

Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 16:34:54 Eastern Daylight Time

**Subject:** Open Records Request :: P011864-103024  
**Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 3:40:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Columbia County Board of Commissioners  
**To:** records@americanoversight.org

EXTERNAL SENDER

--- Please respond above this line ---



10/31/2024

RE: Open Records Request on 10/30/2024 for Department - Other - Board of Elections,  
Reference # P011864-103024

Dear Khahilia,

The County received a public records request from you on October 30, 2024. Your request mentioned:

*"Re: Open Records Request (GA-COLUMBIA-24-2362)"*

*Dear Records Custodian:*

*Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Law (O.C.G.A. §§ 50-18-70 et seq.), American Oversight makes the following request for records.*

*Requested Records (GA-COLUMBIA-24-2362)*

*American Oversight requests that your office produce the following within three business days:*

- 1. Records reflecting any formal or informal final guidance, directives, or recommendations (including memoranda and other written records) created by or otherwise provided to your office regarding proper election recount or recanvass procedures.*
- 2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) (a) sent by the Columbia County election officials listed below and (b) containing any of the key terms also listed below.*

*Columbia County Officials:*

*a. Ann Cushman, Chair*

- b. Wanda Duffie*
- c. Larry Wiggins*
- d. Nancy Gay, Elections Director*

*Key Terms:*

- i. “electoral college”*
- ii. “Eternal Vigilance Action”*
- iii. “Georgia Supreme Court”*
- iv. “hand count”*
- v. “hand-count”*
- vi. “reasonable inquiry”*
- vii. “Republican National Committee”*
- viii. Audit*
- ix. Certification*
- x. Certified*
- xi. Certify*
- xii. Cox*
- xiii. Decertification*
- xiv. Decertify*
- xv. Decertifying*
- xvi. RNC*

*In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited part 2 of its request to emails sent by the officials listed. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both a specific individual’s response to an email containing any of the key terms listed above and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.*

*3. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) the election officials listed above in part 2 and (b) the external individuals and entities listed below (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in the listed domains).*

*External Individuals and Entities:*

- i. Bridget Thorne*
- ii. Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones*
- iii. Cleta Mitchell ([cleta@cletamitchell.com](mailto:cleta@cletamitchell.com)) and/or anyone communicating on behalf of the Election Integrity Network ([whoscounting.us](http://whoscounting.us), [electionintegrity.network](http://electionintegrity.network), [virginiaainstitute.org](http://virginiaainstitute.org), [cpi.org](http://cpi.org))*
- iv. David Cross*
- v. David Hancock*
- vi. David Shafer*
- vii. Garland Favorito and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Voter GA ([voterga.org](http://voterga.org), [voterga.net](http://voterga.net))*
- viii. Hans Von Spakovsky and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Heritage Foundation ([heritage.org](http://heritage.org), [heritageaction.com](http://heritageaction.com))*
- ix. Holly Kessler*

- x. Honest Elections Project ([honestelections.org](http://honestelections.org), [jasonsnead.com](http://jasonsnead.com))
- xi. House Speaker John Burns ([john.burns@house.ga.gov](mailto:john.burns@house.ga.gov))
- xii. Josh McKoon
- xiii. Julie Adams ([Julie.adams@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Julie.adams@fultoncountyga.gov), [julie@teapartypatriots.org](mailto:julie@teapartypatriots.org))
- xiv. Kevin Moncla
- xv. State Senator Max Burns ([maxburns.com](http://maxburns.com), [max.burns@senate.ga.gov](mailto:max.burns@senate.ga.gov))
- xvi. Michael Heekin
- xvii. Salleigh Grubbs
- xviii. Suzi Voyles

*Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that part 3 of this request specifically excludes, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications responding to or forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. For example, if a listed official received a mass-distribution email from an address ending in @aflegal.org, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if that listed official forwarded that email to another individual with their own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.*

*For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from September 20, 2024, through the date the request is received.*

*Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.  
(GA-COLUMBIA-24-2362)"*

The County has reviewed its files and has located responsive records to your request. Please log in to the [Open Records Center](#) at the following link to retrieve the documents. *If reviewing the documents on a phone, you might need to change your setting to allow popups.*

Department: [Other - Board of Elections - P011864-103024](#)  
Your cost is \$0.00.

