



SUMMARY OF MINUTES STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING

Tuesday September 23, 2025

Georgia State Capitol, Room 341 Atlanta, Georgia

9:00 a.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/@GAStateElectionBoard/streams>

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr. John Fervier, as Chairman, called the State Election (“Board”) meeting to order at 9:07 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 Chair, Mrs. Janelle King, and Mrs. Sara Tindall Ghazal.

Vice Chair, Dr. Johnston gave the invocation and Member King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board voted and approved the minutes from the State Election Board Executive Session Meeting held on July 23, 2025. The Board made corrections to the minutes and voted and approved the minutes with corrections from the State Election Board Meeting and Hearing held on July 29, 2025 and July 30, 2025.

Vice Chair, Dr. Johnston proposed Agenda Amendments for tomorrow’s recess meeting session.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Several individuals spoke out for public comments.

IV. INVESTIGATIONS REPORTS

The investigation reports to be considered are listed below according to the disposition recommended by the Secretary of State’s Office Investigation Staff. These recommendations are not binding on the board, which has sole discretion to act on complaints.

CASES RECOMMENDED FOR POSSIBLE DISMISSAL

SEB2024-256 Atkinson County – Request to Photograph Ballot

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

SEB2024-128 Union County – Sheriff Qualifications

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

SEB2025-013 **Elbert County – City of Bowman Recall Petition Issues**

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

SEB2025-014 **Rabun County – Double Voter Registration**

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

SEB2022-226 **Hart County – Multiple Absentee Ballot Fraud with PO Box**

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

SEB2024-241 **Hart County – Double Voting at Cade St. Advanced Location**

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

SEB2024-031 **Wilkes County – Failure to Allow Public View of Tabulation**

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

SEB2023-027 **Murray County – Double Voter**

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

SEB2022-367 **Franklin County – Candidate Qualifying Issue Nov 22' General Election**

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

SEB2024-129 **Franklin County – Discarded Ballot**

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to continue the case for further investigation.

SEB2022-228 **Jackson County – Voter Registration Fraud**

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

SEB2024-121 **Floyd County – Voter Privacy Violation (complainant dropped case)**

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

SEB2024-123 **Floyd County – Ineligible Poll Worker**

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

SEB2024-076 **Bartow County – Absentee Ballot Delivery**

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

SEB2023-050 **Walton County – Walnut Grove Candidate Intimidation**

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

SEB2022-309 **Forsyth County – Voter Registration Issue**

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

SEB2024-057 **Paulding County – Polling Location Change Issue**

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

SEB2024-197 **Gwinnett County – Inappropriate Conduct of City of Mulberry Candidate (cont)**

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

SEB2023-031 **Douglas County – Candidate Qualifying Issue**

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

SEB2024-083 **Douglas County – Poll Worker Conduct Issue May 24' GP**

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

POTENTIAL VIOLATION CASES:

SEB2024-049 **Elbert County – City of Bowman Fraudulent Petition Filing**

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Reprimand. Refer allegations of voter intimidation and possible firearms near the polling location to investigators for further investigation.

SEB2023-088 **Wilkes County – City of Washington Illegal Campaigning Nov. 2023**

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

SEB2022-014 **Murray County – AB Application**

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

SEB2023-048 **Jackson County – City of Hoschton Qualifying Petition Issues**

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer to the DA and Attorney General.

SEB2024-064 **Jackson County – Residential Voter Registration Fraud**

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

SEB2023-072 **Paulding County – City of Dallas, Voting Delay, November 2023**

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

SEB2024-115 **Carroll County – Poll Worker Conduct Issue at Roopville Rd Church June '24**

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

SEB2022-021 **Forsyth County – Residency Issue**

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted:

Mr. Alden was issued a Letter of Instruction with guidance on how to re-register properly in compliance with the law.

Mrs. Alden was issued a Letter of Instruction.

Ms. Godwin was issued a Letter of Instruction.

Ms. Helm, Ms. Joslin, Ms. Land, Ms. Luecke, Ms. Lugus, Mr. Riggs, Ms. Watkins, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Williams were issued a Letter of Instruction.

Mr. Ajufor was issued a Letter of Instruction to cover all three violations.

SEB2022-374 **Forsyth County – Gainesville Voter Registration Fraud**

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

SEB2023-006 **Forsyth County – Failure to Mail AB November 2022 General Election**

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

Ms. Seabolt and refer Forsyth County to the Attorney General and issue a letter of instruction to Ms. Balcome.

