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**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026**

**LEGISLATIVE DAY 32 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.

Rain, sleet, and an unexpected blast of cold air swept through metro Atlanta Monday, putting a literal chill on what had been springlike weather just days earlier and setting the tone for another busy day under the Gold Dome. As lawmakers returned to the Capitol, the contrast between the cold conditions outside and the heated policy debates inside was clear. With only a few weeks remaining in the legislative session, decisions about how Georgia uses its budget surplus and whether those choices actually help working families are taking center stage.

One of the day's most significant developments came in the Senate, where lawmakers approved a plan backed by Gov. Brian Kemp to send one time tax rebate checks to Georgians later this year. The proposal would provide up to \$250 for single filers, \$375 for heads of household, and as much as \$500 for married couples filing jointly. Supporters describe the rebates as returning surplus revenue to taxpayers. Critics argue that the move highlights a larger debate about priorities, as Republican leaders continue pursuing long term tax cuts that could reduce the state's ability to fund public schools, health care, and other essential services that working families rely on.

At the same time, lawmakers are considering a bipartisan proposal aimed at addressing one of the state's most visible affordability challenges. The legislation would create a statewide homelessness prevention program that helps families stay in their homes before an eviction crisis begins. Under the proposal, local governments and nonprofit organizations could access flexible grants or short term loans to cover small but critical emergency expenses that often push families toward housing instability. Advocates say the approach focuses on prevention and recognizes that modest investments can keep families housed and reduce the long term costs of homelessness.

As the session enters its final weeks, these debates reflect two competing visions for how Georgia should use its resources. One approach prioritizes returning surplus dollars through rebates and tax cuts. The other focuses on investing in programs that strengthen communities and help families remain economically stable. The choices lawmakers make in the coming days will determine which path moves forward.

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

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

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## **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DAY**

[\*\*HOUSE FLOOR SESSION LD 32\*\*](#)   [\*\*SENATE FLOOR SESSION LD 32\*\*](#)

## **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 the Fulton County Election Office FBI raid.
- Find updates on recent happenings in legislation affecting education using GCEJ's [legislative tracker](#) and [action toolkit](#).

## CTAs

- Stay tuned for more Calls to Action from the Georgia Progressive Coalition.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- GYJC will have a Youth at the Capitol day [every Thursday](#) during session. For more information, please contact Melody Oliphant ([melody@georgiayouthjustice.org](mailto:melody@georgiayouthjustice.org)).
- 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](mailto: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

<a href="#">HB 1138</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new version removes the protection from civil liability for pharmacists who dispense/administer contraceptives and for practitioners who issue standing prescription drug orders.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4  Senate Read and Referred
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<a href="#">HB 1275</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to amend developments in stem cell therapies to not involve stem cells from abortions.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
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**ENVIRONMENT**

<a href="#">SB 410</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to **repeal the sales and use tax exemption for data center equipment** in Georgia</li> <li>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.</li> <li>The bill takes effect upon the Governor's approval (or automatically if it becomes law without approval).</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<a href="#">SB 240</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill would designate April as Georgia Native Plant Month.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/3</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<a href="#">SR 800</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill would create a Joint Study Committee on the Generational Sustainability of Family Farms.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<a href="#">HB 1159</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill exempts from Georgia state income taxation all payments received under two specific USDA agricultural assistance programs (Farmer Bridge Assistance and Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers) for the 2025 crop year, provided farmers met specific reporting deadlines. The exemption applies to individuals, corporations, and partnerships.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Committee Favorably Reported</p>

<p><a href="#">HB 320</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes mandating the recycling of solar panels in Georgia and prohibiting their disposal in landfills.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/25</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1266</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to amend Georgia's watercraft operation regulations, specifically regarding restrictions on certain motor vessels to be operated on the Ogeechee River.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>

**EDUCATION**

<p><a href="#">HB 1009</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill expands Georgia's personal electronic device ban from K-8 to include high school students (grades 9-12).</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1107</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Committee Favorably Reported</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 446</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1123</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Committee Favorably Reported</p>

