

**Union County Board of Elections
Board Meeting
June 12, 2023**

The June meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to Order at 10:00 am by Chair Libby Stephens. Linda Hill led the invocation.

A Quorum was established. Board members in attendance: Libby Stephens, Riccardo Rivas, Jim Fitzgerald and Linda Hill. From the voting public: Marsha Lodes, Rhonda Bissinette, David Brookins, and Tim Jones, potential candidate for Union County Sheriff, were in attendance.

The Agenda was distributed and approved as presented. Minutes for the May meeting were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Voting Modules: Delivery is now 3 to 4 months out. This time is expected to be extended the closer we get to the Presidential and Primary elections. Financials have been approved for the purchase. Proposal to be presented by Peter Steward with Runbeck.

- Batteries: The large batteries will not be replaced at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- New Board Member: Pat Christ has been appointed by the Republican Party to replace George Burch.

- 2024 Short Calendar: Jim shared the short calendar for 2024 elections produced by the SOS office.

- Workday: Will complete destruction of 2022 Runoff ballots and get remaining 2022 materials to the Courthouse.

- New Laws: Changes to reporting time – up to 11:59 PM on election night to get totals reported. Audits will be performed prior to State Certifications of Election results. More information in materials attached to these minutes.

- Training Dates: Jim and Barbara are going to Rabun County to hear Judge William Duffy, Chair, State Board of Elections. There have been many complaints about Garvis. Counties have been advised of the need to budget access costs for the on-line monitoring features in the system. Expecting a lot of discussion during this session.

COMMENTS:

- Reminder: Don't forget about the annual conference being held in December (instead of January)
- Issue raised by public attendees: Clean-up of voter rolls – by comparing the number of registered voters (~23k) to most recent census (~26K), concerns were expressed. Libby reminded everyone that the census was taken during Covid. Real concerns about the quality of the census.
- Jim reported testing/software update schedule: System test by SOS technical team in 2023 where they will be verifying HASH values. DHS will conduct a physical site inspection – also in 2023. The system upgrade to v5.17 will not be done until 2025.

The next board meeting is Monday, July 10, 2023 at 10:00 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Hill
Secretary

Board of Elections Agenda

June 12, 2023

Invocation:

Minutes

Old business:

Voting modules

NEW BUSINESS

New board member

2024 short calendar

Workday

New laws

Training dates

Comments:

Adjourn

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ELECTIONS DIVISION



2024 SCHEDULED ELECTIONS & SUMMARY OF EVENTS

ELECTION	ELECTION DATE	ABM APPLICATION PERIOD	ABM MAILOUT START DATE	ADVANCE VOTING PERIOD	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Presidential Preference Primary (PPP)	March 12, 2024	FPCA: 09/14/23 to 03/01/24 GA APP: 12/25/23 to 03/01/24	UOCAVA: 01/23/24 CIVILIAN: 02/12/24	02/19/24 to 3/8/24	02/12/2024
General Primary / Nonpartisan Election	May 21, 2024	FPCA: 11/23/23 to 05/10/24 GA APP: 03/04/23 to 05/10/24	UOCAVA: 04/02/24 CIVILIAN: 04/22/24	04/29/24 to 5/17/24	04/22/2024
General Primary / Nonpartisan Runoff General Runoff for Federal Offices	June 18, 2024	FPCA: 12/21/23 to 06/07/24 GA APP: 04/01/24 to 06/07/24	UOCAVA: 04/02/24 CIVILIAN: ASAP	ASAP, but no later than 06/10 to 06/14	04/22/2024
General Election	November 5, 2024	FPCA: 05/09/23 to 10/25/24 GA APP: 08/19/24 to 10/25/24	UOCAVA: 09/17/24 CIVILIAN: 10/07/24	10/14/24 thru 11/1/24	10/07/2024
General Runoff General Runoff for Federal Offices	December 3, 2024	FPCA: 06/06/24 to 11/22/24 GA APP: 09/16/24 to 11/22/24	UOCAVA: 09/17/24 CIVILIAN: ASAP	ASAP, but no later than 11/25/24 to 11/27/24	10/07/2024

Special Note: The General Runoff for Federal Offices is not considered a separate event, it is listed on a separate line due to the different registration deadlines.

