



**SUMMARY
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

9:00 A.M.

**Georgia State Capitol, Room 341 Atlanta, Georgia
30334**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1rFFlnubk-I?si=YTb80rR7fC8qW8oB>

As required by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-l(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. John Fervier, as Chairman, called the State Election Board ("Board") meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present for each Board action taken. The following Board Members were present: Mr. John Fervier, Dr. Janice Johnston, as Vice Chairman, Mrs. Janelle King, and Mrs. Sara Tindall Ghazal. Board Member Rick Jeffares arrived at 9:08 a.m. and joined the meeting in progress, resulting in a full Board attendance.

Member Ghazal led the Pledge of Allegiance and Executive Director James Mills gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board voted and approved the minutes from the Board meeting held on May 13, 2025 and May 14, 2025.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT

Consent Orders

SEB2019-038 – City of Arlington

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2020-001 – Early County

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2020-147 – Paulding County

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2020-201 – Screven County Board of Elections and Registration

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General's Office.

Final Orders

SEB2019-014

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2020-218 – Pike County Board of Elections and Registration

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General's Office.

Orders of Dismissal

SEB2017-039

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General's Office for the following cases.

SEB2018-110

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board, upon recommendation of the Attorney General's Office, voted to dismiss Ms. Watson's case and moved Ms. Brooks' case to the agenda for the next meeting since the case material wasn't provided in some of the Board Members' binders.

INVESTIGATION REPORTS

The following investigation reports were presented according to the disposition recommended by the Secretary of State's investigative staff.

Cases Recommended to be Dismissed

The Secretary of State's investigative staff recommended the following cases for dismissal.

SEB2020-296	Henry County - Multiple AB Ballots Sent
SEB2020-198	Gwinnett County - Lucerne Baptist Church
SEB2022-250	Hall County - Failure by Poll Worker to Check Voter Identification
SEB2022-287	Fulton County – Nursing Home Absentee Ballot Fraud
SEB2022-288	Fulton County – Absentee Ballot Fraud
SEB2022-298	Fulton County – Rides to Poll
SEB2022-317	Fulton County – Tabulation Issue
SEB2022-345	Fulton County – AB Incorrect Address November 2022 GE
SEB2024-046	DeKalb County – Observer denied Right to Video Record
SEB2024-078	Gwinnett County - Multiple Absentee Ballots
SEB2024-103	Gwinnett County - Poll Watcher Conduct Issues May 2024 GP
SEB2024-125	Gwinnett County - Voter Registration Fraud
SEB2024-156	Addendum – DeKalb County – Improper Voter Registration on College Campus
SEB2024-179	Gwinnett County - Non-Citizen Voting
SEB2024-184	Henry County - Write-In Not Displayed November 2024 GE
SEB2024-197	Gwinnett County – City of Mulberry
SEB2022-054	Thomas County - Unqualified Voters
SEB2022-333	Fulton County - Fraudulent Address Change

All listed cases were dismissed by the Board, except for three cases that were pulled for hearing (SEB2024-197, SEB2022-298, and SEB2024-156); one case that was continued (SEB2024-046) and the case regarding Ms. Brooks (SEB2018-110) which was moved to the July 30th Agenda. The Board voted and approved the dismissal of the following cases as a group: **SEB2020-296, SEB2022-198, SEB2022-250, SEB2022-287, SEB2022-288, SEB2022-317, SEB2022-345, SEB2024-078, SEB2024-103, SEB2024-125, SEB2024-179, SEB2024-184, SEB2021-054, and SEB2022-333.**

SEB2024-046 – Dekalb County – Observer denied Right to Video Record

The Chairman announced that the case concerning SEB2024-046, regarding an observer denied the right to video record, has been continued to the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Dr. Johnston asked to pull the following three cases from the Secretary of State's Investigative staff's dismissal list for a hearing:

SEB2022-298 Muscogee County - Rides to Poll
SEB2024-156 Addendum - DeKalb County - Improper Voter Registration on College Campus
SEB2024-197 Gwinnett County – City of Mulberry

SEB2024-298 - Muscogee County- Rides to Poll

- **Lyft** - Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to send a Letter of Instruction to Lyft.
- **Ride Share to Vote** - After the presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to dismiss the case.

