



GEORGIA STATE ELECTION BOARD

State of Georgia

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Proceedings and Action Record

REGULAR MEETING — DAY ONE OF TWO

JUNE 3, 2026

Lanier Technical College — Forsyth Conference Center
3410 Ronald Reagan Boulevard, Cumming, Georgia 30041





Meeting at a Glance

Key figures from Day 1 of the June 3-4, 2026 meeting of the Georgia State Election Board.

Item	Summary
Meeting Date	June 3, 2026 (Day 1 of 2)
Meeting Type	Regular Meeting
Duration	9:09 a.m. – 4:40 p.m.
Motions Considered	24
Motions Adopted	22
Motions Failed	1
Motions Withdrawn	1
Rules Adopted	1 (Numbered List of Voters)
Cases Heard	31
Cases Dismissed	16
Cases Continued	6
Letters of Instruction	8
AG Referrals	1
Board Leadership Change	Janelle King appointed Vice Chair, succeeding Dr. Jane Johnston
Next Meeting	June 4, 2026 — Day 2 continuation, same location (not reflected in this record)



Official Meeting Minutes Prepared by On the Record, LLC

MINUTES

STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING

June 3, 2026 (Day 1 of 2)

Lanier Technical College – Forsyth Conference Center, 3410 Ronald Reagan Blvd,
Cumming, Georgia 30041

9:00 a.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v86HPwdzODM>

Record Note: This transcript reflects Day 1 only of the Board's two-day June 3–4, 2026 Regular Meeting. The Board recessed at 4:40 p.m. to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on June 4, 2026; Day 2 proceedings are not reflected in these minutes.

CALL TO ORDER INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

John Fervier, as Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. A quorum was present for all actions taken by the Board. Board Members present were Chairman John Fervier, Vice Chair Dr. Jane Johnston, Member Janelle King, Member Salleigh Grubbs, and Member Sarah Ghazal, along with Executive Director James Mills.

The invocation was given by Vice Chair, Dr. Johnston. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member King.

The Chairman thanked election workers for their service during the recent primary and noted that an election-integrity event scheduled for the following afternoon at the same venue was an independent event unaffiliated with the Board. Several members requested that items be added to the following day's agenda, including a resolution from Member King regarding guidance to counties, a request from Vice Chair Johnston to consider engaging counsel to write a Touhy letter to the Department of Justice, and consideration of the Vice Chair position.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

State Election Board Meeting: March 18, 2026

Motion: Member King moved to approve the March 18, 2026 minutes

Second: Not individually recorded

Vote: Passed (4-0)

POSSIBLE CASE DISMISSALS

Executive Director Mills presented the following cases for disposition.

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

The Board considered a batch of fifteen cases recommended for dismissal, excluding three cases in which parties were present to be heard: SEB2022-359, Richmond County, voter registration problems; SEB2022-360, City of Marshallville, Macon County, special election not called to fill a vacancy; SEB2023-008, Chatham County, voter registered in Tennessee and Georgia; SEB2023-092, Upson County, City of Thomaston, candidate's name left off ballot; SEB2024-107, Hancock County, absentee ballot fraud and voter intimidation; SEB2024-182, Cobb County, ballot anomaly for the 11th Congressional District; SEB2024-212, Pickens County, deceased voter fraud; SEB2025-025, Newton County, assistance to disabled issue; SEB2025-044, Clayton County, polling place change issue; SEB2025-048, Atkinson County, City of Pearson, candidate qualifying issue; SEB2025-061, Athens-Clarke County, unqualified voter; SEB2025-085, Grady County, City of Cairo, poll worker issue; SEB2025-091, Chatham County, absentee ballot mailing issue; SEB2025-109, Jefferson County, City of Louisville, poll watcher issue; and SEB2026-025, Chatham County, double voting between Georgia and North Carolina, originally a Department of Justice referral.

Motion: Chairman Fervier entertained a motion to dismiss the above-named fifteen cases as recommended by the Attorney General's Office

Second: Vice Chair Johnston

Vote: Passed (4-0)

Record Note: SEB2025-044 (Clayton County) was dismissed under this batch motion; a member of the public later addressed the Board about related, uninvestigated concerns regarding that case (see Violation Cases, below). No Attorney General Report was presented on Day 1, and no Consent Orders or Final Orders were placed before the Board at this session.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments on the pending rule petitions were made by the following individuals: Dr. Konrad Hayashi, Betsy Shackelford, Mandy Schulz, Roenell Sollers, Pam Woodley, Katherine Krummert, Elizabeth Hendrickson, Garland Favarito, Don Hackney, Jennifer Mosbacher, Melissa McCollen, Gail Lee, Max Clavijo, Richard Schroeder, Jeanne Dufort, Rachel Glover, Kristin Neighbors, Margaret Westin, Cindy Battles, Maria Godio, and Julie Adams.