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-14. When the last day for the exercise of any privilege or discharge of any duty prescribed or required by this chapter shall fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the next succeeding business day shall be the last day for the exercise of such privilege or the discharge of such duty.

mlm
March =

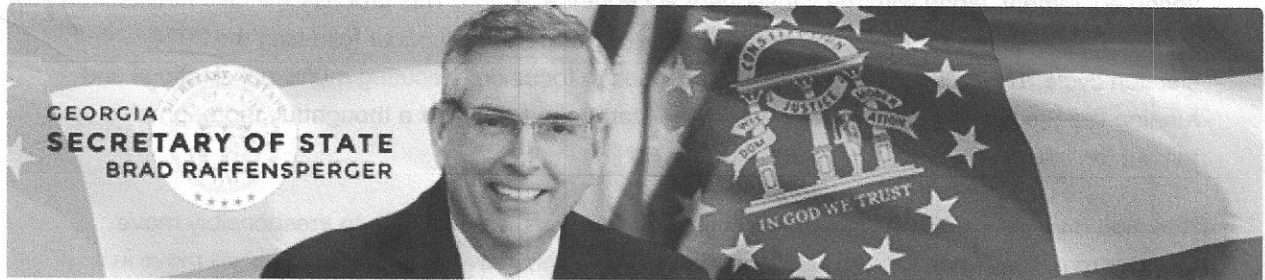
Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger Continues Focus on Security in Preparation for 2024 Elections

1 message

Georgia Secretary of State <sospressoffice@sos.ga.gov>
To: james.sterling.fitzgerald@gmail.com

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 11:07 AM

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Secretary of State Press Office
214 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334
Contact: 470-312-2803

May 19, 2023

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger Continues Focus on Security in Preparation for 2024 Elections

Georgia's Secure, Verifiable Paper Ballot System prepped to build on successes of 2020 and 2022 Elections

Atlanta – Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger’s Elections Division announced on a call with county election officials the plan and timeline of security preparations for the upcoming Presidential Election Year.

Blake Evans, Georgia’s Elections Director stated on the call, “I don’t think there is a more tested voting system in the country than the one we have in Georgia. We passed every test after a close presidential race in 2020, including a hand-audit and a full recount. And it passed every test in high-profile elections in 2022 as well.” He said this while informing the counties that the state

would be doing system security "Health Checks" in all 159 counties.

The system health check will examine election management systems, ballot marking devices, and scanners. It will include verifying HASH values to verify that the software has not been changed and remains the Democracy Suite 5.5A. The HASH values should match the original value from when the software and hardware were accepted by the state.

Mr. Evans also announced that Secretary Raffensperger's office is coordinating with the Department of Homeland Security to conduct physical site security assessments of the storage and warehousing of all election equipment in each county.

The office also announced that there will be pilots of the recently Election Assistance Commission-certified version of Democracy Suite, 5.17, in 2023. This software has not been deployed in any election in any jurisdiction as of yet. The pilots will examine its full functionality in a real-world setting. Also, in reviewing the processes it will require an update of the nearly 45,000 pieces of voting equipment, along with the subsequent acceptance testing. This process will take tens of thousands of manhours. Therefore, the statewide move to 5.17 will occur following the 2024 election cycle. This will allow the state and counties to focus on executing municipal elections and running the Presidential cycle. It also allows the state to put together a thoughtful, thorough plan to roll out the latest software.

2025

"Election deniers and those with similar claims in the courts may want us to irresponsibly move faster to make this change", said Raffensperger. "However, I have told our team we will move in a responsible, deliberate, and mature way that will put the needs of voters and our election workers first. I'm an engineer. To build a solid structure, you need a strong well laid foundation. That is what this plan does."