<p><a href="#">SB 497</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 513</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 523</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to require the Department of Education to require K-12 schools to introduce antisemitism to religion based discrimination and authorize withholding state funding from schools who do not comply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Fact Sheet from Project South</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1379</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 425</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to require any Georgia school that receives state funding and serves elementary students (grades 3-5) to teach cursive handwriting to students no later than third grade.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 310</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes the creation of two new grant programs to recruit teachers in Georgia by providing financial support to student teachers and new teachers.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 372</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bill expands and extends a program allowing Georgia public schools to rehire retired teachers</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24</p>

		with 30+ years of service, making it easier to address teacher shortages in critical subject areas while providing more flexibility and job security.	Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">HB 385</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to amend the eligibility requirements for the HOPE scholarship to allow students pursuing their graduate degree within the 18 months after completing their baccalaureate degree to use the full hours of their HOPE scholarship eligibility.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">HB 971</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Quality Basic Education Act proposes to increase educational opportunities for homeschooled and private school students by allowing them to access career and technical education courses in a wider geographic area and expanding the types of courses available to them.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">HB 1023</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to mandate weapon detection systems in Georgia public schools.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">HB 1193</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to revise the “Georgia Early Literacy and Dyslexia Act” by creating new requirements emphasizing evidence-based reading instruction, early intervention, systematic assessment, and coordinated state-wide literacy efforts.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">SB 472</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes new criteria for state oversight of local school systems by creating new requirements for suspension and contractions, limiting distribution of state funding, and enhancing auditing practices.</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/26  House Second Readers
<a href="#">SB 471</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to eliminate school boards from requiring students or staff to wear face masks by including a requirement that the requirement that any school mask mandate must include a parental exemption option.</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted  House Second Readers

<p><a href="#">HB 1220</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill expands access to private school scholarships for military families and students with disabilities, removes scholarship caps for students with disabilities, and mandates transparency about which schools can serve students with specific conditions.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1284</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes exceptions to standard graduation requirements, allowing terminally ill high school students to receive their diplomas before passing away, regardless of whether they've completed all required credits.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1302</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to restructure the Office of Student Achievement as the Office of Education and Workforce Strategy and centralizes education and workforce development coordination, eliminate the Alliance of Education Agency Heads, improve data sharing, and better align education programs with workforce needs.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1402</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill would require school provided vision and hearing screenings for all public school students in pre-K through third grade.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 962</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes changes to Georgia's education savings plan by making contribution limits more adaptable to changing education costs, and allowing Georgia taxpayers to claim deductions for contributions to out-of-state 529 plans, not just Georgia's plan.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 589</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “Quality Basic Education Act” expands Pre-K eligibility to include both 4- and 5-year-olds (rather than just one age group), ensures fair treatment across age groups in seat allocation, and limits participation to one year per child.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 540</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “Online Safety Bill Act” proposes to require disclosure and operator protocol for</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By</p>

		conversational AI's responses to sexual content, self-harm, and suicidal ideations.	Substitute 3/6 House Second Readers
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**HOUSING**

<a href="#">SB 463</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/3  House Second Readers
<a href="#">HB 1166</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill would allow property owners to build or place less than 400 sq feet dwellings on residentially-zoned property without needing zoning approval, while still maintaining safety codes, environmental regulations, historic preservation rules, and flood insurance requirements.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">HB 1396</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to require privately funded homeless service organizations operating near schools, parks, and childcare facilities in the Atlanta metro area to participate in the state's homeless data tracking system, with noncriminal penalties for non-compliance.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">HB 1087</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes the "Disabled Veteran Home Modification Act" which removes financial barriers for disabled veterans seeking to make their homes accessible while maintaining regulatory oversight processes.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted  Senate Read and Referred