If submitting payment as cash, exact change is needed. Checks can be made out to the Board of Commissioners.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Patrice R. Crawley  
County Clerk  
Board of Commissioners  
706.868.3379

630 Ronald Reagan Drive \* Building B 2nd Floor \* Evans, GA 30809

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [Open Records Center](#).

**From:** Vote <Vote@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Sent time:** 10/02/2024 04:08:16 PM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: Tabulation Centers and Certification Meetings

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-----Original Message-----

From: Lakeland Barnes  
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:06 PM  
To: Vote  
Subject: Tabulation Centers and Certification Meetings

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Columbia County email system. Please exercise caution before clicking links, opening attachments, replying, or providing information to the sender.

Hello,

I hope all is well. I'm reaching out to find information about your certification meetings for the upcoming presidential election and to see where the tabulation centers will be. All help and information will be greatly appreciated.

Warm regards,  
Lakeland Barnes

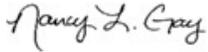
**From:** Gay, Nancy  
**Sent time:** 09/23/2024 08:02:24 AM  
**To:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List  
**Attachments:** image001.png

---

Hey Aaron,  
The link below doesn't work. Can you send it directly to me?

Please

Thank you,



Nancy L. Gay  
Executive Director  
Columbia County Board of Elections  
610 Ronald Reagan Drive  
Building G3, Second Floor  
PO Box 919  
Evans, GA 30809  
706-868-3355 (phone)  
706-868-3358 (fax)  
[www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov)

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**From:** SharePoint-DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov <SharePoint-DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 22, 2024 11:01 AM  
**To:** DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov  
**Subject:** The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List

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A [new discussion](#) has  
been posted in The Buzz by Evans, Blake on 9/22/2024 10:50 AM

Please note that the certified list of Write-In Candidates has been updated to reflect the addition of one more candidate for President of the United States.

List:  [Certified List of Write-In Candidates 092024.pdf](#)

If you would like to opt out of receiving email notifications for this discussion, click [here](#).



October 30, 2024

**VIA ONLINE PORTAL**

Columbia County Georgia  
630 Ronald Reagan Drive  
Evans, GA 30809  
Via Online Portal

**Re: Open Records Request**

Dear Records Custodian:

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Law (O.C.G.A. §§ 50-18-70 et seq.), American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

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1. Records reflecting any formal or informal final guidance, directives, or recommendations (including memoranda and other written records) created by or otherwise provided to your office regarding proper election recount or recanvass procedures.
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- vii. "Republican National Committee"
- viii. Audit
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- ii. Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones
- iii. Cleta Mitchell ([cleta@cletamitchell.com](mailto:cleta@cletamitchell.com)) and/or anyone communicating on behalf of the Election Integrity Network (whoscounting.us, electionintegrity.network, virginia institute.org, cpi.org)
- iv. David Cross
- v. David Hancock
- vi. David Shafer
- vii. Garland Favorito and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Voter GA ([voterga.org](http://voterga.org), [voterga.net](http://voterga.net))
- viii. Hans Von Spakovsky and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Heritage Foundation ([heritage.org](http://heritage.org), [heritageaction.com](http://heritageaction.com))
- ix. Holly Kessler
- x. Honest Elections Project ([honestelections.org](http://honestelections.org), [jasonsnead.com](http://jasonsnead.com))
- xi. House Speaker John Burns ([john.burns@house.ga.gov](mailto:john.burns@house.ga.gov))
- xii. Josh McKoon
- xiii. Julie Adams ([Julie.adams@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Julie.adams@fultoncountyga.gov), [julie@teapartypatriots.org](http://julie@teapartypatriots.org))
- xiv. Kevin Moncla
- xv. State Senator Max Burns ([maxburns.com](http://maxburns.com), [max.burns@senate.ga.gov](mailto:max.burns@senate.ga.gov))
- xvi. Michael Heekin
- xvii. Salleigh Grubbs
- xviii. Suzi Voyles

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**For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from September 20, 2024, through the date the request is received.**

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

### **Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records**

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted

using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Open Records Act.<sup>1</sup>

- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

### **Conclusion**

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(b)(2).

