



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: On August 11, 2026, Mr. Marcello Banes, Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners, was indicted on one count of Aiding and Assisting the Preparation of a False Tax Return, one count of Wire Fraud Conspiracy, ten counts of Wire Fraud, and two counts of Theft of Government Property; and

WHEREAS: This indictment alleges facts not contained in the previous indictment considered by the review commission appointed on January 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS: After the fourteen-day period following receipt of the indictment passed, I appointed members to the review commission on September 4, 2026, to determine whether the indictment relates to and adversely affects the administration of the Office of Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners such that the rights and interests of the public are adversely affected thereby and to make a written report to me within 14 days with a recommendation as to whether Mr. Banes should be suspended from office; and

WHEREAS: By report dated September 14, 2026, the review commission found that the indictment relates to and adversely affects the administration of the Office of Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners such that the rights and interests of the public are adversely affected thereby and recommended Mr. Banes be suspended from office in accordance with Code Section 45-5-6.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO CODE SECTION 45-5-6, AND THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That Mr. Banes is hereby suspended from the Office of Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners immediately and without further action pending the final disposition of the case or until the expiration of his term of office, whichever occurs first, as provided by Code Section 45-5-6(c).

This 24th day of September 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. H.", written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR