



FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

LEGISLATIVE DAY 5 OF 40

Hello Partners! Welcome back to the *Night Owl* 🐠, your nightly recap of need-to-know information and intel on what's happening under the Gold Dome.

As lawmakers close out the first week of the legislative session and head into a long weekend honoring Dr. King's legacy, they face a critical stretch ahead: budget week. "Affordability" has become the rallying cry under the Gold Dome, but the real test is whether anyone will move beyond rhetoric and deliver.

Taxes will dominate the conversation in every form, shaping how the state defines relief, responsibility, and investment. And as we observe the King holiday, long understood as a day on rather than a day off, the question persists: Will this session advance economic justice and shared opportunity, or simply recycle familiar talking points under a new name?

We hope you enjoy *The Night Owl*. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for additional content!

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DAY

[HOUSE FLOOR SESSION LD 05](#) [SENATE FLOOR SESSION LD 05](#)

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

- [Budget Week Schedule](#)
- [Adjournment Resolution](#)
- [Senate Rules](#)
- [House Rules](#)
- Committee Chairs and Office Assignments will be updated once available!
- [PGA Legislative Resources](#)
- Please let us know about any 2026 lobby/advocacy days and events [here](#).

IMPORTANT LINKS, RESOURCES, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Need access to one of our resources or want to share an event you're hosting? Get access or share any events using [this link](#). Our resources include:
 - The Night Owl Newsletter
 - 2026 Legislative Calendar
 - This calendar includes legislative information and advocacy days
 - The "GA Rapid Response" Signal chat
 - Press Clips (Tuesday & Thursday)
 - Bill Tracking
 - If you want bills to be included in The Night Owl or our coalition-wide tracker, [please submit them by clicking here!](#)
 - Bill Analysis Sign-up: We need volunteers to help analyze bills throughout the legislative session. Many of our partners are on the ground at the Capitol lobbying for the issues we all care deeply about, and they need your help! If you love reading legislation, putting together summaries, and highlighting important points about what bills say, this project is for you! Some of you may already be doing this anyway. Please share your knowledge with us so we can assist our partners in being the strongest advocates they can be.
- Join Photo Circle and share any legislative session photos [here](#).
- Open to uplifting rapid-response posts and calls to action on your personal social media accounts? [Share your personal social media handles here](#).

CTAs

- [Asian American Advocacy Fund](#) - Please join us in demanding justice and accountability from our federal legislators for the murder of Renee Nicole Good. As the Jan 30th CR deadline looms, Congress must not approve more funding for DHS/ICE.
- Stay tuned for additional Calls to Action from the Georgia Progressive Coalition!

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- The [Beloved Community Commemorative Service](#) will take place on Monday, January 19 at 10 AM.
- Maternal Health Awareness Day 2026 will be held on [January 21st from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM](#), hosted by the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia. Here is the [sign-up link](#).
- The Georgia Immigrant Rights Alliance will host [Immigrant Rights Thursdays](#) on [January 29th at 8:30 AM](#).
- Environmental Justice Day will be held on [Thursday, January 29](#). [Click here](#) for more information.
- GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students will be hosting their 9th Annual Strolling Thunder event for parents and children on [Thursday, January 29th, from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM](#) (PLEASE NOTE: There are two virtual training sessions beforehand). Here is the [sign-up link](#).
- GCV will host its 100% Day advocacy day on [February 3rd](#). Here is the [sign-up link](#), and for more information, please contact Connie Di Cicco (connie@gcvoters.org).
- Latino Day at the Capitol, hosted by GALEO and LCF Georgia, will be held on [February 5th from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM](#). Please contact Darrick Alvarez (dalvarez@galeoimpactfund.org), Jerry Gonzalez (jerry@galeo.org), or Jean-Luc Rivera (jean-luc@lcfgeorgia.org) for more information. [Sign up here](#).
- CSRA will be hosting a New American Celebration event at the Capitol on [February 12th](#). Here is the sign-up [link](#).
- The Georgia NAACP State Conference will host their day at the Capitol on [February 12th](#). More details to come soon!
- Join Georgia Muslim Voter Project and Council on American-Islamic Relations Georgia on [February 12th at 9 a.m.](#) for Muslim Advocacy Day. The day will start at Atlanta City Hall then move to the Georgia State Capitol.
- GYJC will have a Youth at the Capitol day [every Thursday](#) during session. For more information, please contact Melody Oliphant (melody@georgiayouthjustice.org)
- Black Voters Matter will host a Black Voters Matter Day at the Capitol on [February 24th](#) (new date!). Please contact Dr. Melinee Calhoun (melinee@blackvotersmatterfund.org) for more information.
- Our reproductive health partners are going to be hosting a Repro Justice Accountability Day at the Capitol on [February 26th, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM](#). A link to sign up will be coming soon, so stay on the lookout!
- Asian American Advocacy Fund will host Asian American Advocacy at the Capitol on [March 5th](#). This year's focus will be on immigrant justice and defending democracy.
- Black Male Initiative will host Black Men & Boys Day at the Capitol on [March 9th, starting at 8:30 AM](#). For more info, please contact D'ante Fair (dfair@bmigeorgia.org).