SEB2022-224 **Douglas County – Qualifying Issue**

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction without the violation being found.

SEB2024-058 **Paulding County – Voter Privacy Violation**

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

SEB2024-192 **Camden County – Photograph of Ballot**

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

SEB2022-044 **Colquitt County – Photography in Polling Place**

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

SEB2024-015 **Worth County – Photograph of Ballot**

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction to the elector, Mr. Howard, and a Letter of Instruction to the poll worker, Ms. Chestnut.

SEB2024-238 **Hart County – Illegal Photograph of Ballot Nov. 2024**

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

SEB2024-034 **Wilkinson County – Photograph of Ballot**

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

SEB2024-080 **Hancock County – Photography of Ballot**

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

SEB2024-098 **Hancock County – Poll Worker Took Photos and Video Inside of the Poll**

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

SEB2025-026 **Hancock County – Photograph of Ballot**

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

SEB2022-191 **Walton County – Photo at Polling Place**

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

SEB2024-162 **Fulton County – Unlawful Photography at Maxwell Road Polling Location**

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

SEB2024-217 **Fulton County – Unlawful Photograph of Ballot Nov. 2024**

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

SEB2024-230 **Fulton County – Illegal Photographs of Ballots**

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

SEB2023-085 **Fulton County – Roswell Library, Photograph of Ballot**

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

SEB2024-208 **Fulton County – Illegal Photograph of Voting Equipment During Voting Nov. 2024**

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

SEB2024-187 **Fulton County – Voter Taking Photo of Ballot**

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

SEB2024-216 **Fulton County – Ocee Library Unlawful Photograph of BMD Screen Nov. 2024**

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction on allegation #2 wearing a shirt in the polling location and dismiss the first allegation for the photograph.

SEB2024-169 **Fulton County – Recording Devices at Alpharetta Library Voting Pct. Nov '24 GE**

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

This case was adjudicated at a previous meeting.

V. RECESS

The Board voted to recess for the day at 4:33 p.m.



**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday September 24, 2025

Georgia State Capitol, Room 341 Atlanta, Georgia

9:00 a.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/@GAStateElectionBoard/streams>

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.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr. John Fervier, as Chairman, called the State Election (“Board”) meeting to order at 9:03 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 Chair, Mrs. Janelle King, and Mrs. Sara Tindall Ghazal. Board member Jeffares arrived at 9:30 a.m. resulting in a full Board.

II. PROCEDURE MATTERS

a. Discussion of proposed rule petition.

Petitioners presenting: Jeanne Dufort, Michael St. Louis, and Salleigh Grubbs

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. Repeal of Rule 183-1-15-.01 | Salleigh Grubbs |
| 2. Changes to Rule 183-1-15-.02 Definition of Vote | |
| 3. Changes to Rule 183-1-12-.11 Conducting of Elections | Jeanne Dufort |
| 4. Changes to Rule 183-1-12-.01 Conducting of Elections | Michael St. Louis |

After discussion, the Board voted and passed to accept and hear the revised petition at the next Board Meeting. Board Members Ghazal and Jeffares will collaborate with Ms. Grubbs and Ms. Dufort on refinements over 2 weeks prior to next business session meeting in October. Once the revised petition is completed, it will be distributed.

III. ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT

CONSENT ORDERS:

SEB2020-001

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General’s Office with \$1,000 penalty fine.

SEB2020-147

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted as recommended by the Attorney General’s Office with \$1,000 penalty fine.

FINAL ORDERS:

SEB2020-107

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

SEB2023-039

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

ORDERS OF DISMISSALS:

SEB2018-110

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

SEB2020-292

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

SEB2021-033

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

SEB2021-109

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

SEB2022-186

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

SEB2022-214

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

SEB2022-354

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

SEB2020-089 – Request for Clarification of Referral

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

Overview of Upcoming OSAH Penalty Cases:

Administrative Court Costs: The Attorney General's office highlighted the costs associated with taking cases to the Office of State Administrative Hearings, including judge fees and potential travel expenses. It was suggested to seek legislative changes to allow recouping court costs as part of judgments. **Legal Authority and Enforcement**: The Attorney General's office clarified the SEB's authority to issue orders and penalties, requiring a full administrative hearing for civil penalties. **Rule Validity and Legislative Recommendations**: Discussion about the validity of certain election rules and the need for legislative clarity on issues like sending multiple absentee ballots. The AG's office proposed collaboration with the SEB to recommend legislative changes for better election oversight. The AG office indicated they would follow up on the validity of a specific rule, 183-1-12-.12, concerning tabulating results, to determine whether it is still validly operative. They are committed to looking into this matter and getting back with the necessary information.