SEB2024-156 - Addendum - DeKalb County - Improper Voter Registration on College Campus A recess was called at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Fervier to ensure the case was not granted a continuance. The Board Reconvened at 10:05 a.m. Upon reconvening, the case was rescheduled to be heard with the cases on July 30, 2025, so the attorney could be present.

SEB2024-197 - Gwinnett County - City of Mulberry

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to continue this case to the next meeting agenda for a hearing.

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

SEB2024-199 – Polk County – Illegal Photograph at Cedartown AV Polling Location Nov. 2024

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction.

SEB2024-163 – Henry County – Alleged Fraudulent Voter Registration Application Nov. 2024

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2024-092 – Henry County – Wrong Ballot

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office on allegation one and dismiss allegation two.

SEB2024-022 - Henry County - Security of Election Equipment

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2023-073 – Henry County – City of McDonough Restricting Issues 2023

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2023-037 – City of Braswell - Failure to Hold

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2022-189 – McIntosh County – Problems at Polling Place

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand with the stipulation that any further violations, particularly with granting access to poll watchers appropriately, be referred to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2022-185 – Bryan County – Districting Issue

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

SEB2022-035 - Glynn County - Voter Registration Fraud

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand.

LUNCH BREAK

A motion was made by the Chairman for the board to recess for lunch. The recess began at 12:15 p.m., and the Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Member Jeffares did not return to the Board meeting after lunch, as he had left to go home due to illness.

SEB2022-026 - Spalding County - AB Issues

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

The chairman stated that the other Spalding County case would be heard next, moving it up in the agenda order so that all the county's cases could be addressed consecutively.

SEB2021-165 - Spalding County - AB Drop Box

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

SEB2021-168 - City of Lyons - AB Fraud

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to Attorney General's Office.

SEB2021-163 - Dougherty County - Tabulation

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand

SEB2021-119 - Calhoun County - Voter Registration Challenge

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

SEB2021-116 - Toombs County - Special Election Runoff

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction.

SEB2021-043 - Decatur County - Multiple complaints

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office.

Public Comment

The following individuals provided public comment: Sandra Burchardt, Gail Lee, and Marisa Pyle.

Adjournment

The Board voted to recess for the day at 3:15 p.m.



SUMMARY
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Wednesday, July 30, 2025
9:00 A.M.

Georgia State Capitol, Room 341
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

https://www.youtube.com/live/_xwDtUdCf2o?si=eYsTCcLB-XwkMR7W

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. John Fervier, as Chairman, called the State Election Board ("Board") meeting back to order at 9:00 a.m. following a recess from yesterday. A quorum was present for each Board action taken. The following Board members were present: Chairman John Fervier, Vice Chairman Dr. Janice Johnston, Mr. Rick Jeffares, Mrs. Sara Tindall Ghazal and Mrs. Janelle King.

Cases Recommended for Letter of Instruction or Refer to the Attorney Office, continued

SEB2024-044 - Hall County - City of Oakwood Special Election Mar. 2024

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

SEB2024-021 - Hall County - Security of Elections Equipment AV 2024 PPP

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction.

SEB2024-222 - Gwinnett County - Improper Processing of Absentee Ballots by Election Officials

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand.

SEB2024-198-Gwinnett County-Fraudulent Voter Registration

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office.

The Board took a break at 10:32 a.m. and returned at 10:43 a.m.

SEB2022-155 - Gwinnett County - PO Box Voters

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to dismiss the allegations as to Ms. Allen, to dismiss the allegations as to 6 individuals living in commercial addresses. The Board also voted to alert Gwinnett County by letter to identify the individuals that are in violation due to incorrect residence address and to take action. The Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand to the remaining 6 individuals that had no proof of living at a commercial address. The Board also voted to send a Letter of Instruction to the remaining respondents.

SEB2023-066 - Gwinnett County - Voter Residency Challenge

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to send a Letter of Reprimand only to Mr. Yarbrough and to continue the portion of the case related to Mr. Lovelace.