<sup>2</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,300 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Oct. 30, 2024); American

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with you on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact David Kronig at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 897-3915.

Sincerely,

*/s/ David Kronig*  
David Kronig  
on behalf of  
American Oversight

---

Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), <https://x.com/weareoversight>  
(last visited Oct. 30, 2024).

**From:** Gay, Nancy  
**Sent time:** 10/07/2024 05:18:16 PM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]  
**Attachments:** image001.png

---

Hey Ken,

Thank you for the kind words. I am blessed with an amazing and dedicated staff!! For some crazy reason, we enjoy this. 😊

If you want to send the draft that will be fine "if not" that will be fine. Just please don't let me forget!! I am not sure how the certification will play out "with the conflicting times but hey, we will handle it!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Be blessed.



Nancy L. Gay  
Executive Director  
Columbia County Board of Elections  
610 Ronald Reagan Drive  
Building G3, Second Floor  
PO Box 919  
Evans, GA 30809  
706-868-3355 (phone)  
706-868-3358 (fax)  
[www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov)

---

**From:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 5:11 PM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]

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Nancy,

Thanks for letting me know. I will make sure that I get you the resolution for your board to adopt in advance of the 3 pm meeting on Nov. 8. If you need or want to see a draft prior to the election, just let me know and I'm happy to provide it.

And thanks even more for the great work you and your staff in Columbia County and all of the other election workers in Ga. are doing in lead up to Nov. 5 despite all of the craziness out there. I know at times it must seem like a thankless task, but please know that you are very much appreciated!! I hope a wonderful vacation is in your future for when the dust settles after Nov. 5!

Best regards, Ken

**Ken Pollock**  
**Butler Snow LLP**

D: (678) 515-5062 | C: (404) 312-0952 | F: (678) 515-5001  
1170 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 1900, Atlanta, GA 30309  
[Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com](mailto:Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com) | [vCard](#) | [Bio](#)

[X \(Twitter\)](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Subject:** Certification Meeting

Hey Ken,

GA-COLUMBIA-24-2362-A-000008

I just wanted to give you a heads up â€“ the certification meeting for the November 5, 2024, General Election may be on Friday, November 8, 2024. The GA State Election Board has imposed a new rule on Boards to begin their verification of results and certification at 3pm on the Friday after the election. If that rule holds true â€“ then they will meet beginning at 3pm â€“ but wonâ€™t be able to certify until after 5pm as voters still have until 5pm to remedy Provisionals, Absentees, and for us to receive properly postage-stamped UOCAVA ballots.

Crazy timesâ€¦ I hope you and your family are well and survived the storm.

Thank you,



*Nancy L. Gay*  
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**Attachments:** image002.png image003.png

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OK, I'll probably send it to you after the election once we know whether referendum passed. I don't want to count our chickens before they hatch!

**Ken Pollock**  
**Butler Snow LLP**

D: (678) 515-5062 | C: (404) 312-0952 | F: (678) 515-5001  
1170 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 1900, Atlanta, GA 30309  
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**From:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 5:18 PM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]

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**Attachments:** image001.png

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Hey Ken,

The certification meeting is back on for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 10:30am. A judge stopped the newly passed SEB rules from being enforced, therefore the Board does not have to meet on that Friday. 😊

Thank you,



Nancy L. Gay  
Executive Director  
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**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 5:18 PM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]

Hey Ken,

Thank you for the kind words. I am blessed with an amazing and dedicated staff!! For some crazy reason, we enjoy this. 😊

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Be blessed.



