

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
GEORGIA REPUBLICAN PARTY,
FULTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN
PARTY, and TIM FLEMING,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SHERRI ALLEN, DOUGLASS SELBY,
TERESA K. CRAWFORD, and JULIE
ADAMS in their individual capacities,

Defendants.

Case No. _____

VERIFIED PETITION FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

1. Defendants, members of the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections (the “Fulton County BOE” or the “Board”), violate Georgia law through a new unauthorized process for voting Absentee by Mail (“ABM”) ballots not countenanced by Georgia law. Georgia law permits three means of voting ABM ballots: (1) by mail to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk; (2) by hand delivery to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk; and (3) by ABM ballot drop boxes for delivery to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk. The Fulton County BOE has attempted to create a fourth voting method whereby electors may vote ABM ballots at a polling place by receiving a date and time label from a poll manager or assistant manager putatively deputized as a “deputy registrar” and depositing the labeled ABM ballot into an “ABM ballot container” for delivery to Fulton County Elections Hub and Operation Center at an unspecified later time. In reality, this new process is an attempt by the Fulton County BOE to make an end-run around Georgia law limiting the number of ABM ballot drop boxes permitted in a county, the associated safeguards mandated to ensure the integrity of ABM ballots submitted through an ABM ballot drop box, and the time periods during which ABM ballots may be

submitted through an ABM ballot drop box. As this new process violates Georgia law, Plaintiffs seek a declaration that the process is unlawful and an injunction prohibiting Defendants from using it.

2. The Georgia Constitution provides that elections in Georgia “shall be conducted in accordance with procedures provided by law,” meaning those established by the General Assembly. Ga. Const. Art. II, § I, ¶ I.

3. The Georgia General Assembly has comprehensively occupied the field of election administration through Title 21, Chapter 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (the “Election Code”), which was amended in 2021 by the Georgia General Assembly “[t]o comprehensively revise elections and voting.” S.B. 202 (2021) at 1:1.

4. The Election Code prescribes in detail Georgia’s electoral process applicable to all 159 Georgia counties to ensure fair and transparent elections. This includes new processes implemented in 2021 addressing, *inter alia*, “absentee ballot drop boxes and the requirements therefor,” “the manner of . . . returning absentee ballots,” and “the processing and tabulation of absentee ballots.”¹

5. The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections was established by Act of the Georgia General Assembly as the body responsible for administering elections in Fulton County, including the receipt of ABM ballots. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-40(b). The Fulton County BOE possesses only those powers expressly granted to it by the General Assembly or necessarily implied therefrom. *Id.*

6. On April 20, 2026, Defendants approved a Policy Regarding Absentee Ballot Drop-Off (the “Policy”) that exceeds their statutory authority by (i) mass-appointing poll managers and

¹ See The Election Integrity Act of 2021, S.B. 202 (2021) at 2:35-40.

assistant managers at twenty-two polling places as deputy registrars in contravention of O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-385(a), 21-2-213, and 21-2-408(d); (ii) establishing “secured ABM ballot containers” at those locations that operate as de facto drop boxes beyond the cap imposed by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1) and without the chain-of-custody safeguards required by § 21-2-382(c)(3); and (iii) designating a non-governmental building as an additional registrar’s office in contravention of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a) and State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.08(2).

7. This Court should grant declaratory and injunctive relief declaring the Policy unlawful and prohibiting Defendants from implementing it.

JURISDICTION

8. This Court has jurisdiction to grant declaratory and injunctive relief under O.C.G.A. §§ 9-4-2 and 9-4-3.

9. Venue is proper in this Court because all of the acts alleged in this complaint were done by Defendants within Fulton County, Georgia.

10. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-32(g), upon filing Plaintiffs will serve a copy of this Petition upon the State Election Board by statutory overnight delivery.

PARTIES

11. Plaintiff Republican National Committee (“RNC”) is a national political committee that nominates candidates whose names appear on the ballots received and counted in Fulton County and recruits and credentials poll watchers under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408 to observe the receipt and processing of absentee ballots in Fulton County.

12. Plaintiff Georgia Republican Party (“GRP”) is a state political party affiliated with the RNC. The GRP recruits and nominates poll watchers under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408 to observe the receipt and processing of absentee ballots in Fulton County.

13. Plaintiff Fulton County Republican Party (“Fulton GOP”) is a political party organized and operating in Fulton County, Georgia as defined by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-2(25), whose officers and members are citizens, residents, electors, and taxpayers of Fulton County. The Fulton GOP is authorized under 1989 Ga. Laws, p. 4577, *as amended by* 2019 Ga. Laws, p. 4181 § 2, to nominate candidates to serve on the Fulton County BOE. As a Fulton County body whose members are stakeholders in the County’s government, and whose members’ tax dollars fund the conduct of the County’s elections, the Fulton GOP has a cognizable interest, shared with the County’s electors and taxpayers, in enjoining the members of the Fulton County BOE from utilizing a Policy for receipt and processing of ABM ballots that does not comply with the Election Code.

14. Plaintiff Tim Fleming is a resident and elector of Newton County, Georgia, and a duly qualified candidate for Georgia’s Secretary of State in the general election to be conducted on November 3, 2026, including in Fulton County. As a candidate whose name will appear on the ballot in an election administered by Defendants, Tim Fleming has a direct and substantial interest in the lawful administration of absentee voting procedures by the Fulton County BOE, including the locations, personnel, and procedures by which ABM ballots cast for or against his candidacy are received, processed, and counted.

