



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

LEGISLATIVE DAY 20 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.

We continue to see a backdrop of competing economic priorities. The Georgia House advanced a bill designed to limit how much of the state's data center expansion costs can be shifted onto residential and small business ratepayers. Lawmakers described it as a consumer protection measure, but questions remain about whether it fully prevents corporate growth from driving higher utility bills for everyday Georgians already feeling the squeeze.

In the Senate, leaders unveiled their amended FY 2026 budget proposal, which includes income and property tax cuts. Supporters argue the plan returns money to taxpayers. Critics warn that deep tax reductions could reduce long-term state revenue at a time when schools, health care systems, and infrastructure continue to face significant demands. The affordability debate is no longer abstract. It is about whether Georgia prioritizes immediate tax relief or sustained public investment.

The political landscape also shifted. Republican Steven McNeel won the Senate District 18 runoff, maintaining GOP control of the chamber. Meanwhile, Public Service Commissioner Tricia Pridemore announced she will not seek reelection, opening a seat on the powerful regulatory body that oversees utility rates and energy policy across the state. With energy costs and consumer protections under heightened scrutiny, that race will carry real weight.

Beyond taxes and energy, lawmakers continued moving legislation affecting food labeling transparency and proposals related to election procedures, including ballot format requirements that have raised concerns among some local officials.

As deadlines approach, the throughline of this session is becoming unmistakable. Energy costs, tax policy, voting rules, and public investment are deeply connected. The question shaping Legislative Day 20 is straightforward: who benefits, and who bears the cost.

We hope you enjoy [The Night Owl](#). Please let us know if you have any suggestions for additional content!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Brief Summary Of The Day](#)

[Legislative Resources](#)

[Important Links, Resources, & Announcements](#)

[Calls to Action](#)

[Meetings And Events](#)

[Bill Key](#)

Is the Night Owl helpful to your work? Consider [buying us a coffee](#) to show your support.

[Bill Tracking](#)

[News And Updates](#)

[Research And Polling](#)

[Social Listening & Mis- And Disinformation Tracking](#)

[Follow the Georgia General Assembly](#)

[Key Dates To Watch](#)

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DAY

[HOUSE FLOOR SESSION LD 20](#) **[SENATE FLOOR SESSION LD 20](#)**

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

- [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](#).
- Use [this link](#) to follow updates on Fulton County Election Office FBI raid.

CTAs

- PSL Atlanta: Minnesota last month demonstrated people power on a historic scale by launching an anti-ICE general strike and showing all of us across the country that we can push back against ICE terror when ordinary people unite, organize, and fight back! Use [this link](#) to join the Justice for Linda Davis Rally on February 21st.
- GAMVP: Tell Gwinnett County Public Schools: Keep student wellbeing spaces consistent across schools. Use [this link](#) to send a message to the Gwinnett County Board of Education.
- BAJI: The Black Alliance for Just Immigration is raising funds to meet urgent basic needs including food, temporary shelter, healthcare, and transportation, while individuals navigate displacement and begin the process of recovery with dignity. Use [this link](#) to help support Black migrants deported to Ghana.
- Fill out [this form](#) from ICE out of GA to get involved in the movement and get in touch with organizers.
- No Ice Facility in Social Circle: Social Circle is not giving up. And people beyond the town have joined the fight. We ask everyone who believes this facility is wrong to join us. Find information about their rally on March 8th [here](#).
- Martin Lim urges Georgians to call or email the Georgia House requesting a hearing on HB 1053. Find his call to action [here](#) and his petition to stop Gwinnett cooperation with ICE [here](#).
- GCEJ: We encourage you to make a call to your Georgia House of Representatives member and members of the House Rules committee and recommend that they vote NO to SB 74! Find and share their toolkit [here](#).
- Project South: HB 675 Attacks Free Speech, Protest, and Organizing in Georgia. Find their talking points [here](#)!
- Sierra Club: Help pass SB 34 and prevent skyrocketing power bills! Find the action alert [here](#) and read the talking points [here](#).
- Asian American Advocacy Fund: Take action now! As our senators debate, please contact them to remind them to hold strong in their opposition to funding for DHS and ICE. Take action using the link [here](#).
- Georgia Equality: WE NEED YOUR HELP! Message your House Rep, RIGHT NOW, urging them to oppose the Senate's amendments to HB 54. Find the action alert [here](#), and the talking points [here](#).
- Representative Barnes: We need community members to reach out to the Education Committee and request a hearing on HB 60. Find the talking points [here](#).
- Voto Latino: Call your member of Congress now and demand they support Rep. Robin Kelly's articles of impeachment against Kristi Noem. Tell them that enough is enough — that accountability, justice, and the protection of due process for all Americans cannot wait. Congress Must Act Now. Hold ICE Accountable. Impeach Kristi Noem. Sign up for email updates [here](#). Use this link to find their talking points [here](#).
- Indivisible Cobb: We're calling on Home Depot to step up and protect the safety and rights of day laborers, employees, and customers facing racial profiling and ICE enforcement at their stores and parking lots. See their talking points [here](#).
- Asian American Advocacy Funds: Call your reps today and ask them to sponsor and support HB 1053! Share this post [here](#).
- NCJW Atlanta: Call your Georgia State Senators and demand that there be no masks, no murders, no militia, and no ICE in Georgia. Follow their template to contact your State Reps and share this post [here](#).