BILL KEY

	ISSUE		STATUS
	Education		Support

❤️	Reproductive Rights	👎	Do not support
🌈	LGBTQIA+	🏃	Moving quickly
😷	COVID-19	⏰	Recent Activity
🏥	Healthcare	🛑	Not likely to move
🗳️	Voting Rights/Elections/Democracy	📢	Time to take action!
⚖️	Criminal Justice/Public Safety	😈	Bad bill
🏡	Housing	😊	Wonderful bill
💕	Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion	🤝	Bipartisan Support
🌐	Environment	🦁	Zombie Bill
🙏	Religion		
🌿	Marijuana		
👷	Economy/Labor/Employment		
🗣️	First Amendment		
🌍	Immigration		

FAVORABILITY OR DISAPPROVAL ON THE LEGISLATION LISTED BELOW HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY OUR COALITION'S PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FROM THEIR LEGISLATIVE CONCERN AND PRIORITIES. IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL INSIGHT ON ANY LEGISLATION INCLUDED BELOW OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO [Nicole Henderson](#). IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL BILLS YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE IN OUR BILL MONITORING THAT AREN'T LISTED, PLEASE [FILL OUT THIS FORM](#).

BILL TRACKING

Bills highlighted in blue have been updated or recently added.

Bill	Key	What's the deal?	Tracking
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HEALTHCARE

HB 965	🏥	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill proposes to amend Georgia's health records statute to **grant parents and legal guardians enhanced access to their unemancipated minor children's medical records** 	House Hopper
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

<u>SB 390</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricts the deployment of armed military forces from other states into Georgia unless the Governor of Georgia gives explicit permission. • The bill reinforces state sovereignty and civilian control, ensuring that Georgia's governor retains authority over when and how armed forces from other states can operate within Georgia's borders. 	Senate Read and Referred
<u>SB 398</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates new criminal offenses related to "virtual peeping", specifically targeting the nonconsensual use of generative artificial intelligence to create realistic images of real people. 	Senate Read and Referred
<u>HB 994</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to significantly increase penalties for the offense of riot in Georgia. 	House Hopper

IMMIGRATION

<u>SB 389</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires certain immigration enforcement officers operating in Georgia to be clearly identifiable to the public while performing immigration enforcement duties. 	Senate Read and Referred
<u>SB 391</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricts immigration enforcement activities in certain locations unless law enforcement has a judicial warrant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ areas include schools, hospitals, places of worship, libraries, and family violence shelters to protect due process, child safety, and community stability 	Senate Read and Referred
<u>SB 397</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a civil cause of action against federal officials who violate constitutional rights 	Senate Read and Referred

VOTING RIGHTS/ELECTIONS/ DEMOCRACY

<u>SR 563</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urges the Georgia Secretary of State to immediately and fully comply with a request from 	Senate Read and Referred
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		the U.S. Department of Justice to securely produce Georgia's voter registration list.	
SB 392		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes Georgia's budgeting process by requiring the state to use zero-based budgeting when developing the budget. Instead of starting each year's budget by adjusting last year's spending, agencies must justify their funding from scratch May also be known as "Waste Reduction Act of 2026" 	Senate Read and Referred
SB 214		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows voters to cast a physical (paper) absentee ballot on request as an alternative to other authorized methods of in-person voting. 	House Second Readers

ECONOMY

HB 947		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would prohibit the purchase of certain food and beverage items with SNAP benefits 	House Second Readers
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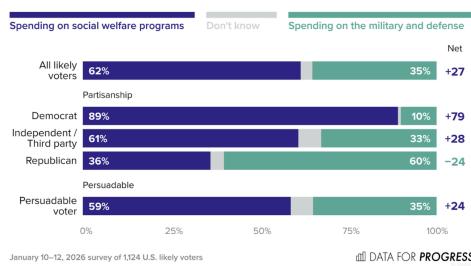
NEWS AND UPDATES

- [Georgia Power CEO teases plans to lower rates, touts data center expansion](#)
- [Kemp proposes historic \\$325 million investment in need-based scholarships](#)
- [Affordable housing is a Georgia problem. Democrats have three ideas to fix it.](#)
- [Man dies in immigration custody in Georgia](#)
- [Federal govt abruptly cuts, restores Atlanta nonprofit's mental health funds](#)
- [Kemp budget includes tax cuts, \\$2,000 for teachers and state employees](#)
- [The man behind Mike Collins' rise now faces mounting scrutiny](#)
- [Georgia hits insurance companies with \\$25 million in fines](#)

RESEARCH AND POLLING

Voters Think Social Spending Should Be a Higher Priority Than Military Spending

Which of the following should be a higher priority for the U.S. government?