15. Defendants Sherri Allen, Douglass Selby, Teresa K. Crawford, and Julie Adams are members of the Fulton County BOE, which is the election superintendent for Fulton County.² The superintendent is charged with implementing policies in compliance with applicable laws and

² Although Ms. Adams currently serves as a member of the Fulton County BOE, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners has unlawfully refused to appoint Ms. Adams to the Fulton County BOE. Despite the lack of official appointment, Ms. Adams continues to serve on the Fulton County BOE and is a proper defendant in this action.

regulations to oversee elections conducted in Fulton County, including managing the process for the collection and tabulation of absentee ballots. O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-381; 21-2-386(a)(2)(A). Defendants Allen, Selby, Crawford, and Adams are sued in their individual capacities and can be served in their individual capacities at 5600 Campbellton Fairburn Road, Fairburn, Georgia 30213.

BACKGROUND

I. Adoption of S.B. 202

16. The Georgia Constitution vests authority over election procedures in the General Assembly, providing that “[e]lections by the people shall be by secret ballot and shall be conducted in accordance with procedures provided by law.” Ga. Const. Art. II, § I, ¶ I.

17. Rulemaking authority over matters not specifically addressed in the Election Code is conferred on the State Election Board (“SEB”), not on county boards (unless explicitly authorized). O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-31, 21-2-33.1.

18. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, absentee ballot drop boxes were not authorized by the General Assembly for voters in state-wide Georgia elections.

19. Drop boxes were first authorized via a 2020 emergency rule adopted by the SEB in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 183-1-14-.08 *et seq.* That authorization expired following the January 2021 runoff election.

20. After the January 2021 runoff election, the Georgia General Assembly adopted O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382 in its current form to “allow[] the use of drop boxes, while also ensuring the security of the system and providing options in emergency situations.” S.B. 202 at 5:113-18.

21. While the 2020 emergency rule permitted counties to use drop boxes at their discretion, S.B. 202 requires each county to provide at least one drop box for the receipt of absentee ballots but only authorizes additional drop boxes equal to “the lesser of either one drop box for

every 100,000 active registered voters in the county or the number of advance voting locations in the county.” O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1).

22. The General Assembly devised this limit along with specific chain-of-custody requirements for collection of ballots deposited in drop boxes with the intent of addressing security and oversight concerns following the 2020 elections.

II. Relevant Statutory Framework

23. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-70(7) authorizes county boards of elections and registration “[t]o make and issue such rules, regulations, and instructions, consistent with law, including the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Election Board, as [it] may deem necessary for the guidance of poll officers, custodians, and electors in primaries and elections.” They are further directed “[t]o conduct all elections in such manner as to guarantee the secrecy of the ballot and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.” O.C.G.A. § 21-2-70(13).

24. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(a) governs the return of absentee ballots. After completing the ballot, the elector “shall then personally mail or personally deliver” the ballot “to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk.”

25. Under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a), a county board of registrars “may establish additional registrar’s offices . . . for the purpose of receiving [ABM] ballots under Code Section 21-2-381,” “provided that any such site is a building that is a branch of the county courthouse, a courthouse annex, a government service center providing general government services, another government building generally accessible to the public, or a building that is used as an election day polling place, notwithstanding that such building is not a government building.”

26. State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.08(2) implements O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a) and provides that, in establishing additional sites for voters to receive ABM ballots, “[w]henver

practicable, a branch of the county courthouse, a courthouse annex, a government service center providing general government services, or another government building generally accessible to the public shall be utilized for such additional sites.”

27. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1) authorizes drop boxes as a means for absentee electors to deliver their ballots and caps the number of authorized drop boxes. A board of elections and registration “may establish additional drop boxes, subject to the limitations of this Code section, but may only establish additional drop boxes totaling the lesser of either one drop box for every 100,000 active registered voters in the county or the number of advance voting locations in the county.” *Id.*³ Drop boxes must also be located at the registrar’s office or inside advance voting locations, “may be open during the hours of advance voting at that location,” and “shall be closed when the advance voting period ends.” *Id.*

28. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(3) imposes detailed chain-of-custody requirements for drop boxes. Ballots “shall” be collected “by a team of at least two people,” each of whom must have “sworn an oath in the same form as the oath for poll officers set forth in Code Section 21-2-95,” and the team “shall complete and sign a ballot transfer form upon removing the ballots from the drop box which shall include the date, time, location, number of ballots, confirmation that the drop box was locked after the removal of the ballots, and the identity of each person collecting the ballots.”

29. Upon receipt of an ABM ballot, the registrar must record the date and time of receipt and verify that the elector’s identifying information matches the voter registration records.

³ Fulton County, with approximately 751,000 active registered voters, is permitted only seven drop boxes under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1). Upon information and belief, the Fulton County BOE has already authorized drop boxes at seven locations.

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(B). The registrar must also sign or initial below the voter's oath to confirm the elector was the signatory.

30. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-213(a) authorizes a county board of registrars to “appoint deputy registrars to aid them in the discharge of their duties.” That provision is contained in Article 6 of the Election Code, governing the “Registration of Voters,” and is directed to the appointment of personnel to assist with the registrars’ voter-registration functions. “The number of deputy registrars appointed to serve shall be determined by the board of registrars.” *Id.* “In appointing deputy registrars, the registrars shall select persons who are reasonably representative of a cross section of significantly identifiable groups of the communities or areas where they are to serve.” *Id.* O.C.G.A. § 21-2-214 sets the qualifications for registrars and deputy registrars and requires them to take an oath “[b]efore entering upon the duties of office.”

III. The Fulton County BOE’s Policy

31. The Fulton County BOE manages voter registration and election administration in Fulton County, including absentee balloting procedures. O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-40, 21-2-70; 1989 Ga. Laws, p. 4577, *as amended by* 2019 Ga. Laws, p. 4181 § 2. The Fulton County BOE’s rulemaking authority under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-70(7) is expressly limited to rules “consistent with law” and directed at the “guidance of poll officers, custodians, and electors.”

32. The Fulton County BOE currently consists of four members, Sherri Allen, Douglass Selby, Teresa K. Crawford, and Julie Adams.