**HEALTHCARE**

<a href="#">SB 427</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address physician shortages in rural Georgia by creating a supervised pathway for qualified international physicians to practice and eventually obtain full licensure.</li> <li>The program only becomes effective if <b>**specifically funded**</b> through state</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/20  House Committee Favorably
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		appropriations and automatically repeals if funding is not maintained.	Reported By Substitute 3/10
<a href="#">SB 462</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted 2/18  House Withdrawn, Recommitted
<a href="#">HB 334</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sickle Cell Protection Act would require the Department of Community to annually review Medicaid coverage for sickle cell disease treatments, gather public input from disease experts, and report findings to the General Assembly yearly.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">HB 1368</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes state oversight of community mental health services by making executive directors state employees appointed by the commissioner, while maintaining local governing boards with reduced autonomy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mirrors <a href="#">SB 535</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">SB 440</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes changes to Georgia public health statutes including the Prescription Drug Modeling Program, removing certain marriage license requirements (AIDS/HIV brochures, sickle-cell testing, family planning manuals), amongst other things. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeals the Cancer Advisory Committee</li> <li>Repeals certain reporting requirements for the use of auto-injectable epinephrine</li> <li>Repeals the "Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Education ACT</li> <li>Repeals the Georgia Commission for Saving the Care</li> <li>Eliminates option taxpayer contributions to stem cell research</li> <li>Repeals the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted As Amended 2/20  House Committee Favorably Reported

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eliminates annual reporting requirement on infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome</li> </ul>	
<a href="#">SB 395</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The bill proposes to allow state licensing boards to access Low THC Oil Patient Registry data, while maintaining HIPAA compliance requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<a href="#">HB 961</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This bill proposes to expand the "Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act" to mandate insurance coverage for emergency ambulance transport and creates protections such as minimum reimbursement rates, caps on patient cost sharing, protects patients from balance billing, and requires that insurers pay ambulance providers directly within 30 days of the claim.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<a href="#">HB 1238</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The bill proposes to expand Medicaid coverage to support families caring for children with complex behavioral health needs by providing financial reimbursement for respite care, potentially preventing more costly out-of-home placements or residential treatment.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<a href="#">HB 1296</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This bill proposes to establish the "Breakthrough Treatments for Georgia Heroes Suicide Prevention Pilot Program," creating a state-funded research and treatment program for mental health therapies specifically for Georgia veterans and first responders.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<a href="#">HB 1393</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This bill creates a broad immunity from antitrust laws for rural hospital authorities in Georgia, allowing them to coordinate and collaborate in ways that would otherwise violate federal and state competition laws.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PUBLIC SAFETY**

<p><a href="#">SB 398</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates new criminal offenses related to “virtual peeping”, specifically targeting the nonconsensual use of generative artificial intelligence to create realistic images of real people.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted by Substitute 2/20</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 443</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/3</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 295</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes creating a new legal mechanism that allows property owners to seek compensation from local governments under specific circumstances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">CTA from GLAHR</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1061</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 1061, the Mandi Ballinger Act, proposes to raise the juvenile justice age in Georgia from 17 to 18 years old, meaning that 17-year-children will be included in the juvenile justice system.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted by Substitute 2/20</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1075</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1142</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>

<p><a href="#">HB 1329</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 1329 proposes to amend Georgia code to create a new definition for dangerous drugs and Schedule 1 controlled substances.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 500</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to expand Georgia’s healthcare workforce tracking system to include all licensed health care professionals in Georgia.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 399</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mason Sells AED proposes changes to cardiac emergency response by ensuring 911 operators know where AEDs are located and can provide real-time guidance to callers, while reducing regulatory barriers and standardizing training requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>House Committee Favorably Reported 3/10</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 470</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “Emergency and Public Safety Signal Protection Act” proposes the complete prohibition on possession, manufacturing, use, and distribution of signal jammers.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/26</p> <p>House Committee Favorably Reported</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 441</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to state oversight and regulation of local government investment pools by requiring State Depository Board approval for new multi-government investment arrangements, while preserving the existing state-run pool and exempting certain other pools from this amendment.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 418</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes a new civil cause of action for "deepfake" pornography and similar unauthorized sexual image manipulation, with special protections for minors and accommodation for criminal prosecutions.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>