- Freedom to Read Coalition of Columbia County: Take action against SB 74, tell the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee to vote NO on SB 74. Share this post [here](#).
- Georgia Equality: [Tell your State Rep to oppose](#) the extreme government overreach that is SB 74. See their talking points [here](#).
- Take your ICE advocacy to the Capitol. Share this [post](#) from our friends at GYJC about the possibility of SB 397 getting a hearing.
- GLAHR: Tell your legislators to protect vulnerable communities and VOTE NO on HB 295, which would criminalize homelessness in Georgia. [Take action here](#) and share the [Instagram post](#).
- GLAHR: Tell your legislators to stand with immigrant communities and VOTE NO on SB 116, which would require DNA samples to be collected from anyone who has an immigration detainer notice and has been charged with a misdemeanor or felony. [Take action here](#) and share the [Instagram post](#).

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Fair District Georgia is hosting their lobby day on February 19th, beginning at 9:00 am. Here is the link to [sign up](#) to join them!
- FGF and GCEJ are hosting a Protect Public Education day of action on **Thursday from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM** at The Capitol. Sign up [here](#)!
- 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.
- Amplify Georgia will be hosting Reproductive Justice Advocacy Day at the Capitol on **February 26th, 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM**. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as training and support materials to help let your voice be heard! A full schedule and logistics details will be shared with all registrants. [RSVP here](#).
- Progress Georgia will be hosting the first of a series of influencer meet-ups in Atlanta on February 26th. This will be a great opportunity for networking with advocates, lawmakers, and other influencers and learn about important information for the upcoming 2026 election! For more information, please fill out this [interest form](#).
- The Georgia Water Coalition will host its Capitol Conservation Day on **February 26th, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**. You can [sign up here](#)!
- Fair Fight Action is hosting its 2026 Lobby Day on **February 26th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**. For more information, please contact Kelsey Hanna Beck (kelsey@fairfightaction.com).
- Asian American Advocacy Day, hosted by Asian American Advocacy Fund, will be on **March 5th, 2026!** Here is the [link](#) to sign up!
- 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)!
- Infant Emergency Preparedness Advocacy Day will be held on **March 9th**, by Khari's Calls. Here is the sign-up [link](#)!
- Pride to the Capitol, hosted by the Human Rights Campaign, will be on **March 10th from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**. [Sign up here](#) and contact Bentley Hudgins (bentley.hudgins@hrc.org) for more info.

- BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance) is hosting Black Maternal Health Week Advocacy Day on **March 20th**, with a time coming soon! For more information, please contact Stephanie Aristide (policy@bmmainc.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		
	Foreign Affairs		

FAVORABILITY OR DISAPPROVAL ON THE LEGISLATION LISTED BELOW HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY OUR COALITION'S PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FROM THEIR LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS 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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REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

HB 1069		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill amends Chapter 10 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, which governs vital records, to require the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) to publish and maintain statistical reports on induced terminations of pregnancy (abortions). 	House Second Readers
HB 1138		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Increasing Access to Contraceptives Act” proposes to authorize pharmacists to provide contraceptives, require insurers to cover longer prescriptions, and protect physicians from civil liability, criminal charges, and professional discipline. 	House Second Readers
HB 1275		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend developments in stem cell therapies to not involve stem cells from abortions. 	House First Readers

LGBTQIA+

SB 74		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes significant changes to Georgia's laws regarding harmful materials and minors, specifically affecting libraries and librarians. Talking Points from Georgia Equality 	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 2/9
HB 1210		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1210 proposes to provide the right for caregivers to exercise religious or other strong beliefs over their children and affirm their child's biological sex. This bill looks to establish that the affirming of a child's sex cannot be considered abuse, neglect, or grounds for loss of custody. 	House Second Readers

ENVIRONMENT

<p>HB 1012</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes a temporary moratorium on new data center construction in Georgia. 	<p>House Second Readers</p>
<p>SB 94</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill looks to reestablish a consumer utility counsel to represent consumers in matters before the Public Service Commission or other agencies concerning public utilities; to create the Office of the Consumers' Utility Counsel; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. 	<p>Senate Recommended</p>
<p>SB 34</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to amend Georgia's Public Service Commission statutes to address how electric utilities can recover costs associated with serving large commercial data centers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Action alert from Sierra Club 	<p>Senate Recommended</p>
<p>SB 421</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bill prohibits Georgia local governments and authorities from signing nondisclosure agreements that would prevent them from disclosing information about any entity's electricity or water usage.** This transparency measure, titled "The Data Center Transparency Act," appears designed to ensure public access to utility consumption data, particularly for large consumers like data centers. 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p>SB 410</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to **repeal the sales and use tax exemption for data center equipment** in Georgia • Eliminates Future Tax Exemptions**: The bill repeals the existing tax exemption (paragraph 68.1 of Code Section 48-8-3) that currently allows high-technology data centers and their customers to avoid paying state sales and use taxes on equipment. 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill takes effect upon the Governor's approval (or automatically if it becomes law without approval). 	
SB 408		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend Georgia's sales and use tax statute, accelerating the expiration date of sales and use tax exemption on equipment purchases for data center equipment in Georgia from 2032 to 2027. 	Senate Read and Referred

EDUCATION

SB 412		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill expands the number of professional/personal leave days for teachers and school staff from 3 to 5 days. 	Senate Read Second Time
HB 1009		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill expands Georgia's personal electronic device ban from K-8 to include high school students (grades 9-12). 	House Committee Favorably Reported
HB 1051		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill changes how law enforcement officers are used in Georgia public schools, aiming to limit police involvement in routine student discipline and increase oversight and accountability. 	House Second Readers
HB 1107		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill, known as the "Excellent Teacher Preparation Act", proposes to require the Professional Standards Commission to annually evaluate and report the performance of each education preparation provider in the state, creating a more consistent and transparent system for assessing how well future educators are being prepared. 	House Second Readers
HB 1094		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1094, known as "Georgia's School Bus and Safety Modernization Act," updates Georgia law to change how student transportation funds are calculated and distributed to local school districts. The bill gives the State Board of Education clearer authority to set priorities for transportation grants, 	House Second Readers

		adds legislative findings and definitions, and repeals conflicting statutes.	
SB 445		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to exclude public schools with a statewide attendance zone and certain charter schools from the annual list of public schools reported by the Office of Student Achievement for the purpose of the “Georgia Promise Scholarship Act.” 	Senate Read and Referred
SB 446		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to permanently integrate Georgia into a federal tax credit scholarship program for contributions to student scholarship organizations. 	Senate Read Second Time
HB 1135		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes Georgia’s in a new federal tax credit scholarship program for scholarship donations while maintaining state oversight through the Revenue Commissioner. 	House Second Readers
HB 1123		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to require public schools that offer after-school programs for kindergarten, primary, and upper elementary students to provide equal access to after-school programs to pre-K students. 	House Second Readers
SB 459		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to include literacy coaches in any school containing kindergarten to third grade students for the purpose of promoting state-wide literacy and reading education efforts. 	Senate Read and Referred
HB 1269		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to require K-12 students to receive grade level appropriate instruction in digital literacy. 	House Second Readers
HB 60		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Healthy Start Act” proposes to provide free meals to reduced-price eligible students and require districts to participate in federal programs that provide free meals for students in high-poverty schools. 	House Second Readers