33. Nadine Williams, the Fulton County Department of Registrations and Elections Director (the “Elections Director”), is not a member of the Fulton County BOE. She is charged with implementing the Fulton County BOE’s decisions for registrations and elections.

34. The Policy at issue emanated from two Board meetings in March 2026, during which Elections Director Williams proposed a policy designating twenty-two advance voting locations as additional sites for the in-person receipt of hand-delivered ABM ballots.⁴

35. Fulton County BOE members immediately raised concerns about the same legal deficiencies that form the basis for this lawsuit.

36. At the March 11 meeting, Fulton County BOE Chairperson Sherri Allen raised concerns regarding chain of custody and ballot-courier and transportation procedures, and recommended a limited pilot program at two or three locations rather than the full twenty-two.⁵

37. Fulton County BOE member Julie Adams also raised concerns that the Policy might run afoul of Senate Bill 202 (2021 Ga. Laws, Act 9) by effectively creating more than seven “drop-boxes” for receipt of ABM ballots.⁶

38. Due to these concerns from its own members, the Fulton County BOE requested that its Special Counsel address certain legal issues at the next meeting.⁷

39. On March 16, 2026, the Fulton County BOE reconvened in a special-called session. The pilot-program approach recommended by Chairperson Allen at the March 11 meeting was not adopted. Instead, for unknown reasons, the proposal returned to its original scope of twenty-two locations, sparking additional comment and concern amongst Fulton County BOE members.

⁴ See Video Recording of Fulton Cnty. Bd. of Registration & Elections, Mar. 11, 2026, Regular Meeting, at 1:18:14. Available at https://www.youtube.com/live/1claNU_V9_g?si=DCtDTr1OeNRHDziQ (accessed June 2, 2026).

⁵ *Id.* at 1:18:29.

⁶ *Id.* at 1:19:30.

⁷ *Id.* at 1:21:25.

40. The plan contemplated using twenty-two selected advance voting sites as additional locations for the receipt of hand-delivered ABM ballots and deputizing the poll managers and assistant poll managers at those locations as deputy registrars for that purpose.

41. Fulton County BOE member Julie Adams again expressed concern with the plan to use an advance voting location at Flipper Temple as an additional registrar's office for acceptance of absentee ballots. Member Adams stated that in her view, the General Assembly's and SEB's intent in adopting O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382 and Rule 183-1-14-.08(2) "was clear" that absentee ballot drop-off locations should be in government buildings.⁸

42. Fulton County BOE member Douglass Selby questioned why the proposal had been expanded from the limited pilot discussed at the prior meeting. Elections Director Williams responded that her staff had met as a team and had decided to proceed with all twenty-two locations, and that this was the course she recommended the Board adopt—stating that the Board "would prefer to just do all 22 so then nobody is confused."⁹

43. The Fulton County BOE's Special Counsel and Department of Registrations and Elections staff defended the plan as lawful, asserting that the contemplated procedures did not run afoul of State Election Board Rule 183-1-14 or the Georgia Election Code.

44. On April 20, 2026, the Fulton County BOE approved a final Policy Regarding Absentee Ballot Drop-Off, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

45. The Policy purports to create a new "process and provide direction to election staff for the acceptance of ABM ballots at polling locations." The Policy states that "all advanced voting

⁸ See Video Recording of Fulton Cnty. Bd. of Registration & Elections, Mar. 16, 2026, Special Meeting, at 9:40. Available at https://www.youtube.com/live/KNazIPMfM_0?si=uvLp4ucjC8Rnhu4D (accessed June 2, 2026).

⁹ *Id.* at 20:50.

locations that are located in a government building” or that “serve as an election day polling place, and which do not have [an ABM] drop box” are “established as additional registrar’s offices.” The Policy mass-deputizes all poll managers and assistant managers at such polling places as deputy registrars.

46. The Policy creates a new voting process whereby electors may vote ABM ballots at polling locations that do not have an ABM ballot drop box by presenting the ballot to a poll manager or assistant manager, receiving a date and time label from the poll manager or assistant manager, and depositing the ABM ballot into an “ABM ballot container” for later collection and transfer to the Fulton County Elections Hub and Operation Center.

47. According to the Policy, voters should provide their ABM ballots “directly to a deputy registrar” (in reality a poll manager or assistant manager) at the polling location. The deputy registrar then affixes “a label with a time and date stamp to the outer envelope” of the ABM ballot and returns the ABM ballot to the person submitting the ABM ballot. That person adds the “person’s name, relationship to voter, signature, and contact information” to the outer envelope of the ABM ballot. The person submitting the ABM ballot then deposits the ABM ballot into an “ABM ballot container designated for that purpose.” ABM ballots are kept at the polling place in the “ABM ballot container” until an unspecified time when the ballots are collected and transferred by a “sealed bag” to the Fulton County Elections Hub and Operation Center. The next morning after the ballots arrive at the Fulton County Elections Hub and Operation Center, they are logged, verified, and processed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386. The Policy permits electors to vote ABM ballots using this new process until the close of polls on election day.

IV. The Fulton County BOE's Policy Violates Georgia Law

48. Georgia law permits three means of voting ABM ballots: (1) by mail to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk; (2) by hand delivery to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk; and (3) by ABM ballot drop boxes for delivery to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk.

49. The Fulton County BOE Policy creates a new process for voting ABM ballots not permitted by Georgia law. Although Defendants attempt to shoehorn their Policy into a form of "hand delivery," simply having a poll manager or assistant manager place a sticker on an ABM ballot does not fulfill Georgia's requirements for hand delivery of an ABM ballot.

50. In reality the Policy is an attempt by the Fulton County BOE to make an end-run around Georgia law limiting the number of ABM ballot drop boxes permitted in a county by renaming ABM ballot drop boxes as "ABM ballot containers" and installing these "ballot containers" at all polling places that do not have an ABM ballot drop box.