IV. REPORTS

a. Report from the Executive Director

Updates were provided by Executive Director James Mills on open records training, investigative tools and software, investigative resources, Blue Ribbon Committee Presentation, Clarification on Case handling, and staff acknowledgments.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Subpoena for Fulton County Election Record:

After discussion the Board voted and passed the motion to subpoena Fulton County Board of Elections and Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Next Meeting Date

After discussion, the Board voted and passed to hold monthly meetings for the rest of this year on October 22, November 12, and December 9-10. For the year 2026, the meetings will be held every 3rd Wednesday of each month. January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16 with the option to change these dates if a quorum isn't present.

b. Double Voting Cases

Discussion about double voting included concerns about the process and transparency of handling double voting cases. There was mention of articles in the paper about double voting cases being referred directly to district attorneys after investigation, without first being presented to the State Election Board. The Board expressed a desire for checks and balances and emphasized the importance of being informed about these cases. There was also a reference to case backlogs and the need for access to case logs to prioritize cases effectively. The Board is working to obtain access to these case logs to ensure proper handling and oversight of double voting incidents.

c. Insurance

The discussion about insurance focused on the need for the Board to explore obtaining director's and Officer's liability insurance for its members. This need arose from legal matters involving a Board Member, highlighting

that legal representation is not guaranteed by the state of Georgia for volunteer appointed members of the state election board. The Board members expressed concerns that they were initially informed they would be covered by the Attorney General's office, which turned out not to be the case. The Board agreed on the importance of having insurance to cover legal expenses in situations where the state does not provide representation. There was a consensus to explore insurance options to ensure Board members are protected while performing their duties. The options will be discussed in the October meeting after more research.

VII. INVESTIGATION REPORTS

The investigation reports to be considered are listed below according to the disposition recommended by the Secretary of State's Office Investigation Staff. These recommendations are not binding on the board, which has sole discretion to act on complaints.

POTENTIAL VIOLATION CASES:

SEB2021-150 Calhoun County – City of Edison: Polling Location Issues

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative find the Board voted to dismiss allegations #1, 4, and 5. The Board issued a Letter of Reprimand for Allegations #2, 6, 7 and 8. The Board issued a Letter of Instruction for Allegation #3.

SEB2024-120 Gilmer County – Candidate Conduct Issue June 2024

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction. County needs to reinforce candidate education and polling place restrictions.

SEB2024-032 White County – ADA Polling Place Issue

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

SEB2024-094 Floyd County – Poll Worker Conduct Issue May 2024 GP

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

SEB2024-077 Floyd County – Poll Worker Card

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

SEB2023-079 Athens-Clarke County – Improper AB Processing, November 2023

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

SEB2024-056 Athens Clarke County – Missing Voter Access Card

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

SEB2024-239 Athens Clarke County – Duplicate Mail Ballots

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction. Member Ghazal to draft a letter to the Legislature.

SEB2024-161 Athens Clarke County – Polling Precinct Assignment Issue

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

SEB2024-065 Athens Clarke County – Missing Voter Access Card

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

SEB2024-220 Hall County – Removal of Ballot from Polling Station

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

SEB2024-210 Hall – Photography of Ballot Posted on Social Media Nov. 2024

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

SEB2023-033 Haralson County – Election Equipment

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to issue a Letter of Instruction including that the County maintains compliant facility and policies.

SEB2024-028 Cherokee County – Union Hill Community Center Issues

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

SEB2023-040 Cherokee County – Improper Municipal Qualifying Procedures

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to send a Letter of Instruction to the City of Waleska/Robin Smith to adhere to code timelines and coordinate with county elections office.

SEB2024-086 Franklin County – Voting Before Polls Opened May 2024

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

SEB2023-066 Gwinnett County – Voter Residency Challenge (cont)

Following presentation and discussion of the investigative findings, the Board voted to refer the case to the Gwinnett County District Attorney and Georgia Attorney General for review.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Several individuals spoke out for public comments

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 4:33 p.m.