<p>SB 497</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 497 proposes to expand the Parents’ Bill of Rights. This bill would create a mandatory notification system that notifies parents when students receive “noninstructional services” from school employees such as counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers, and require that all non-instructional services must be kept in students’ education records. 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p>HR 1023</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This resolution proposes a parental rights amendment that would establish that parents have a “fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and control of their children.” 	<p>House Second Readers</p>
<p>SB 513</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to create attendance review teams and instate consequences for students with chronically unexcused absences, such as ineligibility to receive an instruction permit or driver’s license 	<p>Senate Hopper</p>
<p>HB 1325</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1325 proposes to require local boards of education to allow parents and teachers to be involved in developing and updating student codes of conduct. 	<p>House Hopper</p>
<p>HB 1327</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to require schools to collaborate with local law enforcement and emergency services to install key boxes at select school locations. 	<p>House Hopper</p>
<p>SB 523</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to require the Department of Education to require K-12 schools to introduce antisemitism to religion based discrimination. 	<p>Senate Hopper</p>
<p>HB 1363</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to authorize public schools and colleges to include antisemitism in religion based discrimination. 	<p>House Hopper</p>
<p>HB 1366</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to create the Georgia Teacher Retention Scholarship for children of public school teachers attending college. 	<p>House Hopper</p>

HB 1378		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill purposes to amend the “Georgia Promise Scholarship Act” to clarify student residency qualifications for the scholarship. 	House Hopper
HB 1379		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill would require The University of Georgia, the Technical College system of Georgia, and other local and public state schools to provide semiannual reports of funding received from foreign sources. 	House Hopper

HOUSING

SB 413		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to expand tenant protections in Georgia by allowing early termination of residential leases in cases of firearm violence, in addition to existing protections for family violence and stalking. 	Senate Read and Referred
SB 414		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes amending Georgia's "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975" to require transparency in rent pricing for residential properties. 	Senate Read and Referred
HB 1007		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows residential tenants the right to complete repairs required by the landlord and offset rental installments by the reasonable cost of such repairs under certain circumstances. 	House Second Readers
SB 463		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes regulations on business enterprises to prevent them from owning an interest in more than 500 single-family residential properties and prevents foreign businesses from owning an interest in any single-family residential property that can serve as a rental property. 	Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

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 Second Readers
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SB 427		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address physician shortages in rural Georgia by creating a supervised pathway for qualified international physicians to practice and eventually obtain full licensure. The program only becomes effective if **specifically funded** through state appropriations and automatically repeals if funding is not maintained. 	Senate Read Second Time
HB 1104		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1104 strengthens Georgia’s informed consent law by prohibiting certain medical examinations on unconscious or anesthetized patients unless explicit consent or authorization has been given in advance. The bill also clarifies that valid informed consent applies to all medical personnel involved in care under specific conditions. 	House Second Readers
SB 462		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB 462, also known as the "Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act," amends Georgia code to provide insurance coverage, reimbursement rates, or financing options for certain out-of-network ambulance rides. 	Senate Read Second Time
HB 1332		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes requiring certain hospitals to prioritize the distribution of American-made pharmaceuticals. 	House Hopper
SR 813		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This resolution proposes to require the Department of Public Health to conduct a study on the relationship between the death of children age 2 and under and the administration of vaccinations. 	Senate Hopper