51. The Policy exceeds the Fulton County BOE's statutory authority in three principal respects.

First Deficiency - The Policy's Mass Deputization of Poll Managers and Absence of Poll-Watcher Access at Twenty-Two Advance Voting Locations

52. Paragraph 5 of the Policy universally appoints "poll managers and assistant managers of advanced voting locations as deputy registrars" and "delegates the authority to receive hand-delivered ABM ballots" to them, thereby expanding the persons authorized to receive such ballots beyond "the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk" in contravention of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(a).

53. The receipt of hand-delivered ABM ballots is governed by Article 10, which separately and specifically limits the authorized recipients to “the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk,” not poll managers or assistant poll managers. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(a).

54. The Policy invokes O.C.G.A. § 21-2-213 as authority for the mass appointment of poll managers and assistant managers as deputy registrars. But Section 21-2-213 sits in Article 6 of the Election Code, which governs the registration of voters, and authorizes the appointment of deputy registrars only “to aid [the registrars] in the discharge of their duties.” Accordingly, Section 21-2-213 is a staffing provision for Article 6 registration work and does not grant the Fulton County BOE authority to expand the narrow class of persons Article 10 designates to receive ABM ballots.

55. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-213(a) likewise requires that the Fulton County BOE determine “[t]he number of deputy registrars appointed to serve” and “select persons who are reasonably representative of a cross section of significantly identifiable groups of the communities or areas where they are to serve.” *Id.* The Fulton County BOE violates these provisions by mass-deputizing any and all poll managers and assistant managers, whomever and however many persons that may be.

56. The Policy also fails to ensure poll-watcher access at the twenty-two advance voting locations during the receipt of ABM ballots.

57. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408(d) entitles poll watchers to “access to polling places, advance voting locations, tabulation centers, and locations where absentee ballots are being verified, processed, adjudicated, and scanned,” and to “observe any activity conducted at the location at which they are serving.” That right encompasses the receipt of ABM ballots, the labeling of envelopes by deputy registrars, and the sealing of containers for transport to the Hub.

58. The Policy addresses poll watchers only by requiring that the “secured ABM ballot container” be stored “in a manner that is visible to poll watchers or other authorized individuals.” This provision is directed at the container’s storage, not to observation of the receipt activities themselves.

59. The Policy thus fails to implement the observational right § 21-2-408(d) confers and deprives Plaintiffs and the public of the transparency the General Assembly mandated.

60. The Policy further violates O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386 insofar as it requires poll managers and assistant managers to violate the requirements for how a registrar or clerk should record and verify an ABM ballot voted by hand delivery. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(B) mandates that “[u]pon receipt of each ballot, a registrar or clerk shall write the day and hour of the receipt of the ballot on its envelope. The registrar or clerk shall then compare the number of the elector’s Georgia driver’s license number or state identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 and date of birth entered on the absentee ballot envelope with the same information contained in the elector’s voter registration records The registrar or clerk shall also confirm that the elector signed the oath and the person assisting the elector, if any, signed the required oath. If the elector has signed the elector’s oath, the person assisting has signed the required oath, if applicable, and the identifying information entered on the absentee ballot envelope matches the same information contained in the elector’s voter registration record, the registrar or clerk shall so certify by signing or initialing his or her name below the voter’s oath. Each elector’s name so certified shall be listed by the registrar or clerk on the numbered list of absentee voters prepared for his or her precinct. All accepted absentee ballots shall be securely stored in either a sealed container or appropriately secured in an access controlled room that will prevent tampering or unauthorized access prior to the scanning of such ballots.”

61. The Policy requires a “deputized” poll manager or assistant manager to apply a label to the ABM ballot with the date and time an ABM ballot is presented at a polling place, but then requires the poll manager or assistant manager to return the ABM ballot to the person submitting the ABM ballot without completing the remaining requirements of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386. The person submitting the ABM ballot then adds “the person’s name, relationship to voter, signature, and contact information” to the outer envelope of the ABM ballot and deposits the ABM ballot into an “ABM ballot container” before the verification process required by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386 is completed. ABM ballots in the “ABM ballot container” are then collected and transported to the Fulton County Elections Hub and Operation Center at an unspecified point. After arriving at the Fulton County Elections Hub and Operation Center, the ABM ballots are not processed and verified until the next day.

62. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(B) does not permit the Fulton County BOE’s Policy of only labeling an ABM ballot at the time it is received and then returning it to the ballot submitter for deposit into an “ABM ballot container” until it is transported to a different location where another registrar or clerk will complete the verification at an unspecified later point.

Second Deficiency - The Policy’s Creation of De Facto Drop Boxes

63. Fulton County has approximately 751,000 active registered voters and is therefore permitted only seven drop boxes under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1). Upon information and belief, the Fulton County BOE has already authorized drop boxes at seven locations.

64. Because the poll managers and assistant managers cannot be validly deputized to receive hand-delivered ABM ballots and cannot verify hand-delivered ABM ballots, *see supra*, an elector who votes an ABM ballot at a polling location by depositing it in an “ABM ballot

container” is not “personally deliver[ing]” it “to the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk” as O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(a) requires.

65. Rather, the elector deposits the ballot for collection in a “secured ABM ballot container,” which is essentially an ABM drop box by another name. ABM ballot containers serve the same function as ABM drop boxes despite exceeding the number of drop boxes permitted by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1) and not complying with the requirements for drop boxes in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1)-(4).

66. Similar to the deposit of ABM ballots in lawfully authorized ABM drop boxes, Paragraphs 2 and 6(b) of the Policy unlawfully permit depositing ABM ballots into ABM ballot containers for later collection and transfer to the Fulton County BOE or absentee ballot clerk.

67. Under the Policy, the ABM ballot containers serve as de facto ABM ballot drop boxes, and the Fulton County BOE may not avoid the statutory cap by renaming what is, in substance, a drop box. The Policy is an invalid attempt to authorize ABM drop boxes beyond the statutory cap.

