

Subject: [Document Released to Requester] Cherokee County, GA public records request #24-7019

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 1:39:37 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Cherokee County Open Records

To: AO Records

EXTERNAL SENDER

-- Attach a non-image file and/or reply ABOVE THIS LINE with a message, and it will be sent to staff on this request. --

Cherokee County, GA Public Records

A document has been released for record request #24-7019 along with the following message:

Anne Dover's response to request released. Awaiting responses from board members.

Anne Dover, Director

- [ORR response 24-7019 Anne Dover.pdf](#)

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<https://cherokeecountyga.nextrequest.com/requests/24-7019>

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Anne Dover

From: Anne Dover
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Grace L. Waddell
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hand Count Rule - Arnold Mill

From:
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 2:34 PM
To: Anne Dover <adover@cherokeecountyga.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hand Count Rule - Arnold Mill

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My two clerks will be one returning clerk, Larry Gardner and a new clerk, Michael Conley. I have spoken to both.

Ethel Galyon, Precinct Mgr
Arnold Mill Precinct
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 3, 2024, at 5:34 PM, Anne Dover <adover@cherokeecountyga.gov> wrote:

Hi,

I just wanted to give everyone an update. We are playing a waiting game. There have been numerous lawsuits filed by groups and county boards of elections against the SEB. Please know the minute we find out what is going to be required, we will let you know. We are going to go ahead and prepare for the task at hand and hopefully will not be required to do so.

We are going to have two **returning clerks** deliver the memory cards and tapes to our office upon close of the polls on Election Day. We will pay these people additional for their driving time/gas (\$25). As I said before, we cannot risk not having the results posted by 11:59 p.m. We will do this regardless of the court decision. Please go ahead and check with your clerks and find two that are willing to help with this task. Respond to this email letting me know their names and polling location.

Anne

Anne Dover, Director

Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration

phone: 770-479-0407, ext. 0223

mobile: 470-505-3081

e-mail: adover@cherokeecountyga.gov

193 Lamar Haley Parkway
Canton, GA 30114

<https://cherokeegavotes.com> [cherokeegavotes.com]



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Anne Dover

From: Anne Dover
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 5:46 AM
To: Glen Johnson; Julie Glade
Subject: Hand Counting Paper Ballots SEB Rule

I have confirmed with Scot Turner that his hearing has been postponed until October 16. Yesterday I emailed the correspondence from Blake Evans regarding this matter. The state is not providing any training. Our training for the extra poll workers is October 10. We need to know if we are going to move forward on this or if we are going to continue to wait in hopes that a judge will rule for us. Thank you and if I need to add to the agenda for Monday please let me know.

Anne

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Anne Dover

From: Anne Dover
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 5:06 PM
To: Glen Johnson; Julie Glade; J Larry Hand;
Subject: State is Not Going to Issue Any Guidance or Training on this New Rule because of Court Hearings

Importance: High

Guidance on Recent SEB Rule Amendments to 183-1-12-.12(a)(5)



Evans, Blake

Our office is continuing to review recent rule amendments voted on by the State Election Board (SEB) at their meetings on September 20th and 23rd, which are not yet effective. One of those amendments would change SEB Rule 183-1-12-.12(a)(5) to require hand counting of paper ballots after polls close on election night.

As you may be aware, there are pending court challenges to the legality of these rules, and hearings have been scheduled in these cases for this week. The Attorney General's office wrote in a memo to the SEB that the proposed rule amendment was "not tethered to any statute—and [is], therefore, likely the precise type of impermissible legislation that agencies cannot do."

Because the SEB rules are tied up in litigation, and because poll worker training in many counties has already started and there is limited time remaining for additional training, the SOS Elections Division does not intend to provide additional training on SEB rules until after any court decisions are made.

Anne

Anne Dover, Director

Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration

phone: 770-479-0407, ext. 0223

mobile: 470-505-3081

e-mail: adover@cherokeecountyga.gov

193 Lamar Haley Parkway
Canton, GA 30114

<https://cherokeegavotes.com>

Anne Dover

From: Anne Dover
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Julie R. Glade
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Additional Hand Counts after the General Election

HB 974 as passed.