Nancy L. Gay  
Executive Director  
Columbia County Board of Elections  
610 Ronald Reagan Drive  
Building G3, Second Floor  
PO Box 919  
Evans, GA 30809  
706-868-3355 (phone)  
706-868-3358 (fax)  
[www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov)

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**From:** Ken Pollock <[Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com](mailto:Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 5:11 PM  
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**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]

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Nancy,

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Best regards, Ken

**Ken Pollock**  
**Butler Snow LLP**

D: (678) 515-5062 | C: (404) 312-0952 | F: (678) 515-5001  
1170 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 1900, Atlanta, GA 30309  
[Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com](mailto:Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com) | [vCard](#) | [Bio](#)

[X \(Twitter\)](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Gay, Nancy <[NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <[Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com](mailto:Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com)>  
**Subject:** Certification Meeting

Hey Ken,

I just wanted to give you a heads up about the certification meeting for the November 5, 2024, General Election may be on Friday, November 8, 2024. The GA State Election Board has imposed a new rule on Boards to begin their verification of results and certification at 3pm on the Friday after the election. If that rule holds true then they will meet beginning at 3pm but won't be able to certify until after 5pm as voters still have until 5pm to remedy Provisionals, Absentees, and for us to receive properly postage-stamped UOCAVA ballots.

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Thank you,



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GA-COLUMBIA-24-2362-A-000013

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**From:** Gay, Nancy  
**Sent time:** 10/07/2024 05:18:16 PM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]  
**Attachments:** image001.png

---

Hey Ken,

Thank you for the kind words. I am blessed with an amazing and dedicated staff!! For some crazy reason, we enjoy this. 😊

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**From:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 5:11 PM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]

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[X \(Twitter\)](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Subject:** Certification Meeting

Hey Ken,

GA-COLUMBIA-24-2362-A-000015

I just wanted to give you a heads up â€“ the certification meeting for the November 5, 2024, General Election may be on Friday, November 8, 2024. The GA State Election Board has imposed a new rule on Boards to begin their verification of results and certification at 3pm on the Friday after the election. If that rule holds true â€“ then they will meet beginning at 3pm â€“ but wonâ€™t be able to certify until after 5pm as voters still have until 5pm to remedy Provisionals, Absentees, and for us to receive properly postage-stamped UOCAVA ballots.

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**From:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Sent time:** 10/07/2024 05:33:54 PM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]  
**Attachments:** image002.png image003.png

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OK, I'll probably send it to you after the election once we know whether referendum passed. I don't want to count our chickens before they hatch!

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**Subject:** Certification Meeting

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**From:** Gay, Nancy  
**Sent time:** 10/28/2024 08:21:59 AM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]  
**Attachments:** image001.png

---

Hey Ken,

The certification meeting is back on for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 10:30am. A judge stopped the newly passed SEB rules from being enforced, therefore the Board does not have to meet on that Friday. 😊

Thank you,



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[www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov)

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**From:** Ken Pollock <Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 5:34 PM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]

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**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 5:11 PM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy <[NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Certification Meeting [IWOV-BUTLERSNOW.FID8913160]

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**From:** Gay, Nancy <[NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 5, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** Ken Pollock <[Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com](mailto:Ken.Pollock@butlersnow.com)>  
**Subject:** Certification Meeting

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**From:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Sent time:** 09/23/2024 08:38:08 AM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy  
**Cc:** Marlin, Cierra <cmarlin@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List  
**Attachments:** image001.png Outlook-kusxdmqr.png

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Columbia County email system. Please exercise caution before clicking links, opening attachments, replying, or providing information to the sender.