###

Georgia is recognized as a national leader in elections. It was the first state in the country to implement the trifecta of automatic voter registration, at least 17 days of early voting (which has been called the "gold standard"), and no-excuse absentee voting. Georgia continues to set records for voter turnout and election participation, seeing the largest increase in average turnout of any other state in the 2018 midterm election and record turnout in 2020, and 2022. 2022 achieved the largest single day of in-person early voting turnout in Georgia midterm history utilizing Georgia's secure, paper ballot voting system. Most recently, Georgia ranked #1 for Election Integrity by the Heritage Foundation, a top ranking for Voter Accessibility by the Center for Election Innovation & Research, and tied for number one in Election Administration by the Bipartisan Policy Center.



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Libby Stephens

From: Elections Division - Do Not Reply [ElectionsDivision-DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 1:58 PM
To: Black, Josh; Davenport, Angela; Deering, Amanda; Golden, Tyrell
Cc: Evans, Blake; Harris, Jesse; Combs, Leigh
Subject: SB 129 - Changes to Election Law
Attachments: SB 129 (AS PASSED).pdf

Governor Kemp has signed SB 129, which contains election law changes that will go into effect on July 1, 2023. The changes will be incorporated into future trainings we will be conducting before the 2024 election cycle.

Please read the bill so you are familiar with the changes (attached).

In the meantime, here are a few changes that I want to draw your attention to:

- Section 2 of the bill contains changes to OCGA 21-2-381. One of the changes is to the wording on the absentee ballot application where third party distributors must disclose their name and address. Our office will be updating the absentee ballot applications on our website to reflect this change. Please make sure that you update any applications on your websites once we issue the new form. **Also, please note that the previous version of the absentee ballot application is still valid and its submission to your office should not be sole basis for rejecting the application.**
- Section 4 of the bill changes the election night data reporting requirement in OCGA 21-2-421 from 10:00PM on election night to 11:59PM.
- Section 5 of the bill changes OCGA 21-2-498 to require audits before state certification following any election or primary with federal contests or statewide contests.

After you have reviewed the bill, please consult with your county attorney on any questions you have regarding it. We will also address your questions during the training the sessions we will be conducting during our 2023 Election Summer Series Trainings.

Thank you!

Blake Evans
Elections Director
Georgia Secretary of State
Elections Division
Main Office: 404-656-2871
sos.ga.gov



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Senate Bill 129

By: Senators Williams of the 25th, Burns of the 23rd, Harbin of the 16th, Anderson of the 24th, Beach of the 21st and others

AS PASSED

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 primaries and elections generally, so as to revise provisions related to performance review
3 boards; to revise the language that must be used on absentee ballot applications distributed
4 by persons or entities; to provide for time off for employees to advance vote; to revise
5 provisions related to time off for employees to vote on election day; to revise the latest
6 reporting time for required election night reporting; to mandate audits following all
7 state-wide primaries, elections, or runoffs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and
12 elections generally, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-106, relating
13 to performance review of local election official, role of performance review board, and
14 findings as grounds for removal, as follows:

15 "(a) The following officials may request that a performance review of a local election
16 official be conducted:

S. B. 129

- 17 (1) The governing authority of the same jurisdiction as the local election official;
- 18 (2) For counties represented by more than three members of the Georgia House of
19 Representatives and Georgia Senate, at least two members of the Georgia House of
20 Representatives and two members of the Georgia Senate who represent the county; and
- 21 (3) For counties represented by fewer than four members of the Georgia House of
22 Representatives and Georgia Senate, at least one member of the Georgia House of
23 Representatives and one member of the Georgia Senate who represent the county.
- 24 Such request shall be transmitted to the State Election Board which shall appoint an
25 independent performance review board within 30 days after receiving such resolution. The
26 State Election Board shall appoint three competent persons to serve as members of the
27 performance review board, one of whom shall be an employee of the elections division of
28 the Secretary of State and two of whom shall be local election officials or members of a
29 county board of elections or county board of elections and registration, provided that no
30 such appointee shall be a local election official or member of a county board of elections
31 or county board of elections and registration for the county or municipality, as applicable,
32 under review."

33

SECTION 2.

