



SOUTH

NEXT EXIT



VOTERS DIGEST

Legislative Edition

Lift Every Vote
And Rise
LIFTEVERYVOTEANDRISE.COM

**MID-TERM
Elections**

**What's On
The Ballot?**

**New 2026
Georgia Laws**

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Lift Every Vote And Rise

OUR PURPOSE

Lift Every Vote And Rise is non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to increasing voting behavior with a concentration on historically underserved voters of color and underrepresented voters.

Our initiative works to strengthen public participation in our democracy while ensuring that political news and information are both accessible to citizens. Through a powerful culmination of coalition building, grassroots organizing, research and public education - we spotlight national and municipal issues that affect voters.

WHAT WE DO

- Publish Voter Guides & Voter Digests
- Curate Voter Experiences
- Host Community Engagement Events
- Host Voter Education Workshops
- Host Voter Registration Drives
- Cultivate Strategic Partnerships
- Coordinate Volunteer/Canvassing Initiatives
- Campaign Consulting

CONTACT US

Email: info@lifteveryvoteandrise.com
www.lifteveryvoteandrise.com

OUR WORK

THE VOTERS GUIDE

Lift Every Vote And Rise publishes a digital and printed non-partisan Voters Guide designed to help voters understand what—and who—is on the ballot so they can make informed decisions when voting.

Why A Voters Guide?

Voters Guides work because they meet voters where they are—busy, skeptical, and often overwhelmed by politics. Voters Guides often reduce voter fatigue and apathy.

Comprehensive Voters Guides shift the focus from conflict to clarity, helping voters feel informed rather than frustrated. By closing information gaps, Voters Guides help ensure more voices—especially those historically underrepresented—are able to take part in the process.

THE VOTERS DIGEST

Lift Every Vote publishes a bi-monthly Voters Digest that delivers community news while building relationships via political storytelling and insight. The Voters Digest assists individuals in understanding what is happening within the political landscape on the national & municipal levels.

UNDER THE GOLD DOME



We're All Stakeholders... See What's Going On In The People's House.

The Georgia 2026 Legislative Session will convene on Monday January 12, 2026 at 10:00am. The general public is not allowed on the House or Senate floor while in session. You can watch House and Senate sessions online (www.legis.ga.gov) or from the fourth-floor gallery.

The Georgia Legislative Session is a 40-day non consecutive period where bills are written and passed. Bills that are passed by both chambers before or on the 40th day are forwarded to the Governor - who can approve or veto the bill. The two most important days during the session are Crossover Day (Deadline for bills to be passed out of either Legislative Chamber) and Sine Die (The last day of the session).

Find Your Legislator: Use the Secretary of State website to identify your House and Senate districts and who represents you: mvp.sos.ga.gov.

Contact Your Legislator: You can find your legislators' phone numbers and office locations on the General Assembly's website: legis.ga.gov.

How To Track Bills:

Online: Visit www.legis.ga.gov and search for legislation. You can enter a bill number (*if you know it*) or search by key word. This allows you to view the bill in its entirety, track it through committees and see roll call votes. Listings of committee meetings can also be found on the websites of both the House and Senate.

In Person: Locate paper copies of bills in the House clerk's office (Room 309) and the secretary of the Senate's office (Room 353). Each has a desk where you can request a copy of the bill. Committee hearing notices are posted daily on a bulletin board outside each office and meeting calendars appear on monitors in the Legislative Office Building.

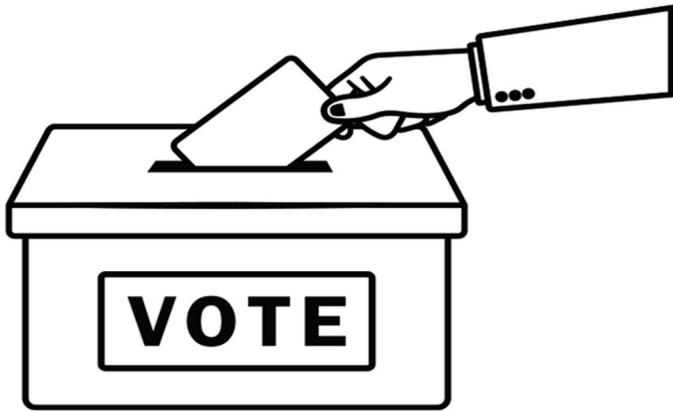


2026 Georgia Election

Georgia will play a pivotal role in the 2026 midterm landscape because it features one of the nation's most competitive U.S. Senate races. Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff is seeking re-election, and national Republicans have identified his seat as a top pickup opportunity. With control of the U.S. Senate potentially hinging on just a few races, the outcome in Georgia could play a decisive role in determining which party holds the majority.

