



GEORGIA STATE ELECTION BOARD
State of Georgia

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Proceedings and Action Record

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

JULY 8, 2026

Zoom Webinar
State of Georgia





Meeting at a Glance

The following table summarizes key statistics from the July 8, 2026 Special Called Meeting of the Georgia State Election Board, drawn from the certified stenographic transcript.

Item	Summary
Meeting Date	July 8, 2026
Meeting Type	Special Called Meeting (Zoom Webinar)
Duration	9:01 a.m. – approximately 11:00 a.m.
Members Present	Chairman John Fervier (Presiding); Vice Chair Janelle King; Members Salleigh Grubbs, Sara Tindall Ghazal, Carolyn Roddy
Motions Considered	10
Motions Adopted	8
Motions Failed / Denied	1 (2-2 tie, broken by the Chairman)
Motions Withdrawn	1
Rules Given Final Adoption	2 (Definition of a Vote, Rule 183-1-15-.02(2); Tabulating Results, Rule 183-1-12-.12)
Rulemaking Procedures Initiated	1 (Ballot Secrecy, Rule 183-1-12-.11 / 183-1-11-.01)
Rulemaking Denied	1 (proposed Subparagraph H addition to Rule 183-1-15-.02)
Rule Proposals Withdrawn	Remaining rule package presented by Member Grubbs (including Rule 183-1-12-.01, conduct of elections)
Violation Cases Heard	0
AG Referrals	0
Board Leadership Changes	Carolyn Roddy sworn in and seated as a new Board member, succeeding Dr. Janice Johnston
Next Meeting	August 19, 2026 (Regular Meeting)



Official Meeting Minutes Prepared by On the Record, LLC

MINUTES

STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING

Special Called Meeting — July 8, 2026

Zoom Webinar — State of Georgia

9:01 a.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/kxCkiQw8Qlc>

Presiding Officer: Chairman John Fervier

Members Present: Vice Chair Janelle King, Salleigh Grubbs, Sara Tindall Ghazal,
Carolyn Roddy

Executive Director: James Mills • Deputy Executive Director: Hope Coan

CALL TO ORDER INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chairman John Fervier called the Special Called Meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present: Vice Chair Janelle King, Member Salleigh Grubbs, Member Sara Tindall Ghazal, and newest Member Carolyn Roddy, along with Executive Director James Mills.

The invocation was given by Executive Director Mills. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Grubbs.

Chairman Fervier introduced Member Carolyn Roddy, recently sworn in by the Governor, for her first Board meeting. Member Roddy addressed the Board and the public, stating she succeeds Dr. Janice Johnston and thanking her for more than four years of service to the Board. Chairman Fervier noted the meeting had a hard stop at 11:00 a.m. and that the primary purpose of the meeting was to vote on final adoption of two rulemaking petitions previously submitted by Member Grubbs.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

State Election Board Meeting: April 15, 2026

Motion: Member Ghazal moved to approve the April 15, 2026 minutes

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed, 4-0

State Election Board Special Called Meeting: April 22, 2026

Motion: Member Ghazal moved to approve the April 22, 2026 minutes

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed, 3-0

ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT

No Attorney General Report was presented at this meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No live public comment session was held at this meeting. Executive Director Mills noted that written public comments on the pending rule petitions had been submitted and were available for Board review in the digital meeting notebook. Chairman Fervier further noted that a live public comment session on these same rule petitions had already been held at the June 3-4, 2026 meeting.

V. VIOLATION CASES

No violation cases were heard at this meeting.

VI. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Mills reported on recently passed legislation creating a nine-member Election Equipment Specification Standards Committee (three members

each appointed by the Governor, the Senate, and the House of Representatives) tasked with selecting the state's next election equipment system. Mills noted the legislation permits the committee to seek input from, among others, the Executive Director of the State Election Board, and that the Board would be responsible for per diem costs for any non-legislative committee members.

Mills also discussed the impact of a \$300,000 reduction to the agency's budget (approximately \$1.389 million) directed by the Governor's office, noting the cut affected numerous state agencies and was reported to relate to unanticipated costs from recently passed tax legislation. The Board directed that a detailed budget and expenditures-to-date report be provided prior to each regular meeting going forward (see New Business, below). A discussion of agency staffing was deferred to executive session at the August 19, 2026 meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Final Adoption — Definition of a Vote (Rule 183-1-15-.02(2))

Member Grubbs reviewed the rule, previously advanced to rulemaking procedures at the June 3-4, 2026 meeting, providing that a vote cast on an optical scan ballot shall be detected and tabulated directly from the paper ballot and not an electronic copy or image of the ballot exported from the certified voting system. The Board discussed how ballots are currently tabulated at the precinct level. Member Roddy stated her support for the rule during discussion.

