youtube.com/@GAStateElectionBoard/streams>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Fervier called the meeting to order at 9:05 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, and Mrs. Janelle King. Mr. Rick Jeffares joined the meeting after the lunch break.

Dr. Johnston delivered the invocation, and Chairman Fervier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals participated in public comment: Betsy Shackelford, Marissa Pyle, Ralph O'Connor, Loren Collins, Marilyn Marks, Beverly Rice, Donnie Perry, Natalie Crawford, Robbie Huff, Dr. Konrad Hayashi, Matt Rowenczak, Shannon Ferguson, Tamara Favorito.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

State Election Board Meeting: November 18, 2024

Mrs. King moved to approve the minutes of the meeting, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 3-0.

State Election Board Meeting: December 11, 2024

Dr. Johnston moved to approve the minutes of the meeting, Mrs. King seconded, passed 3-0.

State Election Board Meeting: January 13, 2025

Mrs. King moved to approve the minutes of the meeting, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 3-0.

State Election Board Meeting: January 31, 2025

Mrs. King moved to approve the minutes of the meeting as amended, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 3-0.

IV. 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

Chairman Fervier requested to pull the following cases for presentation and discussion: SEB2020-296, SEB2020-099.

Dr. Johnston requested to pull the following cases for presentation and discussion: SEB2022-298, SEB2022-362, SEB2022-141.

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

The following cases were dismissed:

SEB2020-209 – Chatham County – Composition of Review Panel / Misc
SEB2022-057 – Chatham County – Campaigning at the Poll
SEB2022-305 – Chatham County – Emergency Bin not Used after Scanner Failed
SEB2024-035 – Chatham County – Voter Privacy Issues
SEB2022-201 – Bryan County – Residency Issue
SEB2022-245 – Glynn County – Wording on No Cell Phone Signs
SEB2024-116 – Glynn County – Voter Attempted to Vote More than Once
SEB2022-259 – Grady County – Giving a \$100 Gift Card to Register to Vote
SEB2022-266 – Lowndes County – Lost Voter Access Card
SEB2022-274 – Lowndes County – Buying Votes
SEB2023-075 – Lowndes County – Districting Issue Voter not Allowed to Vote
SEB2021-174 – Berrien County – Ray City Illegal Campaigning
SEB2022-232 – Berrien County – Voter Registration Fraud
SEB2021-143 – Effingham County – Photographed Ballot
SEB2024-153 – Effingham County – Pre-filled AB Application
SEB2024-036 – Effingham County – Illegal Campaigning

The following cases were pulled for presentation and discussion:

SEB2020-296 – Henry County – Multiple AB

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

SEB2022-298 – Muscogee County – Rides to the poll

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to dismiss allegations as to Lyft, and continue the case as to RideShare2Vote, motion failed for lack of a second. Dr. Johnston moved to continue the case in its entirety, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, passed 2-1.

SEB2022-362 – Chatham County – Failure to Post Notices

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, Chairman Fervier voted nay, motion failed 2-2.

SEB2022-099 – Bryan County – Problems at the Polling Place

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mrs. King seconded, Dr. Johnston voted nay, passed 2-1.

SEB2022-141 – Lowndes County – Absentee Ballot Fraud

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

Mrs. King moved to break for lunch, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 3-0.

The Board broke for lunch at 11:47 A.M. and returned at 12:48 P.M.

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

SEB2020-042 – Appling County Absentee Ballot Application

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

SEB2022-240 – Appling County Repeat Voter

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

SEB2021-164 – Henry County Poll Issues

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

SEB2023-061 – Henry County – City of McDonough Election Issues

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

SEB2022-046 – McIntosh County – Elections Miscellaneous

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mrs. King seconded, Dr. Johnston voted nay, passed 3-1.

SEB2022-202 – McIntosh County – Miscellaneous

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Chairman Fervier requested to add Diane Cronin as a respondent, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to McIntosh County, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Dr. Johnston voted nay, passed 3-1.