Good morning,

You can also find the list on Firefly > Election Planner > 2024 Certified List of Write In Candidates

<https://firefly.sos.ga.gov/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fDocuments%2fElection%20Planner%2f2024%20Certified%20List%20of%20Write%20In%20Candidates&FolderCTID=0x012000B8770D4153E69F438EF29ED17E9BA125>

Best,



**Aaron Bell**  
Election Support and Training Specialist  
**Georgia Secretary of State | Elections Division**  
Phone: 470-432-0565 | Email: abell@sos.ga.gov

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**Key Election Dates & Information/Calendar:** <https://sos.ga.gov/page/election-calendar-and-events>  
**Absentee Voter File:** <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/voter-absentee-files>  
**Authentication Services:** <https://sos.ga.gov/page/great-seal-authentication-administrative-services>  
**Election Data & Statistics:** <https://sos.ga.gov/election-data-hub>  
**Military & Overseas Voting (UOCAVA):** <https://sos.ga.gov/page/military-and-overseas-voting>  
**Order Voter Registration Lists & Files:** <https://sos.ga.gov/page/order-voter-registration-lists-and-files>  
**Qualifying for Public Office:** <https://sos.ga.gov/candidate-qualifying-elected-office>

**From:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 8:02 AM  
**To:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the GA SOS organization! Do not click links, open attachments or reply, unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe!

Hey Aaron,  
The link below doesn't work. Can you send it directly to me?

Please

Thank you,

Nancy L. Gay  
Executive Director  
Columbia County Board of Elections  
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Evans, GA 30809  
706-868-3355 (phone)  
706-868-3358 (fax)  
[www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov)

**From:** SharePoint-DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov <SharePoint-DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 22, 2024 11:01 AM  
**To:** DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov  
**Subject:** The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Columbia County email system. Please exercise caution before clicking links, opening attachments, replying, or providing information to the sender.

A new discussion has been posted in The Buzz by Evans, Blake on 9/22/2024 10:50 AM

Please note that the certified list of Write-In Candidates has been updated to reflect the addition of one more candidate for President of the United States.

List: [Certified List of Write-In Candidates 092024.pdf](#)

If you would like to opt out of receiving email notifications for this discussion, click [here](#).

**From:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Sent time:** 09/23/2024 08:40:37 AM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy  
**Cc:** Marlin, Cierra <cmarlin@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List  
**Attachments:** image001.png Outlook-kusxdmqr.png Outlook-bgizub0c.png Certified List of Write-In Candidates 092024.pdf

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Nancy,

Just realized election planner hasn't been updated. I've attached it here.



**Aaron Bell**  
Election Support and Training Specialist  
**Georgia Secretary of State | Elections Division**  
Phone: 470-432-0565 | Email: abell@sos.ga.gov

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**Authentication Services:** <https://sos.ga.gov/page/great-seal-authentication-administrative-services>  
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**From:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
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**From:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 8:02 AM  
**To:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List

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Hey Aaron,  
The link below doesn't work. Can you send it directly to me?

Please

Thank you,

Nancy L. Gay  
Executive Director  
Columbia County Board of Elections  
610 Ronald Reagan Drive  
Building G3, Second Floor  
PO Box 919  
Evans, GA 30809  
706-868-3355 (phone)  
706-868-3358 (fax)  
[www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov)

**From:** SharePoint-DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov <SharePoint-DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 22, 2024 11:01 AM  
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been posted in The Buzz by Evans, Blakeâ€ˆ on 9/22/2024 10:50 AMâ€ˆ

Please note that the certified list of Write-In Candidates has been updated to reflect the addition of one more candidate for President of the United States.

List:  [Certified List of Write-In Candidates 092024.pdf](#)â€ˆ

â€ˆâ€ˆ

If you would like to opt out of receiving email notifications for this  
discussion, click [here](#)â€ˆ.

**From:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Sent time:** 09/23/2024 09:06:05 AM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy  
**Subject:** Re: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List  
**Attachments:** image001.png image002.png Outlook-rtgndxh.png

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Yes ma'am.