What's On The Ballot?

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- U.S. Senate Representatives
- U.S. House of Representatives
- State Senate
- State House of Representatives
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- Labor Commissioner
- Insurance Commissioner
- State Superintendent of Schools
- Public Service Commission
- County Commissioners



Key Dates

Qualifying period for all candidates for the 2026 General Election cycle: March 2-March 6, 2026

- Special Election: March 17, 2026
- Special Election Runoff: April 14, 2026
- Primary Election: May 19, 2026
- Primary Runoff: June 16, 2026
- General Election: November 3, 2026
- General Runoff Election: December 1, 2026



Why Mid-Terms Matter

Voting in Georgia in 2026 is important because the state's races are competitive, influential on national politics and can decide leadership on key issues affecting people's lives—locally and across the country.

Midterms give voters a chance to respond to the performance of those in power, rewarding results or signaling the need for change. Midterm results can shift national momentum, shape future legislation, and set the stage for the next presidential election.

Is It Time For New Leadership On The Fulton County Commission?

With Marvin Arrington, Jr. (District 5) declaring his bid for Chair of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, challenging longtime Chair Robb Pitts, the 2026 municipal election season was already gearing up to be a political must-see event.

Dana Barrett (District 3) also previously announced a run for Fulton County Commission Chair before pivoting to the Secretary of State race. At press time, newly elected Commissioner Mo Ivory (District 4) announced her run for Commission Chair via her Instagram page.

For more than a decade, Robb Pitts has been a defining figure in Fulton County government. As Commission Chair, Pitts has presided over periods of growth, controversy, institutional reform, and national scrutiny. His tenure places him among the most experienced county leaders in Georgia. But with experience also comes a fundamental question that every democracy must confront: When is it time to pass the torch?

Leadership is not only measured by longevity, but by relevance to the moment. Fulton County today is not the same county it was when Pitts first assumed the chairmanship. It is larger, younger, more diverse, and facing more complex challenges—housing affordability, public trust in elections, infrastructure strain, public safety, and economic equity across North and South Fulton. These challenges demand fresh energy, new perspectives, and leadership that reflects the evolving priorities of residents.

The emergence of challengers from within the commission itself signals something deeper than political ambition. It reflects a growing belief—even among colleagues—that the county may benefit from a reset in leadership. Healthy democracies encourage competition, debate, and transition. They do not rely indefinitely on familiar names simply because they are familiar.

This moment is less about whether Robb Pitts has served Fulton County well in the past, and more about whether the county's future requires a different approach. Veteran leadership can provide guidance—but it can also create space for the next generation to lead.

As Fulton County voters immediately look ahead, they deserve a serious conversation about vision, transparency and momentum. The question before them is not whether Chairman Pitts has earned his place in the county's history - he has. The question is whether now is the time for Fulton County to turn the page and embrace new leadership for a new era.

HOLLAND GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS



Holland Group Public Relations (HGPR) is an Atlanta, GA based boutique public relations firm specializing in media relations, content development crisis communication, community outreach, and civic engagement.

From launching public relations campaigns to creating the logistics and creative design of viral marketing efforts, HGPR has the capacity to provide an integrated communications approach to ensure each client achieves their individual goals.

Kishana L. Holland,
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POLITICS IN AND AROUND ATLANTA...



Around Town: With the 2025 Municipal Elections behind us, we welcome new Mayors, City Council and PSC Commissioners. Stockbridge elected 22 year old Jayden Williams, the youngest Mayor in the city's history. Jaha Howard championed over veteran politician Roger Bruce in the runoff special election to represent the 35th Senate District. City of South Fulton made history by electing the first female Mayor to lead the city. Currently seven of the fifteen cities in Fulton County are being led by female mayors-including five of color.

East Point: Newly elected Mayor Keisha Chapman is accused of illegally removing campaign signage during the run-off election. Taking down, destroying, or stealing someone else's sign can be treated as theft, vandalism, or criminal trespass because you're interfering with another's property rights. Not only is it unlawful - it can lead to criminal charges or civil liability. It's also worth noting that Chapman brazenly used her influence to weaponize the East Point Police Department to intimidate and harass individuals who shared factual information regarding her Republican political affiliation. Chapman summoned the police on December 5, 2025 at the St. Stephen's Missionary Baptist Church polling location to prevent individuals from legally campaigning. This egregious behavior constitutes election interference and threatens the fairness, credibility and legitimacy of elections.