Record Note: Comment was limited to the two rule petitions on the day's agenda (Stefan Bartelski's proposed challenge-fee prohibition and Vice Chair Johnston's numbered-list-

of-voters petition); the substance of speakers' remarks is reflected within those petitions under New Business, below.

V. VIOLATION CASES

SEB2024-122, Toombs County — Alleged Voter Intimidation

Complainant Wesley Walker, a candidate for Toombs County Sheriff, testified regarding alleged voter intimidation by law enforcement affiliated with his 2024 opponent, including patrol presence near polling locations and vandalism of campaign signage. Respondent Jordan Kight disputed the intimidation allegation and noted the assigned investigator found no violations. Member Grubbs requested the opportunity to speak with the investigator directly before the Board ruled.

Motion: Member Grubbs moved to continue the case to allow Member Grubbs to speak with the assigned investigator

Second: Member Ghazal

Vote: Passed (4-0)

SEB2024-193, Atkinson County — Attempted Second Vote

The Board considered a complaint that a voter caused a disturbance after mistakenly believing her ballot had not been recorded. Chairman Fervier and Member King discussed the possibility of diminished capacity and agreed the matter warranted further investigation with the voter named as a respondent.

Motion: Member Ghazal moved to continue the case and add the voter, Vonita Walker, as a respondent for a potential violation of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-566

Second: Member King

Vote: Passed (4-0)

SEB2025-036, Cherokee County — Polling Location Change Notice

Complainant Pamela Thompson testified that Cherokee County's notice of a polling-location change was difficult to find in practice, despite the county's documentation of newspaper, social-media, and on-site notice. The Board found the county had met the minimum legal notice requirements.

Motion: Member King moved to dismiss the case, finding the county satisfied the minimum public-notice requirements

Second: Vice Chair Johnston

Vote: Passed (4-0)

SEB2022-006

This case was continued by prior agreement of the Chairman at the requesting party's request the day before the meeting; no formal Board vote was taken on the continuance during this session.

SEB2024-013, Long County — Voter Registration Issue

Motion: Member King moved to continue the case to allow Vice Chair Johnston to research whether a specific code violation applies

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed (4-0)

SEB2021-021, Cobb County – Absentee Ballot Non-Delivery

Complainant Greg Krohn testified that he applied for an absentee ballot on three separate occasions across multiple elections and received email confirmations each time, but that the Secretary of State's office had no record of the requests and he never received a ballot. Member Grubbs and Vice Chair Johnston noted similar patterns reported in Cobb and DeKalb Counties and recommended the matter be investigated further, including review of the underlying system code.

Motion: Member Grubbs moved to continue the case for further investigation into the absentee-ballot system

Second: Vice Chair, Dr. Johnston

Vote: Passed (4-0)

Letters of Instruction – Ballot Secrecy and Registration Matters (Batch)

The Board considered five cases recommended for a Letter of Instruction as a batch, none of which had a party present to be heard: SEB2024-096, Dougherty County, poll worker conduct/voter intimidation; SEB2024-167, Richmond County, photographs of ballots removed from the ballot box; SEB2024-185, Worth County, photograph taken of the ballot scanner; SEB2025-030, Wheeler County, voters allowed to vote prior to opening of the polls; and SEB2025-088, Bulloch County, City of Statesboro, restrictions on campaign activities.

Motion: Member Grubbs moved to issue a Letter of Instruction on the above-named five cases

Second: Member King

Vote: Passed (4-0)

SEB2025-079, Spalding County – Ballot Photograph

Spalding County Elections Director, Kimberly Slaughter, testified by video that the Respondent, upon being informed her posted ballot photograph violated the law, immediately removed it and expressed remorse.

Motion: Member King moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to Respondent Vicki N. Alley

Second: Vice Chair, Dr. Johnston

Vote: Passed (4-0)

SEB2025-076, Brooks County – Ballot Photograph

Respondent James Lawrence, a candidate for mayor of Quitman, appeared in person and stated he was unaware a photograph of his marked ballot posted to Facebook was a violation and that the post had since been removed.

Motion: Member King moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to Respondents James Lawrence and LaDonna McMillan Lawrence

Second: Vice Chair, Dr. Johnston

Vote: Passed (4-0)

SEB2025-078, DeKalb County — Voter Registration Address

Respondent Eduardo Jones appeared and explained he was unaware of the requirement to update his voter registration within thirty days of a change of address; he has since corrected his registration and driver's license address.