68. Further, the ABM ballot containers, acting as collection receptacles akin to ABM drop boxes, are not subject to the chain-of-custody requirements O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(3) imposes on drop-box ballots.

69. Section 21-2-382(c)(3) requires the “ballot transfer form” to record “the date, time, location, number of ballots, confirmation that the drop box was locked after removal of the ballots, and the identity of each person collecting the ballots.” The Policy requires only an end-of-day count of ballots on a generalized “chain of custody form” and imposes none of the statute’s other requirements on the deputy registrars who collect ABM ballots from the secured containers at the twenty-two advance voting locations.

70. Each of § 21-2-382(c)(3)'s requirements is set in mandatory terms: ballots "shall be collected" by a two-person team, and the team "shall complete and sign a ballot transfer form" with the requisite information. Those commands leave the Fulton County BOE no discretion to substitute lesser procedures of its own design. *See Mead v. Sheffield*, 278 Ga. 268, 269 (2004) ("‘Shall’ is generally construed as a word of command." (citation omitted)); *State v. Collier*, 279 Ga. 316, 317 (2005) (noting that mandatory language in a statute "precludes any discretion on the part of the officer" acting thereunder).

71. The chain-of-custody procedures the Policy imposes on these de facto drop boxes are therefore materially less protective than those the General Assembly mandated for drop-box ballots.

72. The Policy further violates restrictions on when an elector may vote ABM ballots by ABM ballot drop box.¹⁰ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1) mandates that "[a]ll drop boxes shall be closed when the advance voting period ends." The advance voting period "shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff." O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1)(B). The Policy permits, however, electors to vote ABM ballots by presenting the ballot to a poll manager or assistant manager and depositing the ABM ballot into an "ABM ballot container" until the close of polls on election day.

73. The voting period the Policy authorizes for these de facto drop boxes is therefore significantly longer than the period the General Assembly authorized for drop-box ballots.

¹⁰ The Policy likewise violates the requirement that electors must vote ABM ballots by hand delivery "before the day of the primary or election." O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(a).

Third Deficiency - Designation of Non-Governmental Building as Additional Registrar's Office

74. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a) limits additional registrar's offices to enumerated categories of buildings, each governmental in character with a single carve-out for non-governmental buildings "used as an election day polling place."

75. State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.08(2) reinforces that limitation, commanding that, "[w]henever practicable," a governmental building "shall be utilized for such additional sites."

76. This "shall be utilized" command is again mandatory and forecloses the Fulton County BOE's discretion to designate a non-governmental site where a qualifying governmental building is practicable, *see supra* ¶ 70.

77. By designating Flipper Temple, a non-governmental building, as an additional registrar's office for receiving ABM ballots, the Board has violated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a) and State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.08(2).

78. The Board's stated rationale for Flipper Temple's inclusion, *i.e.*, its proximity to an HBCU campus, establishes only that the location is advantageous. Convenience, however, is not impracticability.¹¹ The Board's designation of Flipper Temple as an additional registrar's office therefore plainly violates O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a) and the SEB Rule and should be declared invalid as a matter of law.

¹¹ *See Dep't of Cmty. Health v. Houston Hosps., Inc.*, 365 Ga. App. 751, 766 (2022) ("[D]espite the deference courts generally afford to administrative agencies, when 'the statutory text is clear and unambiguous, we attribute to the statute its plain meaning . . .'" (*quoting Deal v. Coleman*, 294 Ga. 170, 173 (2013))); *Sawnee Elec. Membership Corp. v. Ga. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 273 Ga. 702, 706 (2001) ("[A]dministrative agencies . . . are not authorized to enlarge the scope of, or supply omissions in, a properly-enacted statute [n]or . . . change a statute by interpretation." (*quoting N. Fulton Med. Ctr. v. Stephenson*, 269 Ga. 540, 543-44 (Ga. 1998))).

79. The Fulton County BOE, through the adoption of the Policy, is violating the express powers granted to it by the General Assembly to adopt rules “consistent with law.”

80. Without relief from this Court, Defendants will employ the Policy at the next primary, election, or runoff conducted in Fulton County, receiving hand-delivered ABM ballots at locations and through personnel not authorized by the Election Code, and the integrity of those proceedings cannot be restored once unlawfully received ballots have been commingled with lawfully received ballots.

COUNT I
Declaratory Judgment Under O.C.G.A. § 9-4-2 (Asserted Against Defendants in their Individual Capacities)

81. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of their prior allegations.

82. Georgia Superior Courts may issue declaratory judgments in “cases of actual controversy . . . upon petition or other appropriate pleading.” O.C.G.A. § 9-4-2(a). The statute “is to be liberally construed and administered” to “afford relief from uncertainty and insecurity with respect to rights, status, and other legal relations.” O.C.G.A. § 9-4-1.

83. The Fulton County BOE is a creature of statute, possessing only those powers expressly granted by the General Assembly or necessarily implied therefrom, and its rulemaking authority under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-70(7) is limited to rules “consistent with law.” It has no discretion to disregard the mandatory commands of O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-213, 21-2-382, 21-2-385, and 21-2-386, and no authority to enlarge by local policy the locations, personnel, and procedures by which the General Assembly has provided that absentee ballots may be received.

84. The RNC, GRP, and Fulton GOP nominate candidates whose names appear on ballots cast and counted in Fulton County, recruit and credential poll watchers to observe the receipt and processing of absentee ballots, and represent electors who participate in primaries and elections conducted by the Fulton County BOE. Plaintiff Tim Fleming, as a candidate whose name

will appear on the ballot in an election administered by Defendants under the Policy, has a direct and personal interest in ensuring that ABM ballots cast for or against his candidacy are received only through procedures authorized by the Election Code. Plaintiffs therefore have legally protectible interests in the lawful administration of absentee voting procedures in Fulton County.

