

GA Legislative Update 2024

Election bills so far

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**Our Legislative Priorities
(RIP but due to legislative taxidermy may
show up within another bill)**

SB 221 Formerly to revise language that must be used on absentee ballot applications distributed by persons or entities but now about voter registration

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Williams of the 25th, Harbin of the 16th, Anavitarte of the 31st and Gooch of the 51st

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64652>

- ~~revise the language that must be used on absentee ballot applications distributed by persons or entities making it clear that a ballot application is not a ballot~~
- ~~mandate risk limiting audits following all state-wide primaries or elections~~
- ~~penalize with a misdemeanor the willful neglect or refusal of a county or municipal election superintendent to call an election where required to do so by a local Act of the General Assembly~~
- Election workers must be citizens of US
- Homeless may register with the county courthouse as permanent mailing address
- Person registered to vote out of state deemed as changed residency
- Provision to establish residency
- At motor vehicles opt out changed to opt in (discussed but not in the bill)
- Grounds for elector challenges include registering to vote elsewhere, missing/incorrect data, NCOA data
- Voting on certain (small) elections by paper ballot for example special elections
- Defines “acts in any other manner to intimidate” poll workers or election officers as conduct that causes reasonable fear for such person's safety or acts in a manner that intimidates any poll officer or election official from faithfully performing his or her duties.

02/22/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

01/08/2024 Senate Recommited

03/02/2023 Senate Read Second Time

03/01/2023 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

02/22/2023 Senate Read and Referred

02/21/2023 Senate Hopper

Senate Committee: [Ethics](#)



HB 426 Unseal ballots and other election documents (= SB 122 from 2023)

By: Representatives Blackmon, Shaw 146th, Taylor, Darlene 173rd, Jones, Jan 47th, Jasperse, Rick 11th, Ballinger, Mandi 23rd
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64443>

- Remove provisions for keeping such ballots and documents under (legal) seal.
- Retain and preserve such ballots and other documents for at least 24 months under (physical) seal in a manner so as to prevent such ballots or other documents from being altered, amended, damaged, modified, or mutilated, including during any public inspection of such ballots.
- **Ballots, numbered lists of voters, and oaths of poll officers shall be subject to public inspection after initial certification.**
- The State Election Board shall promulgate rules and regulations providing for access for visual reviews of original ballots, copying ballots, and the costs of such record retrieval, inspection, and copying services.

02/26/2024. House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

03/29/2023 House Withdrawn, Recommitted

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Talking points: <https://voterga.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/HB426-SB122-Talking-Points.pdf>



HB 17 Sealing of ballots in secure containers and chain of custody for ballots and procedures

By: Representatives Powell, Alan 33rd, Leverett, Rob 123rd, DeLoach, Buddy 167th, Smith, Tyler Pau 18th, Jasperse, Rick 11th and Anderson, Victor 10th

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63498>

- Provide for the sealing of ballots in secure containers.
- Drop boxes shall be closed in a manner that prevents the insertion of ballots when voting is not being conducted at that location.
- Ballots shall be placed in a locked transfer case upon being removed from the drop box. Such cases shall be sealed with a numbered seal.
- 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.
- At the conclusion of the scanning of ballots, such scanned ballots shall be stored in tamper-resistant containers sealed with numbered seals.
- No voted ballots shall be handled without a poll official being present and without documentation on the chain of custody documentation of who is handling such ballots and when and why such ballots are being handled.
- Provide for chain of custody documentation and procedures.

02/21/2024 House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

03/29/2023 House Withdrawn, Recommitted

House Committee: Governmental Affairs



Resolutions Update

SR 465 Investigate Fani

By: Senators Dolezal of the 27th, Tillery of the 19th, Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Beach of the 21st and 25 others
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66194>

RESOLUTION to investigate Fani Willis creating the Senate Special Committee on Investigations; to provide for the issuance of compulsory process to secure the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents and materials

01/26/2024 Senate Passed/Adopted As Amended

01/26/2024 Senate Third Read

01/25/2024 Senate Read Second Time

01/24/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported

01/23/2024 Senate Read and Referred

01/22/2024 Senate Hopper

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
01/26/2024	Senate Vote #432	30	19	1	6
01/26/2024	Senate Vote #433	30	19	1	6



HR 872 Impeachment charges DA Fani Willis

By: Charlice Byrd, 20th

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66326>

A RESOLUTION voting impeachment charges against Fani T. Willis, district attorney for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit; and for other purposes.

01/29/2024. House Second Readers

01/26/2024. House First Readers

01/25/2024 House Hopper

House Committee: Rules

https://www.gaconstitutionparty.org/support_hr_872_impeach_fani_willis



HR 780 Only citizens have the right to vote (SR 454 still alive)

SR <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66139>

HR <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66036>

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to clarify that only citizens of the United States shall have a right to vote in elections.

~~“Every person who is a citizen~~ Only individuals who are citizens of the United States and a ~~resident residents~~ of Georgia...”