34 Said chapter is further amended by revising subparagraph (a)(1)(C) of Code
35 Section 21-2-381, relating to making of application for absentee ballot, determination of
36 eligibility by ballot clerk, furnishing of applications to colleges and universities, and persons
37 entitled to make application, as follows:

38 "(C)(i) Any person applying for an absentee-by-mail ballot shall make application in
39 writing on the form made available by the Secretary of State. In order to confirm the
40 identity of the voter, such form shall require the elector to provide his or her name,
41 date of birth, address as registered, address where the elector wishes the ballot to be
42 mailed, and the number of his or her Georgia driver's license or identification card

43 issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 40. If such elector does not have a
44 Georgia driver's license or identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5
45 of Title 40, the elector shall affirm this fact in the manner prescribed in the application
46 and the elector shall provide a copy of a form of identification listed in subsection (c)
47 of Code Section 21-2-417. The form made available by the Secretary of State shall
48 include a space to affix a photocopy or electronic image of such identification. The
49 Secretary of State shall develop a method to allow secure electronic transmission of
50 such form. The application shall also include the identity of the primary, election, or
51 runoff in which the elector wishes to vote; the name and relationship of the person
52 requesting the ballot if other than the elector; and an oath for the elector or relative to
53 write his or her usual signature with a pen and ink affirming that the elector is a
54 qualified Georgia elector and the facts presented on the application are true.
55 Submitting false information on an application for an absentee ballot shall be a
56 violation of Code Sections 21-2-560 and 21-2-571.

57 (ii) A blank application for an absentee ballot shall be made available online by the
58 Secretary of State and each election superintendent and registrar, but neither the
59 Secretary of State, election superintendent, board of registrars, other governmental
60 entity, nor employee or agent thereof shall send absentee ballot applications directly
61 to any elector except upon request of such elector or a relative authorized to request
62 an absentee ballot for such elector. No person or entity other than a relative
63 authorized to request an absentee ballot for such elector or a person signing as
64 assisting an illiterate or physically disabled elector shall send any elector an absentee
65 ballot application that is prefilled with the elector's required information set forth in
66 this subparagraph. No person or entity other than the elector, a relative authorized to
67 request an absentee ballot for such elector, a person signing as assisting an illiterate
68 or physically disabled elector with his or her application, a common carrier charged
69 with returning the ballot application, an absentee ballot clerk, a registrar, or a law

70 enforcement officer in the course of an investigation shall handle or return an elector's
 71 completed absentee ballot application. Handling a completed absentee ballot
 72 application by any person or entity other than as allowed in this subsection shall be
 73 a misdemeanor. Any application for an absentee ballot sent to any elector by any
 74 person or entity shall utilize the form of the application made available by the
 75 Secretary of State and shall clearly and prominently disclose on the face of the form:

76 ~~'This is NOT an official government publication and was NOT provided to you~~
 77 ~~by any governmental entity and this is NOT a ballot. It is being distributed by~~
 78 ~~[insert name and address of person, organization, or other entity distributing such~~
 79 ~~document or material]~~

80 This application is being distributed by [insert name and address of person,
 81 organization, or other entity distributing such document or material], not by any
 82 government agency or any state or local election office. THIS IS NOT A
 83 BALLOT.'

84 (iii) The disclaimer required by division (ii) of this subparagraph shall be:

85 (I) Of sufficient font size to be clearly readable by the recipient of the
 86 communication;

87 (II) ~~Be contained~~ Contained in a printed box set apart from the other contents of the
 88 communication; and

89 (III) ~~Be printed~~ Printed with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the
 90 background and the printed disclaimer."

91 SECTION 3.

92 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-404, relating to affording
 93 employees time off to vote, as follows:

94 "21-2-404.

95 Each employee in this state shall, upon reasonable notice to his or her employer, be
96 permitted by his or her employer to take any necessary time off from his or her
97 employment to vote in any municipal, county, state, or federal political party primary or
98 election for which such employee is qualified and registered to vote either on one of the
99 days that are designated for advance in-person voting or on the day on which such primary
100 or election is held; provided, however, that such necessary time off shall not exceed two
101 hours; ~~and provided, further, that, if the hours of work of such employee commence at least~~
102 ~~two hours after the opening of the polls or end at least two hours prior to the closing of the~~
103 ~~polls, then the time off for voting as provided for in this Code section shall not be available.~~
104 The employer may specify the hours during which the employee may absent himself or
105 herself as provided in this Code section."