SEB2023-029 - Gwinnett County - Absentee Ballot Issues

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to send a Letter of Reprimand.

SEB2023-011 - Gwinnett County - Improper Processing of Ballots

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to send a Letter of Reprimand.

LUNCH BREAK

A motion was made by the Chairman for the board to recess for lunch. The recess began at 12:09 p.m., and the Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

SEB2022-243 - Fulton County - AB Fraud Address

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to dismiss the allegations as to Marcus N, Maren P, Vicky R, and Satish V. The board also voted to issue a Letter of Instruction to Mr. Millben and Ms. Scott. The board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction to the remaining respondents: Ms. Butts, Ms. Felder, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Jones, Ms. March, Mr. Minyard, Mr. Rome, Mrs. Stelly, Mr. Talley, Ms. Tatum, Ms. Tippet, and Ms. Wilson.

SEB2024-156 - Addendum - DeKalb County - Improper Voter Registration on College Campus

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

SEB2024-159-DeKalb County-Third Party Pre-Filled Absentee Ballot

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2023-039 - DeKalb County - Residency and Voter Registration Issues

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction to first 13 respondents: David K, David E, Timothy S, Raymond G, Nathan P, Kimberly D, Monterio F, David R, Gloria S, Shantel L, Christopher R, Affiong E, and Gianni R on allegation 2 and issue a Letter of Instruction to the next 18 respondents. The Board voted to dismiss allegation 3 and allegation 4. The Board voted to refer the allegations against Nathan Powell to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2024-017 - Fulton County - Advanced Voting Technical Issues 2024 PPP

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand.

SEB2022-354 - Fulton County - Out of State Double Voter

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office.

SEB2022-119 - Fulton County - Improper Federal Ballot

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand.

SEB2022-070 - Fulton County - Double Voter

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand for Mr. Williams and Mr. Fogarty.

SEB2022-050 - Fulton County - Required Seals

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand.

SEB2020-140-Fulton County- Wrong Ballot Style

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand.

The Board recessed for a break at 2:43 p.m. and reconvened at 2:52 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Report from the Executive Director, James Mills

Executive Director James Mills gave a report to the Board and discussed Technology and Security Enhancements, Budget Management & Resource Allocation, Human Capital & Team Performance, Investigative Capacity & Strategic Gaps, Strategic Recommendation: Memorandum of Understanding, Process Innovation: Complaint Tracking System, and Legislative & Stakeholder Engagement. No action was taken by the Board.

B. Discussion and presentation by Garland Favorito on Memory Card rule

Discussion took place regarding the Memory Card rule. No action was taken.

C. Discussion of purchase of Code books for election officials under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-31(3).

Discussion regarding the statutory obligation to purchase code books for election officials. This discussion was part of broader financial and budget planning, whereas the Secretary of State's Office has historically managed this task. The Executive Director was asked to report back with the Board regarding cost. No action was taken by the Board.

D. Discussion of Report and Budget planning

The Board reviewed the previous fiscal year's finances, noting a surplus of approximately \$179,000. A key decision was made to request that the Attorney General's Office appoint a dedicated attorney to serve as the Board's counsel. An outstanding issue is whether this request will be approved. The Executive Director has been tasked with inquiring about the feasibility of this appointment. No action was taken by the Board.

E. Next meeting date, time, and place

After discussion, the Board voted and approved a motion authorizing Executive Director James Mills to schedule the date, time, and location of all State Election Board meetings, and to contact the Secretary of State's IT directly to post meetings while leaving the Chairman the responsibility of notifying the Board members of such meeting. The Board also discussed and agreed to hold the next meetings on September 23-24, 2025, and December 9-10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Georgia State Capitol, Room 341.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Enhanced Voting Paper Ballot Image Oversight

After discussion, the Board voted and approved the motion from Vice Chairman Dr. Johnston to delegate the authority to Executive Director, James Mills, to approve and provide signature for payment of invoices less than \$5,000 and require the notification and consent of the Board for payment of invoices greater than \$5,000. The motion was tabled until the September 23-24th meeting to allow Executive Director, James Mills, to obtain clarification from the Attorney General's Office on the terms "approval" and "consent," ensuring the correct wording is used in the motion. This clarification is necessary for Executive Director Mills to be able to sign and pay invoices greater than \$5,000 with the Majority Board's approval via email, rather than calling a formal meeting for approval.