**Aaron Bell**  
Election Support and Training Specialist  
**Georgia Secretary of State | Elections Division**  
Phone: 470-432-0565 | Email: abell@sos.ga.gov

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**From:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 8:45 AM  
**To:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List

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Thanks Aaron â€” so we are to use the one you just sent? 😊

Thank you,

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706-868-3358 (fax)  
[www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov)

**From:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 8:41 AM  
**To:** Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>  
**Cc:** Marlin, Cierra <cmarlin@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List

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Nancy,

Just realized election planner hasn't been updated. I've attached it here.



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**Subject:** Re: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List

Good morning,

You can also find the list on Firefly > Election Planner > 2024 Certified List of Write In Candidates

[https://firefly.sos.ga.gov/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?](https://firefly.sos.ga.gov/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fDocuments%2fElection%20Planner%2f2024%20Certified%20List%20of%20Write%20In%20Candidates&FolderCTID=0x012000B8770D4153E69F438FF29FD17E9BA125)

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Best,



**Aaron Bell**  
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Please note that the certified list of Write-In Candidates has been updated to reflect the addition of one more candidate for President of the United States.

List: [Certified List of Write-In Candidates 092024.pdf](#)

If you would like to opt out of receiving email notifications for this discussion, click [here](#).

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**Sent time:** 09/23/2024 08:45:09 AM  
**To:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: The Buzz Post - Updated Certified Write-Ins List  
**Attachments:** image001.png image002.png

Thanks Aaron â€œ so we are to use the one you just sent?Ã (smiley)

Thank you,



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**Aaron Bell**

Election Support and Training Specialist



**Georgia Secretary of State | Elections Division**

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GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE | ELECTIONS DIVISION

# RECOUNT

---

## REQUESTING A RECOUNT

- Recounts may be conducted by the election superintendent prior to certification if the election superintendent suspects there is an error or discrepancy in the results.
- Recounts may be requested in writing by a losing candidate within two business days following the date of certification if the vote difference between the winning and losing candidates is equal to one half of 1% or less of the total votes cast. Under these circumstances, a recount is mandatory if requested.
- Recounts may be ordered by the Secretary of State for any federal or state office as a result of a signed petition from any candidate for said offices because they suspect a discrepancy or error in the results.



---

# RECOUNT PROCEDURES

- The best way to prepare for a recount is to conduct your tabulation processes as if there will be a recount.
- Take great care in how you prepare when packing the counted ballot into storage containers and when posting the required information on the outside of the container. Not only does this make your office look professional, but by doing so you will be better positioned to organize the recount by voting types (Election Day, AB by Mail, AB in Person, Provisional) and should the recount be less than county-wide, to go directly to the ballots needed for the recount.
- Keep an accurate log of your container numbers and the ballots stored in each container.
- Being organized during the frontend process helps to ensure a smooth and professional recount process.



## PREPARING FOR A RECOUNT SEB RULE 183-1-15-.03 MONITORS AND ACCESS TO THE RECOUNT AREA

- The Recount and proceeding must be transparent.
- Each political party may appoint two monitors. Each candidate or a designee may be present during the recount.
- The Monitors should have poll watcher-like access to the recount including the L&A testing.
- Credentialed monitors should address questions or concerns to the superintendent and not to the individual workers conducting the recount.
- Monitors may not touch any ballots or interfere with the recount process.
- In addition to the candidates/party monitors, the recount shall be open to the view of the public and media, but no person except one designated by the superintendent shall touch any ballot or ballot container.
- The superintendent may designate a viewing area for members of the public for the purpose of good order and maintaining the integrity of the recount.
- Assigned campaign/party monitors should not be limited to the public viewing area.