85. The Policy is unlawful and exceeds Defendants' authority in three primary respects.

86. **First**, Paragraph 5 of the Policy mass-appoints poll managers and assistant managers as deputy registrars authorized to receive hand-delivered absentee ballots, displacing both the persons statutorily authorized to receive the ballots and the statutory poll-watcher observation guarantees and verification processes pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-385(a), 21-2-386, 21-2-213, and 21-2-408(d).

87. **Second**, Paragraphs 2 and 6(b) of the Policy establish de facto absentee ballot drop boxes at advance voting locations beyond the seven drop boxes the Fulton County BOE has already deployed, in violation of the statutory cap imposed by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1), without the chain-of-custody safeguards § 21-2-382(c)(3) imposes on the collection of drop-box ballots, and in violation of § 21-2-382(c)(1)'s mandate that ballot drop boxes shall be closed when the advance voting period ends.

88. **Third**, the BOE designated an advance voting site located in a non-governmental building as an additional registrar's office under the Policy despite practicable alternatives, a clear violation of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a) and State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.08(2).

89. An actual and justiciable controversy therefore exists between Plaintiffs and Defendants concerning the lawfulness of the Policy and the authority of the Fulton County BOE to receive ABM ballots under the procedures the Policy establishes.

90. A declaratory judgment is due to be entered declaring that the Policy, and in particular Paragraphs 2, 5, and 6 thereof, exceeds Defendants' authority, conflicts with O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-213, 21-2-382, 21-2-385, and 21-2-386 and State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.08(2), and is to be null, void, and of no force or effect.

COUNT II

Interlocutory Injunction Under O.C.G.A. § 9-11-65 (Asserted Against Defendants in their Individual Capacities)

91. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of their prior allegations.

92. Plaintiffs seek to maintain the status quo via an interlocutory injunction (A) barring Defendants (in their individual capacities) from implementing or enforcing the Policy at any primary, election, or runoff conducted in Fulton County pending this Court's final disposition of the within request for relief, and (B) requiring Defendants (in their individual capacities) to receive ABM ballots only at the locations and through the personnel and procedures authorized by the Election Code pending this Court's final disposition of the within request for relief.

93. "The purpose of [an] . . . interlocutory injunction is to preserve the status quo while a case is pending." *Slone v. Myers*, 288 Ga. App. 8, 14 (2007), *overruled on different grounds*, *Reeves v. Upson Med. Ctr.*, 315 Ga. App. 582 (2012). When deciding whether to issue an interlocutory injunction, the trial court should balance whether: "(1) there is a substantial threat that the moving party will suffer irreparable injury if the injunction is not granted; (2) the threatened injury to the moving party outweighs the threatened harm that the injunction may do to the party being enjoined; (3) there is a substantial likelihood that the moving party will prevail on the merits of [its] claims at trial; and (4) granting the [relief] will not disserve the public interest." *Bishop v. Patton*, 288 Ga. 600, 604 (2011), *disapproved upon other grounds*, *SRB Inv. Servs. LLLP v. BB&T*, 289 Ga. 1, 5 n.7 (2011), *overruled on other grounds*, *Wasserman v. Franklin Cnty.*, 320 Ga. 624 (2025).

94. All four factors are satisfied here, and Plaintiffs are entitled to injunctive relief against Defendants in their individual capacities:

A. Irreparable Injury: Absent injunctive relief, Defendants will receive ABM ballots at the next primary, election, or runoff through procedures not authorized by the Election Code. Once unlawfully received ballots are commingled with lawfully received ballots, they cannot be segregated or invalidated without disenfranchising the electors who returned them, and the integrity of the election cannot be restored through any subsequent monetary or post-election remedy. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.

B. Substantial Likelihood of Success on the Merits: Plaintiffs are likely to prevail on the merits of their claims. The Policy authorizes the receipt of ABM ballots through personnel not authorized by O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-385(a) and 21-2-213; at receptacles that operate as de facto drop boxes beyond the cap imposed by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(1); at a non-governmental building not qualifying under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a); during periods prohibited by O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-382(c)(1) and 21-2-385(a); and pursuant to chain-of-custody procedures that fall short of those required by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(3). The Fulton County BOE has no statutory authority to enlarge by local policy the categories of locations, personnel, and procedures established by the General Assembly.

C. The Balance of the Equities: The threatened injury to Plaintiffs outweighs any harm an injunction would cause Defendants. Defendants have no legitimate interest in implementing an unlawful policy, and an injunction would require nothing more than that they conform their conduct to the Election Code.

D. The Public Interest: The public interest is served by assuring that the absentee voting provisions of the Election Code are implemented faithfully by the Board and that elections in Fulton County are conducted in accordance with procedures provided by the General Assembly.

95. An interlocutory injunction is due to be entered against Defendants in their individual capacities (A) barring Defendants from implementing or enforcing the Policy at any primary, election, or runoff conducted in Fulton County pending this Court's final disposition of this petition, and (B) requiring Defendants to receive ABM ballots only at the locations and through the personnel and procedures authorized by the Election Code pending this Court's final disposition of this petition.

COUNT III
Perpetual Injunction Under O.C.G.A. § 9-5-10 (Asserted Against Defendants in their Individual Capacities)

96. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of their prior allegations.

97. Under O.C.G.A. § 9-5-1, this Court has authority to enjoin acts that are “illegal or contrary to equity and good conscience and for which no adequate remedy is provided at law.” The Court may grant such relief at its discretion where “the evidence show[s] that the plaintiff would suffer irreparable harm; and, in balancing the harm to the parties . . . equity demand[s] the grant of the injunction.” *City of Duluth v. Riverbrooke Props., Inc.*, 233 Ga. App. 46, 55 (1998).