Motion: Member King moved to issue a Letter of Instruction to Respondent Eduardo Armando Jones

Second: Member Ghazal

Vote: Passed (4-0)

SEB2025-077 — Felon Voter, Gwinnett and Towns Counties

Respondent Clifton Spiegel testified that he disclosed his felon status when attempting to vote in both Gwinnett County, where he was permitted to vote after signing a document he does not recall, and later in Towns County, where he was correctly turned away after declining to sign a non-felon affidavit.

Motion: Member Ghazal moved to continue the case for further investigation into why Gwinnett County's systems did not flag Respondent as a felon; Vice Chair Johnston separately requested that Gwinnett County be added as a respondent, which the Chairman incorporated into the motion before the vote

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed (4-0)

Record Note: The case caption reads "SEB2025-077, Gwinnett County" in the agenda, but the Executive Director and Chairman identified it on the record as a Towns County matter; the discrepancy is noted rather than resolved. The proposal to add Gwinnett County as a respondent was made by Vice Chair Johnston, not Member Ghazal; the Chairman treated it as part of the single motion put to a vote.

SEB2024-028 — Cherokee County, Union Hill Community Center

The Board revisited this previously referred matter involving a Respondent who wore campaign apparel inside a polling location and declined to cover it when asked, prompting a call to police. The Attorney General's Office had returned the matter recommending consistency with other cases in which no fine was levied and requesting the Board refer it back for disposition.

Motion: Member Ghazal moved to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office for disposition

Second: Member King

Vote: Passed (4-0)

The Board moved to recess for a brief break at 3:26 p.m. and the meeting was called back to order at 3:42 p.m.

Following the case docket, complainant Valerie Rachel addressed the Board regarding SEB2025-044 (Clayton County), which had been dismissed earlier in the batch motion. Ms. Rachel raised additional concerns not covered by the original investigation, including a potential conflict of interest involving the City of Riverdale's election supervisor holding multiple government positions. The Chairman advised that any new allegations would need to be filed as a separate complaint for investigation.

VI. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

No report was presented by the Executive Director at this session; agency-update matters were not on the Day 1 agenda.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

No items were before the Board under Old Business at this session.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation — Elly Voter-Roll Research Tool

Dr. Rick Richards presented Elly, a privately funded, fifty-state voter-roll research platform he described as a supplement to the multistate ERIC data-sharing program, drawing on more than twenty public and licensed data sources to flag registration and residency discrepancies for county review. Dr. Richards stated the tool is offered to counties and the public at no charge and that he personally funds its data-acquisition costs.

Member Ghazal questioned whether purchasing data and offering the resulting product to counties without charge could implicate O.C.G.A. § 21-2-18's prohibition on counties accepting things of value. Dr. Richards maintained the tool's fair market value is zero because it is offered to all users without charge, comparable to a public search engine. Vice Chair Johnston and Member King each expressed support for making the tool available to registrars. Chairman Fervier expressed reluctance to endorse a single vendor's product following a single presentation without hearing opposing views or having Board members independently evaluate the platform.

Motion to Link Elly on the State Election Board Website

Motion: Vice Chair Johnston moved to include a link to Elly on the State Election Board website for optional use by registrars

Second: Member King

Vote: Failed (2-3)

Opposed: Member Ghazal, Member Grubbs, and Chairman Fervier

The Board moved to recess for a brief break at 10:39 a.m. and the meeting was called back to order at 10:58 a.m.

B. Rule Petition — Stefan Bartelski (Voter Registration Challenge Fees)

The Board received public comment on this petition (see Public Comments, above) before Vice Chair Johnston noted the Board had sought an Attorney General opinion confirming the Board's authority to regulate challenge fees, subject to recommended wording clarification.

Motion: Vice Chair Johnston moved to take the rule under advisement, follow the Attorney General's guidance on wording, and bring it back at the next meeting for a final vote

Second: Member King

Vote: Passed (3-1)

Opposed: Member Ghazal

The Board moved to recess for lunch at 12:38 p.m. and the meeting was called back to order at 1:35 p.m.

C. Rule Petition — Numbered List of Voters

Vice Chair Johnston presented the proposed amendments to Rules 183-1-12-.02 (definitions) and 183-1-12-.11(2)(A) (conducting elections), citing widespread electronic poll-pad failures during the May 19, 2026 primary as the basis for requiring a handwritten paper backup. Member Ghazal and county election officials in attendance raised implementation questions regarding how many lists would need to be maintained per polling location and by party, which Vice Chair Johnston indicated should be left to county election directors' discretion. Member Ghazal indicated support for the rule as a backup safeguard, provided implementation did not create bottlenecks at polling locations.