- 02/29/2024 House Third Reading Lost
- 02/29/2024. House Third Readers
- 02/16/2024 House Committee Favorably Reported
- 01/22/2024. House Second Readers
- 01/12/2024 House First Readers
- 01/11/2024 House Hopper
- House Committee: [Judiciary](#)

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
02/29/2024	House Vote #658	98	61	4	17



SR 221 Study on Run-off Elections

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Williams of the 25th, Beach of the 21st, Summers of the 13th, Jones II of the 22nd and 8 others

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64912>

A RESOLUTION creating the Joint Study Committee on Run-off Elections; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has seen increased scrutiny for its number of runoffs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is one of three states with the option of holding general election runoffs; and

WHEREAS, it is important to analyze the cost of runoffs in all state-wide, state legislative, and local races; and

WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the best course of action with regard to runoffs; and

WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasizes alternate options for elections to elect the best candidate, maximize voter participation, increase civility in elections, and save taxpayer dollars

- 9 members including: 1 the SOS or his designee, 4 appointed by the Senate President and 4 appointed by the House Speaker
- undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

02/26/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported

01/08/2024 Senate Recommitted

03/02/2023 Senate Read Second Time

03/01/2023 Senate Committee Favorably Reported

02/28/2023 Senate Read and Referred

02/27/2023 Senate Hopper

Senate Committee: Rules



Cross Over Update

HB 974 Secretary of State; establish and maintain a state-wide system for the posting of scanned paper ballots

By: Representatives LaHood of the 175th, Anderson of the 10th, Leverett of the 123rd, Blackmon of the 146th, Jones of the 25th, and 1 other
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66159>

Require the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a state-wide system for the posting of scanned paper ballots; to provide for minimum resolution requirements for such scans

- Secretary of State to establish and maintain a state-wide system for the posting of scanned paper ballots no less than 200 dots per inch.
- all absentee ballots tabulated shall be scanned so that there is a digital image of each such ballot. All such scans shall have a resolution of no less than 600 dots per inch, or the highest resolution possible within the certified voting system. All such scans shall be posted and maintained by the program.

Original provision was to scan ballots at 1200 dpi

02/29/2024. Senate Read and Referred

Senate Committee: Ethics

02/27/2024. House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

02/27/2024. House Third Readers

02/09/2024 House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

02/07/2024 House Withdrawn and recommitted to Governmental Affairs by Rules Committee

02/01/2024. House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

01/24/2024 House Second Readers

01/23/2024 House First Readers

01/22/2024 House Hopper

Committee: Governmental Affairs

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
02/27/2024	House Vote #567	167	0	8	5



SB 368 Government Transparency and Campaign Finance; Prohibit foreign nationals from contributing to candidates or campaign committees

By: Senators Williams of the 25th, Burns of the 23rd, Dolezal of the 27th, Robertson of the 29th, Strickland of the 17th and 5 others

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66138>

- to prohibit foreign nationals from contributing to candidates or campaign committees
- to prohibit candidates and campaign committees from accepting contributions from foreign nationals
- to require agents of foreign principals to register with the State Ethics Commissioner
- to require agents of foreign principals to disclose to government agencies and the General Assembly when such agents are advocating on behalf of a foreign principal

02/29/2024. House First Readers

House Committee: Judiciary

02/27/2024. Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute

02/26/2024. Senate Third Read

02/26/2024. Senate Engrossed

02/16/2024 Senate Read Second Time

02/15/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

01/23/2024 Senate Read and Referred

01/22/2024 Senate Hopper

Senate Committee: Ethics

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
02/26/2024	Senate Vote #542	34	20	1	1
02/27/2024	Senate Vote #565	52	0	1	3



HB 986 (=SB 392) Criminalize deep fake interference

Representatives Thomas of the 21st, Jones of the 25th, Jasperse of the 11th, Camp of the 135th, Gunter of the 8th, and 1 other
HB <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66172>

Protection against the use of deep fake materials in bad faith to significantly influence elections by reducing certain candidates' chances of being elected or by suppressing voter turnout through mass confusion.

- Materially deceptive media' means a video recording, video file, audio recording, or audio file, still image, or still image file that: (A) Appears to depict a real individual's speech or conduct that did not occur in reality; and (B) Would appear to a reasonable observer to be authentic.
- Creating confusion about the administration of such election.
- Felony punished by imprisonment two to five years and by a fine not to exceed \$50,000.00.
- Conditions and disclosures for the use of AI including in campaign materials.