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66159>

From: Julie R. Glade
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 1:23 PM
To: Anne Dover
Cc: Anne Dover <adover@cherokeecountyga.gov>; [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Additional Hand Counts after the General Election

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Sounds like Larry is asking that we continue to do what we have done during RLAs, which is to continue counting through the day after receiving our assignment from the SoS, with the caveat that RLA counts total 5% of the votes cast, and looking at various races, not just the top race. Do I have this right?

There is a new law that indicates that others assign the ballots to be counted in an RLA, not the SoS, but I am not sure if that law took effect for this election or in the future. We need to verify this.

On Tue, Oct 1, 2024 at 12:04 PM

To All

I would like for us to continue the hand counts that have been done after the elections since 2020 when paper ballots were first produced. Attached is my proposal for the next election. As I stated in my proposal, quality control processes should be ongoing and should not just stop because of previous good results.

Thanks.

Larry Hand

--

Julie R. Glade

[voice.google.com] [voice.google.com]

Anne Dover

From: Anne Dover
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 3:38 PM
To: Glen Johnson; Julie Glade; Larry Hand;
Subject: Precertification Audit

Dear Board Members:

At the request of board chair elect, Glen Johnson, I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding a precertification audit.

On Wednesday, November 6th at 8:30 a.m. all Cherokee County elections team members will be involved in the canvassing and computation of the November 5th General Election returns, per OCGA 21-1-493. I am posting the code section below for reference. These canvassing and computation duties are **essential** to the certification of the election. This process must take place for us to have the necessary paperwork ready for the certification board meeting on Tuesday, November 12th as Monday, November 11th is a State and County Holiday. During this process we are comparing machine tapes, recap sheets, number of registered voters, investigating any discrepancies, processing any late arriving UOCAVA ballots, investigating provisional ballots and securing over 500 pieces of election equipment still at the polling locations. We could possibly even be planning a runoff election. Because of the new SEB rule requiring us to have this paperwork completed by 3 p.m. for BOER review, our time to complete this process is even shorter. Furthermore, this rule makes no sense because we can accept UOCAVA, and provisional ballot cures up until 5 p.m. on that Friday after the election. So, any paperwork you are reviewing will not be final.

In my opinion, it is not in the best interest of Cherokee County Elections to conduct a pre-certification audit. Should you require this of the elections team, you will be putting the proper certification of this election in jeopardy. John mentioned to me in a previous conversation that we would just have to work harder. Working hard simply isn't the issue. We work extremely hard. Time is the issue. We need time and we need to be as rested as we can to make sure the certification paperwork is correct and in proper order for your review prior to signing those certification documents. Might I remind you that no one even attending our last hand count audit and the time before that there was a handful of people. The people in opposition of the Dominion voting equipment are not going to be satisfied with audits, they have stated this time and time again. They want the equipment gone.

One more caveat to this is the SEB rule requiring the hand count of the ballots in the scanner boxes election night and/or the day after. Should this rule stand, this is another duty that will require us to stray from our canvassing and computation duties. This counting of ballots would also take place in our multipurpose room where we currently conduct audits.

Please let this email stand as my record in opposition of this proposal. I prefer to answer any board questions or concerns via a group email rather than in front of a crowd of people at the board meeting as when I share my opposition publicly it puts me and my team in the crosshairs, and I prefer not to be in this position. It is stressful and quite honestly, I worry about our safety as people are becoming more and more passionate about their cause.

I would also like to point out that BOC Chairman Johnston has stated that he doesn't see the need for precertification audits. He supports additional auditing at the time we conduct the required audit, which we have always done.

