IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

SHERRI ALLEN, in her capacity as Chair of the FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS, and NADINE WILLIAMS, in her capacity as Executive Director of the FULTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS, *Petitioners,* v. STATE OF GEORGIA, *Respondent.*	Civil Action File No.: 24CV014632

PROTECTIVE ORDER AND FINAL ORDER

This matter came before the Court on October 12, 2026, for a hearing on Respondent's Motion to Lift Stay and Compel Production of Electronic Records filed August 4, 2026. The parties appeared and were represented by counsel.

Following the hearing, this Court entered an Order on October 14 regarding Petitioners' production to the Georgia State Election Board ("SEB") of a digital copy of records created by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and delivered to the Fulton County Attorney's Office (the "FBI Drive") in response to subpoenas issued by Respondent which form the basis of this action. The October 14 Order directed that

the parties meet and confer and, by noon on November 20, 2026, either (a) submit a final proposed protective order executed by both the SEB and the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections; or (b) each party submit its proposed protective order, including a production schedule. Each party submitted its own proposed protective order. Having considered the proposed orders submitted by the parties, the Court enters the following Order.

1.

This **PROTECTIVE ORDER** shall govern the production and use of the digital copy of records (the "FBI Records") created by the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and delivered to Petitioners, which are to be produced in response to the subpoenas issued by the State Election Board ("SEB" or "Board") on August 20, 2026:

2.

As used herein, "FBI Records" means a true and correct digital copy of all records created by the FBI and delivered to Petitioners, to wit, the digital copies of the Fulton County 2020 election materials seized by the FBI on or about January 28, 2026.

3.

No later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, Petitioner shall deliver the FBI Records without redaction to SEB in the form of one or more flash

drives or other similar digital file storage device. SEB shall reimburse the Petitioners up to $500 for the cost of flash drives and a reasonable amount of time of labor, up to two hours, for copying. Petitioners shall bear all other costs of production of the FBI Records to the SEB.

4.

Petitioners and the Clerk of the Fulton County Superior Court ("Clerk") will be responsible for ensuring that the media containing the FBI Records will be a true, correct or complete copy of the FBI Records delivered to Petitioners. Petitioners and the Clerk have expressly disclaimed any other representation as to the accuracy or completeness of the FBI Records.

5.

The FBI Records shall be delivered by Petitioners' counsel to Respondent's counsel.

6.

The FBI Records produced by Petitioners shall be considered and used as materials that are a part of investigations initiated by the SEB pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-31(5).

7.

The SEB shall have the authority to use the FBI Records for the performance of its duties assigned in O.G.G.A. § 21-2-31. While the applicable investigations

are pending, the SEB shall not disclose any of the FBI Records wholly, in part, or in substance to any individual, except the following persons:

a) To the parties' respective counsel of record, their associated attorneys, and their regularly employed support staff, including paralegal and clerical personnel;

b) To SEB's Members, Executive Director, Deputy Director, Investigators, Data Analyst, and Open Records Officer (upon execution of the Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound attached as **Exhibit A** hereto and discussed below in Paragraph 8);

c) To the Office of State Administrative Hearings, the superior courts of Georgia, the federal district courts of Georgia, and any court of competent appellate jurisdiction, as well as court personnel, including stenographic reporter regularly employed by the court;

d) Only on an as-needed basis to witnesses, prospective witnesses, or persons requested by counsel to furnish technical or other expert services, provided that such persons described above agree not to disclose any of the FBI Records wholly, in part, or in substance to any party or person not part of or otherwise employed by the SEB and agree to be bound by this Protective Order (upon execution of the Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound attached as **Exhibit A**

hereto and discussed below in Paragraph 8).

8.

Prior to disclosure of the FBI Records to persons described in Paragraph 7(b) or (d), the SEB or SEB's counsel shall cause such person to be furnished with a copy of this Protective Order and shall execute the Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound attached as **Exhibit A** hereto.

9.

While the SEB investigation remains pending, the SEB shall not disclose any FBI Record wholly, in part, or in substance in response to any Open Records request under O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(4).

10.

While the SEB investigation remains pending, the SEB shall maintain the FBI Records as provided by state law as government records and in a secure location consistent with the SEB Election Files Security Management Policy. SEB staff shall ensure that the FBI Records will be accessible only to persons authorized to use and access the FBI Records pursuant to Paragraph 7 and, if required by Paragraph 8, that have executed the Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound attached as **Exhibit A**.

11.

SEB shall not publicly disclose the FBI Records or portions of the FBI

Records that are exempt from disclosure pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a) or O.C.G.A. § 21-2-225 except when necessary for presentation of potential violations of SEB rules or election code to the SEB or adjudicatory bodies or to provide notice to potential violators. Nothing in this Protective Order shall otherwise prevent the SEB from meeting its statutory obligations.

12.

To the extent Petitioners' requests for declaratory judgement and injunctive relief contained in their September 3, 2025 Amended Petition were not finally resolved by prior Court order or action of the parties, those requests for relief are hereby **DENIED**. With the Court's entry of the December 19, 2025 Order Denying Quashal, the October 14, 2026 Order, and this Final Order, the Court has addressed all issues raised in this litigation, and this case shall be **CLOSED**.

13.

The Protective Order contained herein shall survive and remain in full force and effect after the termination of this litigation and closure of this case.

SO ORDERED, this 24th day of November, 2026.

Kelly Lee Ellerbe

_____

Judge Kelly Lee Ellerbe
Superior Court of Fulton County

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____, declare as follows:

1. I have received a copy of the Protective Order entered in the case of *Allen et al. v. State of Georgia*, Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, Case No. 24CV014632.
2. I have carefully read and understand the terms of the Protective Order.
3. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all provisions of the Protective Order.
4. I understand that all records protected under the Protective Order may be disclosed to me only for purposes specified therein.
5. I will not disclose, discuss, reveal, summarize, copy, disseminate, or otherwise communicate the contents of any protected records to any person except as expressly permitted by the Protective Order.
6. I will use protected records and information contained therein solely for the purposes authorized by the Protective Order and for no other purpose.
7. Upon conclusion of the investigation that is the subject of this Protective Order, or at any earlier time required by the Protective Order, I will return or destroy all protected materials in my possession, custody, or control, including all copies, extracts, summaries, notes, and electronically stored versions to the State Election Board, as required by the Protective Order.
8. I understand that unauthorized disclosure of protected information may constitute a violation of a court order and may subject me to sanctions, contempt proceedings, or other remedies as determined by the Court.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Employer/Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____