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 390		<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
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SB 398		<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 Tabled
HB 994		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to significantly increase penalties for the offense of riot in Georgia. 	House Second Readers
SB 383		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill modifies the review to be conducted by local child fatality review committees. 	House Second Readers
SB 443		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill transforms obstruction of public passages from a relatively minor offense into a potentially serious crime with substantial criminal penalties and civil liability, particularly when the obstruction causes injury or property damage. 	Senate Read and Referred
SB 450		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to authorize Georgia public libraries to possess and administer opioid antagonists such as naloxone/Narcan to provide preventative measures for opioid overdoses. 	Senate Read and Referred
SB 29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill significantly expands Georgia's DNA collection program by authorizing collection upon arrest (rather than conviction) for serious violent felonies, while also providing additional pathways for DNA profile destruction when charges don't result in conviction. 	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 1/29
HB 295		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes creating a new legal mechanism that allows property owners to seek compensation from local governments under specific circumstances. CTA from GLAHR 	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 1/29
HB 1154		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1154 proposes to expand the death penalty to include human trafficking for labor or sexual servitude. 	House Second Readers
HB 1061		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1061, the Mandi Ballinger Act, proposes to raise the juvenile justice age in Georgia from 17 to 	House Committee Favorably

		18 years old, meaning that 17-year-children will be included in the juvenile justice system.	Reported by Substitute 2/12
HB 1226		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill significantly strengthens self-defense protections by making it easier to claim justification, harder to prosecute, and broader in scope of immunity from both criminal and civil liability. 	House Second Readers
HB 1223		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill exempts law enforcement audio/video recordings depicting deaths or persons in distress before death from public disclosure when there's no pending investigation and disclosure would invade privacy. However, it allows access to specific parties (estate representatives, parents/guardians, defendants, civil litigants, and their attorneys) who submit sworn affidavits establishing their eligibility. 	House Second Readers
HB 54		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to allow advanced practice nurses and physician assistants to order home healthcare services and provide continued education for handling death certificates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language from SB 39 and SB 30 was added to this bill on 2/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB 39 and SB 30 prohibit healthcare coverage of gender-affirming care and prohibit prescribing or administering hormone therapies and puberty-blocking medications to minors CTA from Georgia Equality Talking Points from Georgia Equality 	Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub As Amended
HB 1075		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to increase the penalty for sexual offense violations when the offender has a previous conviction for human trafficking to felony-level punishment rather than potentially lesser misdemeanor penalties. 	House Second Readers

HB 1142		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to create a domestic violence offender registry for repeat offenders and modify pretrial diversion program requirements to ensure that offenders seeking pretrial diversion must agree that any subsequent domestic violence conviction will subject them to inclusion in the new registry. 	House Second Readers
HB 984		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend Georgia’s criminal code to allow law enforcement/investigators to obtain court orders to locate guardians or complete welfare checks in active abuse investigations of child or elder abuse. 	House Second Readers
HB 1226		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend Georgia’s self-defense laws. 	House Second Readers
HB 1270		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes allowing law enforcement to install and use mobile tracking devices during warrant-based searches. 	House Second Readers
SB 495		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Age-Appropriate Design Code Act” proposes to regulate how online platforms handle minors’ data and exposure to sensitive content. 	Senate Read and Referred
HB 1322		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend rioting from a misdemeanor penalty to a felony penalty. 	House Hopper
HB 1324		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to remove the prohibition on gun silencers. 	House Hopper
HB 1329		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1329 proposes to amend Georgia code to create a new definition for dangerous drugs and Schedule 1 controlled substances. 	House Hopper
HB 1369		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to prevent the enforcement of foreign law if it violates a right guaranteed by the United States or Georgia constitutions. 	House Hopper
SB 525		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to mandate the recording of all juvenile proceedings and establishes the right of the Department of Human Services to have access to the recordings. 	Senate Hopper

IMMIGRATION

<p>SB 389</p>		<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. 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p>SB 391</p>		<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 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p>SB 397</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a civil cause of action against federal officials who violate constitutional rights 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p>SB 116</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill relates to DNA sampling, collection, and analysis, so as to require the collection of DNA samples from any individual in a detention facility charged with a misdemeanor or felony who is subject to an immigration detainer notice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill expands mandatory DNA collection to include individuals who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are charged (not convicted) with misdemeanors or felonies Are subject to immigration detainer notices Are held in detention facilities (including newly-added county jails and municipal facilities) CTA from GLAHR 	<p>Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 2/4</p>
<p>SB 442</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill imposes stricter requirements on noncitizen commercial driver's license holders in Georgia by: (1) automatically revoking their CDLs when their visa expires or after 5 years; (2) requiring them to retake full knowledge and skills driving tests at every renewal, unlike citizen CDL holders who don't face this requirement; and (3) 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>

		making conforming technical changes to related statutes.	
SB 464		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill prohibits ICE from using certain technology to identify individuals for certain purposes. 	Senate Read and Referred
HB 1053		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1053 proposes to repeal mandatory cooperation with federal immigration authorities by state/local law enforcement while creating protections for immigrant crime victims seeking federal immigration relief. 	House Second Readers