Great care is given when conducting an audit. This is not something we just haphazardly throw together. Should the BOER decide to move forward with a precertification hand count, the following will be needed:

1. Notification of the parties and assignment of monitors.
2. A location where the public can view with adequate tables and chairs in case we are counting ballots in our multipurpose room.
3. Transporting/chain of custody of ballots should we be unable to use our multipurpose room.
4. Misc. forms and signage for the tables.
5. Misc. office supplies and laptop.
6. Proper Oaths signed by audit teams and monitors.
7. Software/system for logging audit results.
8. (2) Ballot Custodians - deliver ballot boxes to audit team tables.
9. (2) Ballot Librarians - maintain chain of custody.
10. Auditing Teams – this would need to be determined depending on how many ballots are to be counted.

OCGA 21-1-493

- ***(a) The superintendent shall, after the close of the polls on the day of a primary or election, at his or her office or at some other convenient public place at the county seat or in the municipality, of which due notice shall have been given as provided by Code Section 21-2-492, publicly commence the computation and canvassing of the returns and continue until all absentee ballots received by the close of the polls, including those cast by advance voting; provided, however, that such votes cast by advance voting shall be tabulated and the results reported by no later than 8:00 P.M. on such day or within one hour of the closing of all polls in such county, whichever occurs later, and all ballots cast on the day of the primary or election have been counted and tabulated and the results of such tabulation released to the public and, then, continuing with provisional ballots as provided in Code Sections 21-2-418 and 21-2-419 and those absentee ballots as provided in subparagraph (a)(1)(G) of Code Section 21-2-386 from day to day until completed. For this purpose, the superintendent may organize his or her assistants into sections, each of whom may simultaneously proceed with the computation and canvassing of the returns from various precincts of the county or municipality in the manner provided by this Code section. Upon the completion of such computation and canvassing, the superintendent shall tabulate the figures for the entire county or municipality and sign, announce, and attest the same, as required by this Code section.***
- ***(b) The superintendent, before computing the votes cast in any precinct, shall compare the registration figure with the certificates returned by the poll officers showing the number of persons who voted in each precinct, or the number of ballots cast. If, upon consideration by the superintendent of the returns and certificates before him or her from any precinct, it shall appear that the total vote returned for any candidate or candidates for the same office or nomination or on any question exceeds the number of electors in such precinct or exceeds the total number of***

persons who voted in such precinct or the total number of ballots cast therein, such excess shall be deemed a discrepancy and palpable error and shall be investigated by the superintendent; and no votes shall be recorded from such precinct until an investigation shall be had. Such excess shall authorize the summoning of the poll officers to appear immediately with any primary or election papers in their possession. The superintendent shall then examine all the registration and primary or election documents whatever relating to such precinct in the presence of representatives of each party, body, and interested candidate. Such examination may, if the superintendent deems it necessary, include a recount or recanvass of the votes of that precinct and a report of the facts of the case to the district attorney where such action appears to be warranted.

Sincerely,

Anne

Anne Dover, Director

Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration

phone: 770-479-0407, ext. 0223

mobile: 470-505-3081

e-mail: adover@cherokeecountyga.gov

193 Lamar Haley Parkway
Canton, GA 30114

<https://cherokeegavotes.com>



Anne Dover

From: Anne Dover
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 4:43 PM
To: Glen Johnson
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Certification Meeting

No, I do not.

From: Glen Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Anne Dover <adover@cherokeecountyga.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Certification Meeting

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Anne,
Do you anticipate anything happening prior to 2 pm?
I ask because I have a case scheduled for 9 am that day.
I can try to move it if needed



B. Glen Johnson
590 E. Main Street
Canton, Georgia 30114

On Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 4:39 PM Anne Dover <adover@cherokeecountyga.gov> wrote:

I have reserved Cherokee Hall for November 12 at 2 pm for our General Election Certification Meeting.

Anne

Anne Dover, Director

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cherokee County Elections & Voter Registration

phone: 770-479-0407, ext. 0223

mobile: 470-505-3081

e-mail: adover@cherokeecountyga.gov

193 Lamar Haley Parkway

Canton, GA 30114

<https://cherokeegavotes.com> [cherokeegavotes.com]



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