02/26/2024 Senate Read and Referred

Senate Committee: [Judiciary](#)

02/22/2024. House Passed/Adopted By Substitute Modified Structured Rule

02/22/2024 House Third Readers

02/16/2024 House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

01/29/2024. House Withdrawn, Recommitted

01/24/2024. House Second Readers

01/23/2024 House First Readers

01/22/2024 House Hopper

House Committee: [Technology and Infrastructure Innovation](#)

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
02/22/2024	House Vote #528	148	22	5	5



Crossed Over Before Last Week

SB 355 Prohibit use of rank choice voting

By: Senators Robertson of the 29th, Burns of the 23rd, Williams of the 25th, Anavitarte of the 31st and Dolezal of the 27th
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66092>

- Defines 'ranked-choice voting' means a voting method that allows electors to rank candidates for an office in order of preference and has ballots cast be tabulated in multiple rounds following the elimination of a candidate until a single candidate attains a majority.
- Ranked-choice voting shall not be used in determining the election or nomination of any candidate to any local, state, or federal elective office

01/30/2024 House Second Readers
01/29/2024 House First Readers
House Committee: [Governmental Affairs](#)
01/26/2024 Senate Passed/Adopted
01/26/2024 Senate Third Read
01/26/2024 Senate Engrossed
01/25/2024 Senate Read Second Time
01/24/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported
01/22/2024 Senate Read and Referred
01/12/2024 Senate Hopper
Senate Committee: [Ethics](#)

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
01/26/2024	Senate Vote #431	29	18	3	6
01/26/2024	Senate Vote #435	31	19	1	5



SB 358 Authorize the State Election Board to investigate the SOS

By: Burns, Max , 23rd Gooch, Steve , 51st Robertson, Randy , 29th Dolezal, Greg , 27th Anavitarte, Jason , 31st Payne, Chuck , 54th
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66094>

Relating to the State Election Board, so as to remove the Secretary of State from the board; to authorize the board to investigate the Secretary of State; to provide for the hiring of investigators; to require the Secretary of State to cooperate with certain investigations.

- Removes the Secretary of State as an ex officio nonvoting member of the board.
- Employ and fix the compensation of personnel, including investigators, as determined necessary
- The Secretary of State shall, upon the request of the State Election Board, provide any and all necessary support, cooperation, and assistance

01/30/2024. House Second Readers

01/29/2024. House First Readers

House Committee: [Governmental Affairs](#)

01/26/2024. Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute

01/26/2024. Senate Third Read

01/26/2024. Senate Engrossed

01/25/2024 Senate Read Second Time

01/24/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

01/22/2024 Senate Read and Referred

01/12/2024 Senate Hopper

Senate Committee: [Ethics](#)

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
01/26/2024	Senate Vote #431	29	18	3	6
01/26/2024	Senate Vote #434	30	19	1	6



HB 976 Ballots shall use paper with a visible watermark security feature

By: Representatives LaHood of the 175th, Anderson of the 10th, Leverett of the 123rd, Blackmon of the 146th, Jones of the 25th, and 1 other
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66162>

Ballots used in optical scan voting systems shall use paper with a visible watermark security feature; to provide that ballots used in ballot marking devices shall use paper with a visible watermark security feature

02/01/2024. Senate Read and Referred
Senate Committee: Ethics

01/31/2024 House Passed/Adopted
01/31/2024 House Third Readers
01/30/2024 House Postponed
01/25/2024 House Committee Favorably Reported
01/24/2024 House Second Readers
01/23/2024 House First Readers
01/22/2024 House Hopper
House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
01/31/2024	House Vote #421	167	1	6	6



SB 189 Count the text portions of ballots for vote tabulation and recounts purposes

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Dolezal of the 27th, Brass of the 28th, Anavitarte of the 31st, Moore of the 53rd and 13 others

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64471>

provide that the text portions of ballots produced by ballot marking devices shall be counted for vote tabulation and recounts purposes instead of any machine coding

02/08/2024 House Second Readers

02/07/2024. House First Readers

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

02/06/2024. Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute

02/06/2024. Senate Third Read

02/06/2024. Senate Engrossed

01/31/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Sul

01/29/2024 Senate Recommitted

01/26/2024 Senate Read Second Time

01/25/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported

02/16/2023 Senate Read and Referred

02/15/2023 Senate Hopper

Senate Committee: [Ethics](#)

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
02/06/2024	Senate Vote #467	30	23	1	2
02/06/2024	Senate Vote #472	31	22	1	2



HB 977 Number of contests subject to risk-limiting audits

By: Representatives LaHood of the 175th, Anderson of the 10th, Leverett of the 123rd, Blackmon of the 146th, Jones of the 25th, and 1 other
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66163>

Expand the number of contests subject to risk-limiting audits to contests at the top of the ballot AND one from:

- United States Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State
- School Superintendent, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture,
- Commissioner of Labor, Supreme Court Justice, Judge of the Court of Appeals, or
- Public Service Commissioner

- Provide for percentages of risk limits, lowering the risk limit percentages
- Provide procedures for selection of contests subject to risk-limiting audits

Original provision reduced from auditing 7 races to auditing 2 by RLA

02/13/2024 Senate Read and Referred

Senate Committee: Ethics

02/12/2024. House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

02/12/2024 House Third Readers

02/01/2024. House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

01/24/2024 House Second Readers

01/23/2024 House First Readers

01/22/2024 House Hopper

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
02/12/2024	House Vote #461	164	3	9	4