Motion: Member King moved to pass the rule, definition of a vote, as presented

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed, 3-1 (Member Ghazal opposed)

B. Final Adoption — Tabulating Results (Rule 183-1-12-.12)

Member Grubbs presented the rule, previously advanced to rulemaking procedures at the June 3-4, 2026 meeting, establishing requirements for centralized reporting and public observation of election night results and review activities.

Motion: Member Roddy moved to pass the tabulating-results rule as presented

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed, 3-2

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rulemaking Priorities and Pending Rules

At Member Roddy's request, and without objection, the Board moved this agenda item forward to follow immediately after the final rule adoptions above, given the meeting's time constraints. Member Grubbs then presented her remaining rule proposals.

B. Rulemaking Initiation — Ballot Secrecy (Rule 183-1-11-.01)

Member Grubbs presented a proposed amendment to Rule 183-1-11-.01, ballot secrecy, adding paragraphs addressing disclosure risks associated with the “DVS order” and related ballot-marking-device vulnerabilities, citing Georgia constitutional ballot-secrecy requirements and the Help America Vote Act.

Motion: Member King moved to initiate rulemaking on the ballot secrecy portion

Second: Member Grubbs

Vote: Passed, 3-1 (Member Ghazal opposed)

C. Proposed Addition to Definition of a Vote (Subparagraph H) — Rulemaking Denied

Member Grubbs presented a further proposed addition (subparagraph H) to Rule 183-1-15-.02, providing that for optical-scan ballots marked by an electronic ballot marker, the official vote for barcode-based selections shall be the interpreted, printed text rather than the barcode itself.

Motion: Member Ghazal moved to decline to initiate rulemaking on this proposal

Second: Member King

Vote: Tied, 2-2 (Members Ghazal and King in favor of declining; Members Grubbs and Roddy opposed); the Chairman broke the tie by voting to decline

Result: Initiation of rulemaking on this proposal was denied

D. Remaining Rule Proposals — Withdrawn

With time constraints noted, Member Grubbs moved to table further discussion of her remaining proposed rules, including an amendment to Rule 183-1-12-.01 (conduct of elections, addressing ballot-marking-device conditions and emergency paper ballot and ballot-on-demand printing procedures). After Board discussion of prioritizing other agenda items, Member Grubbs withdrew Rule 183-1-12-.01 and the balance of her remaining rule proposals.

Motion: Member Grubbs moved to withdraw Rule 183-1-12-.01

Second: Member King

Result: Withdrawn without a vote, consistent with Board precedent of allowing a presenter to withdraw a proposed rule; Member Grubbs withdrew her remaining proposed rules on the same basis

E. Law School Externship Program

Member Roddy proposed that the Executive Director be authorized to negotiate agreements with interested law schools to provide student externships to the Board for class credit at no cost, with authority to also explore a future paid internship program if funds become available, and to report back at the August 19, 2026 meeting.

Motion: Member Roddy moved that the Board authorize and direct the Executive Director to pursue this arrangement and report back at the August meeting

Second: Member Grubbs and Member King

Vote: Passed, 5-0

F. Budget and Expenditure Reporting

The Board discussed providing more regular visibility into agency finances given the recent budget reduction.

Motion: The Chairman proposed, and the Board agreed, that the Executive Director provide the Board a line-item budget and expenditures-to-date report prior to each regularly scheduled Board meeting (not required for special called meetings)

Second: Member King

Vote: Passed by voice vote, no opposition

G. Risk-Limiting Audit and Recount Rulemaking

Member Grubbs reported that recently passed legislation (referred to on the record as SB3X/SB3EX) will require the Board to adopt rules governing risk-limiting audit (RLA) and recount procedures. Member Grubbs volunteered to lead development of proposed rules with the assistance of an advisory group of outside experts, and raised the possibility of an interim Zoom meeting before the August 19, 2026 regular meeting. Member Ghazal volunteered to participate in the advisory group. No motion was made.

H. Remaining Agenda Items

With the 11:00 a.m. time constraint approaching, the Chairman proposed moving all remaining agenda items, including a staffing discussion to be addressed in executive session, to the August 19, 2026 meeting.

Motion: Member Roddy so moved

Result: No objection was raised; remaining items carried to the August 19, 2026 meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Member Roddy moved to adjourn

Second: Member Grubbs and Member Ghazal

Vote: Passed by voice vote, no opposition (Members King, Grubbs, and Ghazal voting aye)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that these Minutes were prepared from the official verbatim stenographic record produced during the Special Called Meeting of the Georgia State Election Board conducted on July 8, 2026. This publication accurately reflects the actions taken by the Board and summarizes the proceedings in accordance with the official transcript maintained by On the Record, LLC.

Jessika Highers

Certified Court Reporter — On the Record, LLC