College Park: College Park resident Michael Corbin voluntarily surrendered to law enforcement on December 30, 2025 and admitted responsibility for destroying and removing signage on City Hall property and other locations in the city. The signage depicted holiday greetings from College Park Councilmember Dr. Jamelle McKenzie. Corbin is the husband of former Ward 1 Council candidate Karen Corbin who was unsuccessful in the 2023 election and lost to Dr. McKenzie. McKenzie is the first woman and African-American elected to represent Ward 1. Her entire tenure on council has been attacked with baseless rhetoric and an unsuccessful re-call petition filed in 2024 by a group of residents that were unsatisfied with the results of the election. The case was ultimately dismissed.

City of South Fulton: Several former South Fulton Police Department officers have sued the City of South Fulton and Chief Keith Meadows, alleging retaliation and wrongful termination after reporting misconduct, abuse of authority by Meadows, withholding wages and unfair practices, attempts to influence internal investigations and polygraph outcomes and alleged protection of a relative in a criminal situation. Chief Meadows was placed on temporary paid administrative leave while the investigation proceeds and is currently receiving a retirement package.

NEW GEORGIA LAWS TAKING EFFECT IN 2026

HB 567: Teledentistry Coverage

Authorizes regulated teledentistry in Georgia

Requires dental plans to cover qualifying teledentistry services

Local government, zoning and environmental regulation



HB 351: Solid Waste Permitting Revisions

Revises solid waste permitting rules and public notice requirements

Removes outdated terminology and the definition of “special solid waste”

HB 155: Annexation & Zoning Dispute Reforms

Revises annexation arbitration timelines and zoning appeal procedures

Requires countywide referendums for certain annexations

HB 513: Gas Station Video Surveillance Ordinances

Allows continuation of certain local gas station surveillance ordinances

Vehicles and license plates

HB 551: Temporary Operating Permits & Vehicle Registration

Expands issuance of temporary operating permits, including third-party vendors

Updates dealer plate rules and restricts tax-avoidance registrations

HB 208: New Organization & Veteran License Plates

Authorizes new specialty plates, including additional plates for disabled veterans

SB 291: America First License Plate

Creates a specialty license plate featuring the American flag and “America First” wording

Directs proceeds to the state general fund

Professional licensing and tax credits

HB 148: Public Accountancy Act of 2025

Expands alternative education and experience pathways to CPA licensure

Updates rules for accounting firms and practice mobility

HB 475: Tax Credits & Certification Fees

SB 69: Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act

Requires litigation financiers to register with the Department of Banking and Finance

Prohibits litigation financing tied to certain foreign governments or adversaries

Adds consumer protections, disclosure rules and criminal penalties

Allows digital discovery of certain litigation financing agreements

NEW GEORGIA LAWS TAKING EFFECT IN 2026

HB 179: Court Transcripts and Digital Records

Allows some court proceedings to be digitally recorded and transcribed later if needed

HB 55: Alapaha Judicial Circuit Judgeship

Adds a third superior court judge to the Alapaha Judicial Circuit



SB 199: Ethics & Campaign Finance Reforms

Bars State Ethics Commission investigations of candidates within 60 days of an election

Moves local officials' campaign filings to the State Ethics Commission

Standardizes campaign reporting dates and expands PAC disclosure rules

SB 112: HVAC Warranty Protections

Automatically transfers HVAC manufacturer warranties to new homeowners

Prohibits requiring warranty registration as a condition of coverage

SB 201: Home Repair Contracts After Disasters

Strengthens consumer protections for post-disaster home repair contracts

Prohibits certain insurance policies from allowing assignment of proceeds to contractors within one year of a disaster

SB 35: Property Insurance Nonrenewal Notices

Increases required notice for nonrenewal of certain residential property insurance policies from 30 to 60 days

SB 191: Issue Date Notice Requirements

Defines "issue date" for agency decisions to clarify appeal and finality timelines

HB 197: Prior Authorization Reforms

Requires insurers and review agents to improve communication with treating providers

Encourages reduced prior authorization requirements for high-performing providers

HB 584: Behavioral Health Program Oversight Changes

Transfers licensing and oversight of drug treatment and certain mental health programs to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Allows emergency relocation of residents and placement of facility monitors

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