98. The Policy is such an act. As set forth above, the Fulton County BOE is a creature of statute possessing only those powers expressly granted by the General Assembly or necessarily implied therefrom, and its rulemaking authority under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-70(7) is limited to rules “consistent with law.” The Policy exceeds that authority and conflicts with O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-213, 21-2-382, 21-2-385, and 21-2-386 and State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.08(2) by authorizing the receipt of ABM ballots through personnel, at receptacles, at a non-governmental building, during periods, and pursuant to chain-of-custody procedures not authorized by the Election Code.

99. Unless perpetually enjoined, Defendants will implement and enforce the Policy at each primary, election, and runoff conducted in Fulton County, receiving hand-delivered ABM ballots at locations and through personnel and procedures not authorized by the Election Code.

100. The resulting injury is irreparable. Once unlawfully received ballots are commingled with lawfully received ballots, they cannot be segregated or invalidated without disenfranchising the electors who returned them, and the integrity of the affected elections cannot be restored through any monetary or post-election remedy. Plaintiffs therefore have no adequate remedy at law.

101. Plaintiffs are accordingly entitled to a perpetual injunction (A) prohibiting Defendants, in their individual capacities, from implementing or enforcing the Policy at any

primary, election, or runoff conducted in Fulton County, and (B) requiring Defendants, in their individual capacities, to receive ABM ballots only at the locations and through the personnel and procedures authorized by the Election Code.

COUNT IV

Attorney Fees Under O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11 (Asserted Against Defendants in their Individual Capacities)

102. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of their prior allegations.

103. Under O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11, a plaintiff may recover its expenses of litigation if the “defendant has acted in bad faith, has been stubbornly litigious, or has caused the plaintiff unnecessary trouble and expense.”

104. Defendants have acted in bad faith by adopting the Policy and proposing to implement it in contravention of O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-213, 21-2-382, 21-2-385, 21-2-386, and 21-2-408(d), and notwithstanding the legal concerns raised at the Board’s own meetings before adoption.

105. Defendants have caused Plaintiffs unnecessary trouble and expense by adopting and refusing to rescind the Policy notwithstanding its conflict with the Election Code, necessitating this petition for declaratory and injunctive relief.

106. Plaintiffs plead that this Court award their damages for attorneys’ fees and expenses of litigation in accord with O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11 in an amount to be proven at trial.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiffs and against Defendants and provide the following relief:

A. A declaratory judgment that the Policy Regarding Absentee Ballot Drop-Off, approved by the Fulton County BOE on April 20, 2026, exceeds Defendants’ statutory authority,

conflicts with O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-213, 21-2-382, 21-2-385, and 21-2-386 and State Election Board Rule 183-1-14-.08(2), and is null, void, and of no force or effect;

B. An order issuing an interlocutory injunction, pending final disposition of this action, prohibiting Defendants from implementing or enforcing the Policy and directing Defendants to receive ABM ballots only at the locations and through the personnel and procedures authorized by the Election Code and SEB rules;

C. An order issuing a perpetual injunction prohibiting Defendants from implementing or enforcing the Policy and directing Defendants to receive ABM ballots only at the locations and through the personnel and procedures authorized by the Election Code and SEB rules;

D. Plaintiffs' reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred in bringing this action in accord with O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11; and

E. All other, further relief that Plaintiffs may be entitled to.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of June, 2026.

BRADLEY ARANT BOULT CUMMINGS, LLP

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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
GEORGIA REPUBLICAN PARTY,
FULTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN
PARTY, and TIM FLEMING,

Plaintiff,

v.

SHERRI ALLEN, DOUGLASS SELBY,
TERESA K. CRAWFORD, and JULIE
ADAMS in their individual capacities,

Defendants.

Case No. _____

VERIFICATION OF PETITION

I, Michael Ambrosini, being duly sworn, depose and say that I am authorized to give this verification on behalf of Plaintiff Republican National Committee (“RNC”); that I have read the foregoing **Petition for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief** (the “Petition”); that the information used to prepare the Petition was compiled from a variety of sources from within RNC’s business, including business records maintained in the regular and ordinary course of business, as well as from publicly available sources, and with the assistance of RNC’s counsel; and that the information contained therein is true and accurate. The word usage and sentence structure used in the Petition may be that of the attorney assisting in the preparation of the Petition and does not necessarily purport to be the precise language of the executing party.

[NOTARIZED SIGNATURE ON FOLLOWING PAGE]



Michael Ambrosini

Chief of Staff of the Republican National Committee

Sworn to and subscribed

Before me this 18 day

of June, 2026.

Elizabeth Pretzman

Notary Public

My commission expires:

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on

6/18/26 by Elizabeth Pretzman

Date

Name of

Signature of Notarial Officer

Notary Public

My commission expires: 11/14/30



Exhibit A

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**FULTON COUNTY
BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
POLICY REGARDING
ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP-OFF**