B. Human Resources

Discussion was focused on the Board's hiring and personnel processes. The discussion centered on the role of the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) Human Resources (HR) department in job postings and candidate selection, concerns about transparency in application reviews, and a new motion to delegate

hiring authority directly to the SEB Executive Director. After discussion, the Board voted and approved to give Executive Director James Mills the approval and consent of the Board allowing him the authority to contact the Secretary of State's Human Resources Department directly for personnel matters, including posting jobs, reviewing all applicants, interviewing and hiring individuals as he deems fit for any replacement of the current staff and future staff positions, and to use Teams or other employment agencies for individual search methods to search for the best candidate to employ for the necessary operations of the State Election Board.

C. SEB Investigators

Discussion about the SEB investigators currently lack access to critical investigative tools available to Secretary of State (SOS) investigators, which significantly limits their effectiveness. The investigators have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) plan to enable tool and data sharing between SEB and SOS, aiming to equalize investigative capabilities and foster collaboration. The SEB investigators are developing a complaint tracking system which is expected to finalize toward the end of October. No action was taken by the Board.

D. SEB Complaints

The discussion centered on the introduction and debate of a formal resolution concerning Fulton County's failure to produce election documents. The resolution calls for assistance from the Secretary of State and Attorney General to compel the county's compliance. The following resolution, proposed by Vice Chairman Dr. Johnston regarding complaints of potential violations of both Georgia and federal election law, was discussed and, upon a vote, adopted by the Board.

The Board took a recess at 4:00 p.m. to allow members time to review the resolution and reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Georgia, as the State Legislature of Georgia, has charged the State Election Board with the duty to "promulgate rules and regulations as to obtain uniformity in the practices and procedures" for all primaries and elections in Georgia as well as "the legality and purity" of those elections under OCGA§21-2-31(1); and

WHEREAS, the Board is also charged to investigate or have investigated the administration of primary and election laws and fraud and irregularities and primaries and elections in Georgia under OSGA§21-2-31(5); and

WHEREAS, the board is charged to take other action, consistent with law, as the Board may determine to be conducive to the fair, legal, and orderly conduct of primaries and elections in Georgia under OCGA§21-2-31(10); and WHEREAS, considering the foregoing, elections in Georgia include both state and local elections and federal elections, and the U.S. Constitution further protects the voting rights of all the citizens of Georgia in a nondiscriminatory and equal manner and requires that elections be conducted uniformly in all counties to ensure equal protection of those rights;

WHEREAS, the Board relies on assistance from other state actors, including the Attorney General and the Secretary of State to assist it in the conduct of its operations and the Secretary of State is charged with assisting the Board under OCGA§21-2-33.1(h) and the Attorney General is charged with providing independent and effective assistance of counsel to the Board without conflicts of interest that might impair its abilities;

WHEREAS, the Board has heard complaints of potential violations of both Georgia and federal election law over the last few years and the investigations of some complaints, including SEB2023-025, are still incomplete with respect to basic documents required by law to be maintained, despite the extensive efforts of the Board to exhaust all remedies available to it, including the lack of a response to a

subpoena issued by the Board issued to Fulton County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board calls on the assistance of the Secretary of State to assist it as fully as possible and suggests that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General seek the assistance of appropriate local authorities or federal authorities, including the Department of Justice, to take any action necessary to bring a prompt resolution of these issues, including obtaining all necessary voting records and documents.

E. IT update/Website

The discussion primarily addressed the deficiencies of the current State Election Board website, which is hosted by the Secretary of State and contains outdated and incorrect information. The Board discussed and subsequently approved a motion to proceed with the development of an independent SEB website and to consider establishing social media channels. The decision was made to move forward with website development, pending budget estimated and compliance review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Schoreder and Bill Henderson provided public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted and adjourned at 5:10 P.M.