VOTING RIGHTS/ELECTIONS/ DEMOCRACY

SR 563		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urges the Georgia Secretary of State to immediately and fully comply with a request from the U.S. Department of Justice to securely produce Georgia’s voter registration list. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted
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
HR 1033		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to restrict when Georgia’s legislative and congressional district maps can be redrawn. 	House Second Readers
HB 903		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to significantly expand the scope of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act by changing which state agencies must comply with it. 	Senate Read and Referred

<p>HB 1108</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1108 would overhaul Georgia’s election system by replacing electronic voting with hand-marked, hand-counted paper ballots, limiting ballot-marking devices to voters who cannot hand-mark, and extending this system to municipal elections. • It also shifts authority over voting equipment from the Secretary of State to the State Election Board, raising significant questions about costs, implementation, and statewide election administration. 	<p>House Second Readers</p>
<p>HB 1109</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1109 makes changes to Georgia’s election and driver’s license laws to more clearly distinguish non-U.S. citizens from eligible voters. The bill amends both election code and motor vehicle code to ensure that certain state-issued IDs cannot be used for voting and are visibly marked as such. • HB 1109 requires certain licenses, permits, and special identification cards to include the wording: “BEARER NOT A U.S. CITIZEN – NOT VOTER ID.” • By amending both election law (Title 21) and motor vehicle law (Title 40), the bill links voter identification rules directly to how IDs are issued and formatted, rather than relying solely on poll-site discretion. 	<p>House Second Readers</p>
<p>HR 1200</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR 1200 urges the Georgia Secretary of State to refuse the U.S. Department of Justice’s request to produce unredacted copies of Georgia’s voter registration list 	<p>House Second Readers</p>
<p>HB 963</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to restrict foreign nationals from contributing to, controlling, or participating in Georgia ballot measure campaigns and protect donor privacy. 	<p>House Second Readers</p>
<p>HB 1130</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill would amend Georgia code to provide penalties for candidates or campaign committee treasurers who fail to comply with requests for 	<p>House Committee Favorably</p>

		inspections of campaign funds and would allow Georgia political candidates and elected officials to use campaign funds for personal security equipment and services during campaigns and terms of office.	Reported
HB 1227		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes amending Georgia’s voter registration laws to address voters who were previously registered to vote in other states. 	House Second Readers
SB 531		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend Georgia code, allowing those with convictions for purchase, possession, or control of certain controlled substances cannot be prevented from registering to vote or voting. 	Senate Hopper
SB 533		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to allow certain nonresident electors to vote in municipal elections under certain eligibilities. 	Senate Hopper

ECONOMY

HB 947		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 947, the Georgia SNAP Healthier Choices Act of 2026, would prohibit the purchase of certain food and beverage items with SNAP benefits. 	House Second Readers
HR 1032		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A RESOLUTION creating the House Study Committee on Raising the Minimum Wage in Georgia 	House Second Readers
HB 140		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill prevents municipalities from over-relying on fines and forfeitures as a revenue stream (capping it at 10% of budget), with the stated goal of discouraging "taxation by citation" practices. Any excess revenue goes to the state rather than to the local government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GBPI Report 	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 1/29
HB 1001		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to **simplify and accelerate Georgia's income tax rate reduction. Instead of a gradual, conditional reduction over multiple years (potentially 2026-2029 or longer if 	House Committee Favorably Reported