1. **Purpose.** The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections (the "Board") is committed to establishing standards for the return of absentee by mail ("ABM") ballots. Recognizing that electors may not want, or may not have insufficient time, to return their ABM ballot via U.S. Mail or other authorized delivery service, this policy is designed to set a process and provide direction to election staff for the acceptance of ABM ballots at polling locations, certain locations with a deputy registrar, and drop boxes as authorized under Georgia laws and regulations.
2. **Advanced Voting Locations.** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(a) and State Election Board ("SEB") Rule 183-1-14-.08, all advanced voting locations that are located in a government building, or also serve as an election day polling place, and which do not have a drop box or located in a building with a permanent registrar's office, are hereby established as additional registrar's offices for the purpose of receiving ABM ballots.
3. **Locations with a Drop Box.** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c) and following the requirements set therein, drop boxes are provided for the return of ABM ballots. For advanced voting locations that contain a drop box, the elector must utilize the drop box to return an ABM ballot.
4. **Main Registrar's Office, Government Center and Service Centers.** ABM ballots may be returned in person to a deputy registrar at the Fulton County Elections Hub and Operation Center ("Hub"), the Fulton County Government Center ("Government Center"), and the North Fulton Service Center or the South Fulton Service Center (together, "Service Centers"), as authorized in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(a). Election staff are authorized to set and advertise hours for the receipt of ABM ballots, which are outside the normal business hours of the Hub, Government Center and Service Centers, including the period following the close of the advanced voting period and prior to the closing of the polls on election day.
5. **Deputy Registrars Authorized to Accept ABM ballots.** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-382(a) and 385(a), electors may hand-deliver ABM ballots to the Board. As authorized by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-213, the Board delegates the authority to receive hand-delivered ABM ballots to deputy registrars and further appoints the poll managers and assistant managers of advanced voting locations as deputy registrars. Each such deputy registrar must meet the requirements and take an oath as specified in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-214.
6. **Procedure for Receipt and Transfer of ABM ballots.** Staff shall follow the standard operating procedures for receiving hand-delivered ABM ballots as approved and adopted by the Board. Any deputy registrar receiving a hand-delivered ABM ballot shall write the day and hour of receipt on a label to be affixed to the envelope, as specified per O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(B). Following the delivery of the ABM ballots to the Hub, authorized staff shall complete the additional procedures as set in that same code section, to include verifying the date of birth, identification, and signing of the oath.

A condensed summary of the standard operating procedure for the receipt of ABM ballots and

transferring such ballots to the Hub is as follows:

- a. For locations with a drop box, ABM ballot drop-off must only occur during the hours of advanced voting. Voters may deposit ballots directly into the drop box and are not required to engage with poll workers. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-382(c)(3), all ABM ballots deposited in the drop box shall be collected by a team consisting of at least two (2) people at the conclusion of each day of advanced voting. Upon removal of the ballots from the sealed container, the ballots will be placed into a sealed bag for transport, and the collection team shall complete and sign a ballot transfer form containing all information required in that code section. The collection team shall immediately transfer the ABM ballots to the Hub, where they are stored in a locked cage overnight. The following morning, authorized staff shall verify the seal number on the transport bag, break the seal, retrieve and count the ballots, sign the chain of custody form, log the ballots, apply a date and timestamp documenting receipt at the Hub, and store them in a locked cabinet until early processing commences.
- b. For advanced voting locations without a drop box, voters wanting to hand deliver an ABM ballot should provide directly to a deputy registrar at that location. In addition to the deputy registrar affixing a label with a time and date stamp to the outer envelope, the individual submitting the ballot shall fill-in and complete the remaining information requested on that label, to include the person's name, relationship to voter, signature, and contact information. The person submitting the ABM ballot shall then place it in a secured ABM ballot container designated for that purpose. When not in use, the container shall be securely stored within the enclosed polling area in a manner that is visible to poll watchers or other authorized individuals. The number of ABM ballots collected are to be recorded on a chain of custody form at the conclusion of each day of advanced voting, any additional day in which the Government Center or Service Centers are open for the receipt of ABM ballots, and following the close of polls on election day. The number of ballots collected each day shall be recorded on the chain of custody form by the deputy registrar. At least two (2) persons shall transfer the ABM ballots to the Hub, via a sealed bag for transport, along with the chain of custody form. Upon arrival at the Hub, the ballots will be stored in a locked cage overnight. The following morning, authorized staff shall verify the seal number on the transport bag, break the seal, retrieve and count the ballots, sign the chain of custody form, log the ballots, apply a date and timestamp documenting receipt at the Hub, and store them in a locked cabinet until early processing commences.
- c. For the Government Center and Service Centers, voters wanting to hand deliver an ABM ballot should provide directly to a deputy registrar within the Registrar's Office at that location. In addition to the deputy registrar affixing a label with a time and date stamp to the outer envelope, the individual submitting the ballot shall fill-in and complete the remaining information requested on that label, to include the person's name, relationship to voter, signature, and contact information. The person submitting the ABM ballot shall then place it in a secured ABM ballot container designated for that purpose. When not in use, the container shall be securely stored. The number of ABM ballots collected are to be recorded on a chain of custody form at the conclusion of each day in which the Government Center or Service Centers are open for the receipt of ABM ballots. At least two (2) persons shall transfer the

ABM ballots to the Hub, via a sealed bag for transport, along with the chain of custody form. Upon arrival at the Hub, the ballots will be stored in a locked cage overnight. The following morning, staff shall verify the seal number on the transport bag, break the seal, retrieve and count the ballots, sign the chain of custody form, log the ballots, apply a date and timestamp documenting receipt at the Hub, and store them in a locked cabinet until early processing commences.

- d. For the Hub, voters wanting to hand deliver an ABM ballot should provide directly to a deputy registrar within the Registrar's Office. In addition to the deputy registrar affixing a label with a time and date stamp to the outer envelope, the individual submitting the ballot shall fill-in and complete the remaining information requested on that label, to include the person's name, relationship to voter, signature, and contact information. The number of ABM ballots collected should be recorded. All ABM ballots hand delivered to the Hub shall be processed and stored in the same manner as ABM ballots returned by mail to the Hub are processed and stored.
7. **Procedure for Processing ABM ballots at the Hub.** Authorized staff at the Hub are responsible for retrieving from the locked cage all ABM ballots received by mail or hand-delivery and processing those ballots. Staff shall process ABM ballots in the manner specified in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386 to include verifying the date of birth, identification, and signing of the oath. All accepted ABM ballots shall be securely stored and returned to a locked cage until such time designated to proceed with the opening and scanning of ABM ballots. To the extent it is logistically feasible, the locked cage containing ABM ballots should be placed in an area that is visible to the public during the normal operating hours of the Hub and during hours in which the public is permitted to be in the Hub to observe the election process. However, with the exception of authorized poll watchers or election monitors, no member of the public is permitted beyond the designated public viewing area.