SEB2022-285 – Ware County Double Voting

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to refer the allegations as to Ms. Gant to the Attorney General's office, Mrs. King seconded,

Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, passed 3-1. Dr. Johnston moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to Ms. King and the Ware County Board of Elections and Registration, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

SEB2023-083 – Ware County – City of Waycross Districting Issue

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

SEB2024-067 – Ware County Use of Cell Phone at the Polling Place

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

SEB2022-035 – Glynn County – Voter Registration Fraud

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

SEB2022-120 – Glynn County – Voter Video at Polls

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

SEB2022-142 – Glynn County – Candidate Entered Poll Place During Voting

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

Dr. Johnston moved to break for recess for the day, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

The Board broke for recess at 4:53 P.M.



MINUTES
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 26, 2025
9:00 A.M.
Virtually, via Zoom
<https://www.youtube.com/@GAStateElectionBoard/streams>

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.

II. INVESTIGATIONS REPORTS, Continued

SEB2022-103 – Chatham County – Failure to Open Polls at 7

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction as to Complaint #1, Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 4-0. Dr. Johnston moved to continue Complaint #2, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

SEB2022-144 – Chatham County – Voter Registration Fraud

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

SEB2022-145 – Chatham County – Double Voting

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. King moved to issue a Letter of Instruction as to Complaint #1, Mr. Jeffares seconded, Mrs. King withdrew her motion, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to refer to the Attorney General's office; Dr. Johnston seconded, passed 4-0. Mrs. Tindall Ghazal requested to open an investigation into the districting issue. Dr. Johnston moved to refer Complaint #2 to the Attorney General's office, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

SEB2022-214 – Chatham County – Repeat Voting

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to refer the allegations against Ms. Rutledge to the Attorney General's office, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, passed 3-1. Dr. Johnston moved to add Ms. Boatwright as a respondent in the case, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 4-0. Dr. Johnston moved to dismiss the allegations against Ms. Etheridge, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0. Dr. Johnston moved to dismiss the allegations against Mr. Chiver, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0. Dr. Johnston moved to add Ms. Colvin as a respondent in the case, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal seconded, passed 4-0.

SEB2022-307 – Chatham County – Photograph Taken of Voter’s Ballot

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

SEB2023-012 – Chatham County – Voter ID Issue

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

SEB2024-030 – Chatham County – Carry a Firearm within 150 Feet of a poll

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

SEB2024-089 – Camden County – Poll Manager allowed voter to vote prior to 7am

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

SEB2022-306 – Bryan County – Seal Broken on Ballot Box

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to Ms. Knight, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0. Dr. Johnston moved to continue the investigation and consider a potential violation as to Bryan County Elections, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

SEB2021-182 – Grady County – City of Cairo problems at Polling Place

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to Grady County Elections, motion failed for lack of a second; Dr. Johnston moved to dismiss the allegations as to Grady County Elections, Mrs. King seconded, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal voted nay, passed 3-1. Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to refer the allegations as to Jeremiah and Jennifer Horne to the Attorney General’s office, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

SEB2022-019 – Clinch County – Fargo Issue with Qualifying & Advance Voting Time

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to issue a Letter of Instruction, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

SEB2022-053 – Tift County – Photo Taken of Voter’s BMD Ballot

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

SEB2022-208 – Tift and Cook County – Double Voting

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Dr. Johnston moved to refer to the Attorney General’s office, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

SEB2022-272 – Charlton County – Absentee Ballot Oath Envelope Issue

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

SEB2024-019 – Berrien County – Deceased Voter

After presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, Mrs. King moved to refer to the Attorney General’s office, Mr. Jeffares seconded, passed 4-0.

Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to break for lunch, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:48 P.M., and returned at 1:21 P.M.

III. PROCEDURE MATTERS

a. Discussion and adoption vote on proposed amendments to SEB Rule 183-1-12-.13(a)(3)

After presentation and discussion of the proposed rule amendment, Dr. Johnston moved to continue the discussion and adoption vote to a future meeting, Mrs. Tindall Ghazal requested a legal opinion from the Attorney General’s office, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion of True the Vote Litigation

After discussion, Dr. Johnston moved to withdraw the subpoena, file a dismissal with prejudice, withdraw the investigative complaint submitted by True the Vote, and dismiss the investigation in case SEB2022-003; Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.

b. Discussion of complainants speaking to cases

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion of Enhanced Voting invoicing

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT, continued

Garland Favorito provided public comment.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee. O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Tindall Ghazal moved to adjourn, Mrs. King seconded, passed 4-0.
The Board adjourned at 4:02 P.M.