## PREPARING FOR A RECOUNT O.C.G.A. 21-2-495 PUBLIC NOTICE AND TIME PERIOD FOR CONDUCT OF RECOUNT

- Prior to beginning the recount, the election superintendent must post reasonable notice of the dates, times, and locations of the recount on their website or other prominent location and notify the Secretary of State's Office so that they can place the information on their website.
- Vote Review and Duplication Panels must be established.
- Best practice is to recount by vote type all at one time before moving on to another vote type. This will help to ensure that the ICC scanners are set to identify each ballot type properly.
- Best practice is to use a master list of ballot batches completed during election night tabulation or some other method to account for each batch of ballots to make sure that every batch gets recounted once, and only once.
- Be sure to swear in the official observers and have name badges for them in the same manner used for Advance Voting and Election Day poll watchers.
- A robust chain of custody for ballots should be a top priority. Recording seal numbers and names of individuals handling batches of ballots should be adhered to with great diligence.



---

# RECOUNT PROCEDURES

## O.C.G.A. § 21-2-495 AND SEB RULE 183-1-15-.03

- Recounts:
  - May be requested by a losing candidate under certain circumstances.
  - May (and often does) change the reported results if not the outcome of the election.
  - Are conducted using ballot scanners.
- The goal of a recount is to ensure all votes have been accurately counted.



---

# RECOUNT VS. HAND COUNT AUDIT

O.C.G.A. 21-2-495

- Authorizes counties to conduct a recount of the ballots cast.
- Recounts must be conducted **by rescanning ballots using ballot scanners**, except under very specific circumstances explained in SEB Rule 183-1-15.-03.



GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE | ELECTIONS DIVISION

---

# RECOUNT VS. HAND COUNT AUDIT

O.C.G.A. 21-2-498

- Authorizes and mandates counties to conduct precertification audits for all elections containing federal or state-wide contests. Precertification means conducted before the local election superintendent certifies the election.
- Counties are not required to conduct precertification audits for elections not containing federal or state-wide contests and there is nothing in the law prohibiting counties from conducting a voluntary precertification audit for any election held in their jurisdiction and doing so by hand counting ballots, if they so choose.
- Specific instructions for conducting a precertification audit are outlined in O.C.G.A. 21-2-498 and SEB Rule 183-1-15-.04.



---

## RECOUNT VS. HAND COUNT AUDIT

- A precertification audit is not a recount as defined by O.C.G.A. 21-2-495.
- A precertification audit conducted by any means shall not change the election results. Only a recount as prescribed in O.C.G.A. 21-2-495 carries the authority to change the number of ballots cast or the number of votes received by candidates.



---

## POST RECOUNT ACTIVITIES

### CERTIFYING OR RE-CERTIFYING ELECTION RESULTS

- If a **state** required recount, upload the results at the conclusion of the recount into a **NEW, SEPARATE** Election Night Reporting page.
- If the recount is for a **local** office and the results remain the same:
  - Notify candidates that the results have not changed.
  - Affirm the original certification of the election.
- If the recount is for a **local** office and the results change but not enough to affect the outcome of the election:
  - Notify candidates that the results have changed, but not enough to affect the outcome of the election.
  - Re-certify the election using the updated results.
- If the recount is for a **local** office and the results change enough to affect the outcome of the election:
  - Notify candidates that the results have changed and have changed the outcome of the election.
  - Re-certify the election using the updated results.



# SECRETARY OF STATE RECONCILIATION REPORT



GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE | ELECTIONS DIVISION

**From:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Sent time:** 09/23/2024 08:59:52 AM  
**To:** Bell, Aaron <abell@sos.ga.gov>  
**Cc:** Marlin, Cierra <cmarlin@sos.ga.gov>; McKinnon, Nicholas <nmckinnon@sos.ga.gov>; Phelps, Jasmin <jphelps@sos.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** Updated Certified Write-Ins List  
**Attachments:** Outlook-d3ni4nnd.png Certified List of Write-In Candidates 092024.pdf

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Election Officials,

Please see the latest update from Director Evans:

Evans, Blake

Please note that the certified list of Write-In Candidates has been updated to reflect the addition of one more candidate for President of the United States.

List:  [Certified List of Write-In Candidates 092024.pdf](#)

Best,



**Aaron Bell**  
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