Motion: Member King moved to adopt both rule amendments regarding the numbered list of voters

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed (4-0)

D. Rule Petition — Definition of a Vote and CD13 Temporary Rule (Not Resolved)

Member Grubbs presented a rule-making package spanning four exhibits, including a permanent rule defining a "vote" as tabulated directly from the original paper ballot rather than a scanned image, and a temporary rule applicable specifically to the July 28, 2026 Congressional District 13 special election intended to require hand-marked paper ballots as a backup voting method. Extended debate followed regarding whether the definitional change would functionally require counties to abandon ballot-marking-device tabulation, whether the proposal was severable into individual votable items, and how the package would interact with a General Assembly special session convening June 17, 2026 to address the same statutory deadline.

Vice Chair Johnston stated her view that optical-character-reading tabulation of QR codes is not federally certified and that continued reliance on it may raise compliance concerns under the Help America Vote Act, but stated that any transition to hand-marked paper ballots was a matter for the General Assembly rather than Board rulemaking. Member Grubbs offered to allow the Board additional time to

review the proposal and consult outside expertise. No motion was made and no vote was taken; the Chairman directed that the matter, along with a related proposed rule addressing emergency ballot storage (“the bunker issue”) and a draft guidance document for counties, be carried to Day 2 of the meeting.

Vice Chair Johnston separately raised, for discussion only and without a vote, the Board's practice of reviewing tabulator tapes during canvass and a proposal to request that counties preserve election records pending Board investigations; the Chairman deferred both items to Day 2 given time constraints.

E. Engage Counsel for Touhy Letter to the Department of Justice

Vice Chair Johnston reported that Fulton County election records and ballots had been seized by the FBI during a federal investigation, and that the Board's efforts to obtain a copy through Fulton County's court clerk had stalled over cost. The Attorney General's Office authorized the Board to engage outside counsel to seek the same records directly from the Department of Justice via a Touhy letter.

Motion: Vice Chair Johnston moved to authorize the Executive Director to engage outside legal counsel to prepare and send a Touhy letter to the Department of Justice

Second: Member King

Vote: Passed (3-0)

Abstained: Member Ghazal

F. Appointment of Vice Chair

Vice Chair Johnston requested to step down as Vice Chair and nominated Member Janelle King to succeed her.

Motion: Vice Chair Johnston moved to appoint Member Janelle King as Vice Chair

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed (4-0)

G. Next Meeting Dates

The Board discussed whether previously scheduled June 17 and July 15, 2026 meeting dates remained necessary given the absence of cases ready for the June date and the overlap of the July date with the start of the General Assembly's special session. In discussion, Member King recommended August 12 and 13, 2026, and the Chairman noted that August 19 was already on the calendar; Member King agreed August 19 and 20 would also work. No motion was made and no vote was taken on an August date.

Motion to Set July 15, 2026 as Next Meeting Date (Withdrawn)

Member King moved that the Board's next meeting be set for July 15, 2026. After making the motion, Member King identified a scheduling conflict and withdrew the motion before a second was recorded.

Motion to Dispense with June 17 and July 15 Meeting Dates

Motion: Member Ghazal moved to dispense with the previously scheduled June 17 and July 15, 2026 meeting dates, while reserving the option to call a special meeting depending on legislative action

Second: Member King

Vote: Passed (4-0)

RECESS

With the day's agenda substantially complete and remaining items — including Member Grubbs' outstanding rule proposals, county records-preservation policy, and review of Secretary of State guidance concerning the Congressional District 13 special election — carried to the following day, the Board recessed rather than adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Motion: Member King moved to recess the meeting until 9:00 a.m. the following morning

Second: Not individually recorded

Vote: Passed by voice vote

CERTIFICATION

I certify that these Minutes were prepared from the official verbatim stenographic record produced during the proceedings conducted on June 3, 2026. This record reflects only Day 1 of the Board's two-day June 3–4, 2026 Regular Meeting; the Board recessed at 4:40 p.m. to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on June 4, 2026, and the proceedings of that second day are not reflected herein. This publication accurately reflects the actions taken by the Georgia State Election Board on June 3, 2026 and summarizes the proceedings in accordance with the official transcript maintained by On the Record, LLC.

Jamie White

Georgia Certified Court Reporter, Cert. No. 4628-9611-1917-4656 — On the Record, LLC