

Bernard & Johnson, LLC

Catherine S. Bernard, Esq.
5 Dunwoody Park, #100, Atlanta Georgia 30338
Office: 404.477.4755 Fax: 404.592.9089
Catherine@Justice.Law

Jordan "Alex" Johnson, Esq.
5 Dunwoody Park, #100, Atlanta Georgia 30338
Office: 404.477.4755 F: 404.592.9089
Alex@Justice.Law

June 27, 2023

Re: Authority of Board of Elections

To County Commissioners, Board of Elections Members, or others Whom it May Concern,

I write to you in my capacity as a concerned citizen, to highlight and emphasize our shared commitment towards the administration of free, fair, and trustworthy elections in our county. It has been brought to my attention that there are increasing concerns about the practicability and public trust in the use of voting machines in the upcoming elections.

Furthermore, it appears that there are county attorneys that consistently are attempting to cause fear among public officials, namely Board of Elections members and County Commissioners, in order to discourage them from exercising any power or authority to increase trust in our election system. This letter aims to point out the legal grounds on which the County Election Board and the County Government have the authorization to choose the use of paper ballots over voting machines, and encourage that they use their power as elected officials to stand with the public trust, and not with monetarily interested politicians and their consultants, in order to restore faith in our electoral system.

I refer to the Georgia Code § 21-2-334 (2022), which states: "If a method of nomination or election for any candidate or office, or of voting on any question is prescribed by law, in which the use of voting machines is not possible or practicable... the superintendent may arrange to have the voting for such candidates or offices or for such questions conducted by paper ballots."

In the spirit of this law, the ongoing issues with voting machines, their credibility, and the potential inability to ensure a fair and free election (as shown my

Democratic primary vote in DeKalb County, Georgia, in 2022), indeed render their use impracticable. The multitude of candidates seeking nomination or elected office and other reasons contribute to the impracticability of the voting machines. In these circumstances, the law provides for the use of paper ballots.

Furthermore, the current practice of using electronic ballot markers producing Quick Response (QR) codes poses a significant problem. As per the Official Code of Georgia Annotated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-300, any electronic ballot markers must produce paper ballots in a format readable by the elector. Unfortunately, QR codes do not satisfy this requirement as they are not readable by the elector without the use of specialized equipment, thereby undermining transparency and trust in the electoral process and rendering their use impracticable.

Therefore, in accordance with GA Code § 21-2-334 and O.C.G.A. 21-2-300, it is my opinion that it would be both appropriate and legal to implement the use of paper ballots in the upcoming election to ensure its smooth conduct and the maintenance of public trust.

I kindly urge you to consider this proposition to switch to hand marked paper ballots for the upcoming election. The essence of democracy lies in a fair and transparent voting process, and the trust of our fellow citizens in that process. It is our collective responsibility to safeguard the integrity of our electoral system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your prompt action to address these concerns.

With Regards, I am,

/s/ Jordan Johnson

Jordan "Alex" Johnson