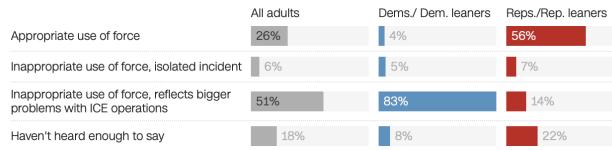


Voters Think Trump Is a Pro-War President, See Venezuela Invasion as Mostly for Oil

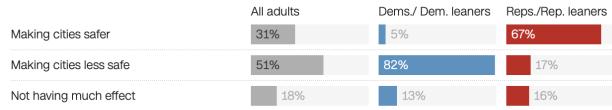
When asked whether the U.S. government should prioritize "spending on social welfare programs" or "spending on the military and defense," a strong majority (62%) of voters say the U.S. should prioritize social welfare programs.

Most Americans call shooting by ICE agent in Minneapolis an inappropriate use of force

View of ICE shooting in Minneapolis

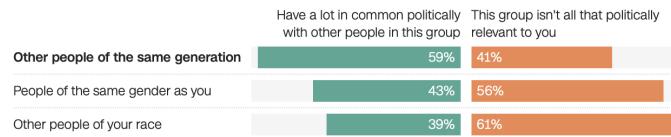


Effect of ICE enforcement actions on cities



Note: The CNN poll was conducted by SSRS from January 9-12 among a random national sample of 1,209 US adults drawn from a probability-based panel. Surveys were either conducted online or by telephone with a live interviewer. Results shown in this chart have a margin of sampling error of up to ± 4.9 percentage points. Some results may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Americans are more likely to say they feel politically connected by generation than by race or gender



Note: The CNN poll was conducted by SSRS from August 21-September 1, 2025 among a random national sample of 2,077 US adults drawn from either a probability-based panel or a registration-based sample. Surveys were either conducted online or by telephone with a live interviewer. Results have a margin of sampling error of ± 2.7 percentage points.

Source: CNN/SSRS polling
Graphic: Ariel Edwards-Levy, CNN

Most Americans call shooting by ICE agent in Minneapolis an inappropriate use of force

Most Americans see an immigration officer's fatal shooting of Minneapolis resident Renee Good as an inappropriate use of force, a new CNN poll conducted by SSRS finds. Roughly half view it as a sign of broader issues with the way US Immigration and Customs Enforcement is operating, with less than one-third saying that ICE operations have made cities safer.

About 6 in 10 Americans say they feel politically connected by generation

Nearly 6 in 10 say they share a lot of common interests and concerns with other people of their generation, according to a late-summer CNN survey. By contrast, fewer than half of Americans, 43%, say they feel politically connected to others of their gender, and 39% to others of the same race.

SOCIAL LISTENING & MIS- AND DISINFORMATION TRACKING

- Highlights:

- REDDIT: [Georgia Democratic lawmakers try to rein in ICE](#)
 - As of 1/16 @ 2:00 PM
 - Views: 26.1k
 - Likes: 514
 - Comments: 321
 - Saves: N/A
- FACEBOOK: [An ICE agent involved in the fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good could become a millionaire from online fundraiser.](#)
 - As of 1/16 @ 2:00 PM
 - Views: unknown
 - Likes: 340
 - Comments: 356
 - Saves: unknown
- TIKTOK: [Gov. Kemp's last State of the State Address](#)
 - As of 1/16 @ 1:30 PM
 - Views: 10.4k
 - Likes: 558
 - Comments: 58
 - Saves: 51

GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON TWITTER

[Georgia House of Representatives](#)

[Georgia House Democrats](#)

[House Budget & Research Offices](#)

[Georgia State Senate](#)

[Georgia Senate Democrats](#)

[Georgia Senate Republicans](#)

KEY DATES TO WATCH

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				01 New Year's Day 🎉	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12 LD 1	13 LD 2	14 LD 3	15 LD 4	16 LD 5	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 BUDGET WEEK	21 BUDGET WEEK	22 BUDGET WEEK	23	24
25	26 LD 6	27 LD 7	28 LD 8	29 LD 9	30	31

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
01	02 LD 10	03 LD 11	04 LD 12	05 LD 13	06 LD 14	07
08	09 LD 15	10 LD 16	11 LD 17	12 LD 18	13	14 ❤️
15	16 Presidents' Day	17 LD 19	18 LD 20	19 LD 21	20 LD 22	21
22	23 Committee Work Day	24 LD 23	25 LD 24	26 LD 25	27	28



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MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
01	02 Committee Work Day	03 LD 26	04 LD 27	05 Committee Work Day	06 Crossover Day (LD 28)	07
08	09 LD 29	10 LD 30	11 Committee Work Day	12 LD 31	13	14
15	16 LD 32	17 Committee Work Day	18 LD 33	19 LD 34	20 LD 35	21
22	23 LD 36	24 Committee Work Day	25 LD 37	26 Committee Work Day	27 LD 38	28
29	30	31 LD 39				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			01	02 Sine Die! 🎉 (LD 40)	03	04

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