		<p>delayed), this bill jumps directly to the final 4.99% rate in 2026, providing an immediate tax cut and removing economic performance conditions that could postpone the reduction.</p>	
HB 1102		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1102 would protect certain senior citizens from losing their homes by prohibiting the levy or sale of their property for unpaid property taxes. The bill amends Georgia’s tax code to limit how local governments can enforce ad valorem tax collection against qualifying seniors. 	House Second Readers
HB 1116		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1116 is a technical corrections bill that updates Georgia’s tax and education funding laws to ensure accurate calculation of school funding and local government revenues. • It allows tax digests to be accepted despite errors in newspaper publication and excludes certain tax-exempt property values from school funding formulas under the Quality Basic Education Act. 	House Second Readers
HB 1146		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to amend Georgia law to establish a pilot program to extend Georgia’s lottery-funded pre-kindergarten program from four-year-olds to three-year-olds. 	House Second Readers
HB 1147		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1147 proposes to establish the “Georgia Childcare for Economic Wellbeing Act” to create grants to supplement the out-of-pocket costs for families participating in the Child and Parent Services program and ensure providers receive their full published rate. 	House Second Readers
SB 465		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 465 proposes to disqualify large-scale businesses that employ undocumented immigrants from claiming certain tax credits for those projects. 	Senate Read and Referred
HB 1118		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bill proposes to provide 120 hours of paid maternal birth leave to state government and 	House Committee Favorably Reported By

		local education agency employees within the 3 weeks following childbirth.	Substitute 2/11
SB 436		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This proposes to promote transparency about utility consumption by businesses by prohibiting the use of nondisclosure agreements by local governments and temporarily halting new tax breaks for data center equipment. 	Senate Read and Referred
SB 520		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes changes to the Georgia tax code by establishing a progressive income tax system, increasing the tax on tobacco products, and expanding tax credits for families with children and low-income workers, while eliminating private school scholarship tax credits. 	Senate Hopper
HB 1372		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to prohibit certain foreign persons and entities from purchasing land local near crucial infrastructure without the approval of the Attorney General. 	House Hopper

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HB 1158		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill mandates that Georgia adopt Israel's preferred terminology for disputed territories in the West Bank/Judea and Samaria region, prohibiting state resources from being used to refer to these areas as the "West Bank" in official state documents and communications. 	House Second Readers
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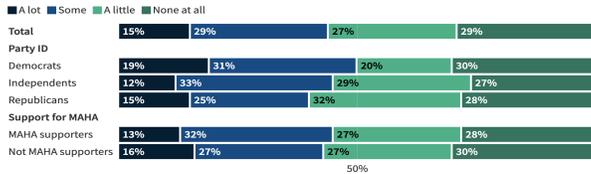
NEWS AND UPDATES

- [Self-driving transit pods to debut near Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport](#)
- [Big Georgia income tax cuts would come with costs to residents](#)
- [Savannah teacher killed after Guatemalan driver flees ICE traffic stop](#)
- [Trump to tout his economic agenda in northwest Georgia visit Thursday](#)
- [Fulton Commission Dems mistrust colleague listed as witness for FBI raid](#)
- [Why Rick Jackson says he'll be Trump's 'favorite governor'](#)
- [Trial of alleged Apalachee school shooter's father could set a new precedent in Georgia](#)
- [Advocacy Groups Call Upon Kennesaw State University to Drop Disciplinary Charges Against Student Protesters, Uphold the First Amendment](#)
- [Social Circle leaders say DHS official skipped meeting on ICE center](#)
- [Man found guilty in UGA law student cold case murder trial](#)
- [Adidas joins community for first Ahmaud Arbery Memorial Run in Brunswick](#)
- [FBI's Fulton County raid prompts ACLU attorney to run for state Senate](#)

RESEARCH AND POLLING

Less Than Half of U.S. Adults Are Confident in Federal Health Agencies To Make Recommendations for Childhood Vaccines

How much confidence do you have in federal government health agencies like the CDC and FDA to make recommendations about childhood vaccine schedules?