106

SECTION 4.

107 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-421, relating to posting of
108 required information after closing of polls and reporting to Secretary of State, as follows:

109 "21-2-421.

110 (a) As soon as possible but not later than ~~10:00~~ 11:59 P.M. following the close of the polls
111 on the day of a primary, election, or runoff, the election superintendent shall report to the
112 Secretary of State and post in a prominent public place the following information:

113 (1) The number of ballots cast at the polls on the day of the primary, election, or runoff,
114 including provisional ballots cast;

115 (2) The number of ballots cast at advance voting locations during the advance voting
116 period for the primary, election, or runoff; and

117 (3) The total number of absentee ballots returned to the board of registrars by the
118 deadline to receive such absentee ballots on the day of the primary, election, or runoff.

119 (b) Upon the completion of the report provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section,
 120 the election superintendent shall compare the total number of ballots received as reported
 121 in subsection (a) of this Code section and the counting of the ballots in the primary,
 122 election, or runoff minus any rejected and uncured absentee ballots, uncounted provisional
 123 ballots, and any other uncounted ballots, with the total number of ballots cast in the
 124 primary, election, or runoff. The results of such comparison and all explanatory materials
 125 shall be reported to the Secretary of State. The reason for any discrepancy shall be fully
 126 investigated and reported to the Secretary of State."

127

SECTION 5.

128 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-498, relating to
 129 precertification tabulation audits, as follows:

130 "21-2-498.

131 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

132 (1) 'Incorrect outcome' ~~is when~~ means the winner of a contest or the answer to a
 133 proposed constitutional amendment or question would be different from the results found
 134 in a manual recount of paper official ballots.

135 (2) 'Risk limit' means the largest statistical probability that an incorrect outcome is not
 136 detected or corrected in a risk-limiting audit.

137 (3) 'Risk-limiting audit' means an audit protocol that makes use of statistical methods and
 138 is designed to limit to acceptable levels the risk of certifying a preliminary election
 139 outcome that constitutes an incorrect outcome.

140 ~~(b) As soon as possible, but no later than the November, 2020, general election, the local~~
 141 Local election superintendents shall conduct precertification tabulation or risk-limiting
 142 audits on one contest following any election, special election, election runoff, special
 143 election runoff, primary, special primary, primary runoff, or special primary runoff for any
 144 with federal or state general election state-wide contests in accordance with requirements

145 set forth by rule or regulation of the State Election Board. Audits performed under this
146 Code section shall be conducted by manual inspection of random samples of the paper
147 official ballots.

148 (c) In conducting each audit, the local election superintendents shall:

- 149 (1) Complete the audit prior to final certification of the contest;
- 150 (2) Ensure that all types of ballots are included in the audit, whether cast in person, by
151 absentee ballot, advance voting, provisional ballot, or otherwise;
- 152 (3) Provide a report of the unofficial final tabulated vote results for the contest to the
153 public prior to conducting the audit;
- 154 (4) Complete the audit in public view; and
- 155 (5) Provide details of the audit to the public within 48 hours of completion.

156 (d) The State Election Board shall be authorized to promulgate rules, regulations, and
157 procedures to implement and administer the provisions of this Code section. The
158 procedures prescribed by the State Election Board shall include security procedures to
159 ensure that collection of validly cast ballots is complete, accurate, and trustworthy
160 throughout the audit.

161 ~~(e) The Secretary of State shall conduct a risk-limiting audit pilot program with a risk limit
162 of not greater than 10 percent in one or more counties by December 31, 2021. The
163 Secretary of State shall review the results of the pilot program and, within 90 days
164 following the election in which such pilot program is used, shall provide the members of
165 the General Assembly with a comprehensive report, including a plan on how to implement
166 risk-limiting audits state wide. If such risk-limiting audit is successful in achieving the
167 specified confidence level within five business days following the election for which it was
168 conducted, then all audits performed pursuant to this Code section shall be similarly
169 conducted, beginning not later than November 1, 2024."~~

170

SECTION 6.

171 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.