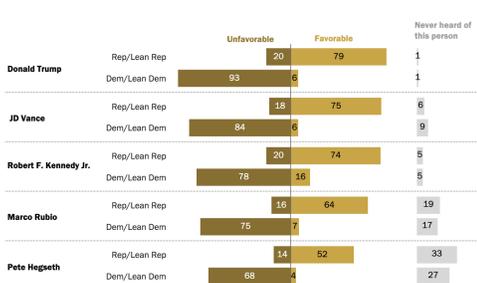


Americans are losing trust in the CDC under Trump’s presidency

Most Americans (54%) think that the Trump administration’s changes to the childhood vaccine schedule will have a negative impact on children’s health. Since September 2023, Democrat trust in the CDC has fallen from majority (88%) to half (55%), while both Republican (43%) and Independent (46%) steadily remain untrusting.

Republicans view several administration officials positively, while Democrats see them negatively

% who have a(n) ___ opinion of ...

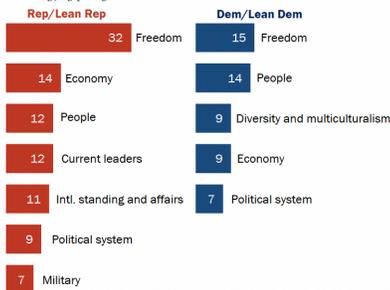


Half of Americans have a negative view of the Trump administration

Nearly half of Americans overall have a negative view of key members in the Trump administration with 58% finding Trump unfavorable. In contrast, Republicans have a positive view of the Trump administration with 79% finding Trump favorable compared to 93% of Democrats finding him unfavorable.

Republicans and Democrats differ over what makes them proud of the U.S.

% who mention each coded topic when describing what makes them proud of their country, by party



Americans are proud of their country because of its Freedom

When interviewed both Democrats (15%) and Republicans (32%) replied that freedom was the top reason for their pride in America. But there is a general consensus among Democrats that the current administration has led to their lack of pride in America. One man stated “I used to be very proud of the United States, but since the reelection of Donald Trump I’m not proud of the United States at all.”

SOCIAL LISTENING & MIS- AND DISINFORMATION TRACKING

- REDDIT: [Trump coming to Georgia this Thursday](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 11:30 AM
 - Upvotes: 285
 - Comments: 220
- REDDIT: [Feds paid over \\$128.5 million for new ICE facility, deed shows](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 11:30 AM
 - Upvotes: 497
 - Comments: 52
- FACEBOOK: [Raphael Warnock on ICE in Georgia](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 11:30 AM
 - Likes: 7.3k
 - Comments: 1.9k
 - Reshares: 459

- TRUTH SOCIAL: [Donald Trump posts article about the Fulton County FBI raid](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 11:30 AM
 - Likes: 10.8k
 - Comments: 774
 - Reshares: 3.35k
- FACEBOOK: [Reactions to protests against ICE detention center in Oakwood](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 11:30 AM
 - Likes: 662
 - Comments: 588
 - Reshares: 40
- FACEBOOK: [Majorie Taylor Greene on the bombing of Bethlehem and Gaza](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 11:30 AM
 - Likes: 15k
 - Comments: 2.9k
 - Reshares: 2.7k
- FACEBOOK: [Colton Moore on the accountability of Georgia elected officials](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 11:30 PM
 - Views: 16k
 - Likes: 527
 - Comments: 148
 - Reshares: 74
- X: [Woman accuses Portland ICE agent of sexually assaulting her](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 12 PM
 - Views: 940.2k
 - Likes: 63k
 - Comments: 508
 - Reshares: 14k
- FACEBOOK: [Reactions to the killing of Linda Davis](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 12:30 PM
 - Likes: 15k
 - Comments: 6.9k
 - Reshares: 3.1k
- FACEBOOK: [Greg Dolezal on Fulton County elections](#)
 - As of 2/18 @ 4:30 PM (posted within the hour)
 - Likes: 68
 - Comments: 8
 - Reshares: 27

FOLLOW THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SOCIAL

Georgia House of Representatives: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Facebook](#)

Georgia House Democrats: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Facebook](#)

House Budget & Research Offices: [Twitter/X](#)

Georgia State Senate: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Facebook](#)

Georgia Senate Democrats: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#)

Georgia Senate Republicans: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Facebook](#)

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

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
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			01	02 Sine Die! 🎉 (LD 40)	03	04
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