<p><a href="#">HB 421</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The “Interstate Sexual Predator Prevention Act” proposes to criminalize interstate travel to Georgia with the intent to sexually exploit minors.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1097</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bill amends Georgia's background check requirements for mental health facilities and care providers by mandating background checks, establishing clear disqualification criteria, and imposing penalties for noncompliance.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/26</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 572</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes new qualifications for candidates running for sheriff in Georgia by requiring them to already be certified peace officers at the time they qualify as candidates.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 468</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes changes to the sexual offender risk review board by requiring enhanced monitoring of homeless sexual offenders, requiring sexual offenders to report international travel 21 days in advance, establishing stricter risk classification standards, and stable housing accountability programs to screen applicants for sexual offender status.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/3</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1076</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to make obstruction of law enforcement a felony when a motor vehicle is used as the means of obstruction.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1187</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Trey’s Law” would prohibit the use of nondisclosure agreements to conceal information about childhood sexual abuse and voids any confidentiality provisions that prohibit discussing such abuse.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 967</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies upgrade their</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read</p>

		patrol vehicles with bullet-resistant protective features.	and Referred
<a href="#">HB 1432</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes stronger legislative oversight of the Georgia Public Defender Council by establishing clear vacancy-filling procedures for the oversight committee, and making it a criminal offense for the council or director to refuse cooperation with the committee.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">SB 587</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill creates a public registry of animal cruelty offenders to help protect animals from being adopted or placed with individuals who have histories of animal abuse.</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted As Amended  House Second Readers
<a href="#">SB 547</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill increases penalties for pimping and pandering in Georgia by making all violations felony offenses punishable by 1-10 years imprisonment, eliminating the current structure where only first offenses are misdemeanors and subsequent offenses are felonies.</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted  House Second Readers

**IMMIGRATION**

<a href="#">SB 116</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>The bill expands mandatory DNA collection to include individuals who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are charged (not convicted) with misdemeanors or felonies</li> <li>Are subject to immigration detainer notices</li> <li>Are held in detention facilities (including newly-added county jails and municipal facilities)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="#">CTA from GLAHR</a></li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted by Substitute 2/24  House Committee Favorably Reported 3/12
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<p><a href="#">SB 442</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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) making conforming technical changes to related statutes.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House Second Readers 3/10</p>
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**VOTING RIGHTS/ELECTIONS/ DEMOCRACY**

<p><a href="#">SR 563</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 392</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The "Waste Reduction Act of 2026" changes Georgia's budgeting process by requiring the state to use zero-based budgeting when developing the budget and justify their funding from scratch.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 963</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to restrict foreign nationals from contributing to, controlling, or participating in Georgia ballot measure campaigns and protect donor privacy.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>

**ECONOMY**

<p><a href="#">HB 947</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 947, the Georgia SNAP Healthier Choices Act of 2026, would prohibit the purchase of certain food and beverage items with SNAP benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1001</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to **simplify and accelerate Georgia's income tax rate reduction.</li> <li>• Instead of a gradual, conditional reduction over multiple years (potentially 2026-2029 or longer if delayed), this bill jumps directly to the final 4.99%</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>

		rate in 2026, providing an immediate tax cut and removing economic performance conditions that could postpone the reduction.	
<a href="#">HB 1116</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">SB 465</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB 465 proposes to disqualify large-scale businesses that employ undocumented immigrants from claiming certain tax credits for those projects.</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6  House Second Readers
<a href="#">HB 1118</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to provide 120 hours of paid maternal birth leave to state government and local education agency employees within the 3 weeks following childbirth.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4  Senate Read and Referred
<a href="#">SB 59</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill expands eligibility for conservation use property tax assessment by allowing property owners to lease their land to certain qualified business entities and still maintain preferential tax treatment. The entities must be citizen-owned and primarily engaged in agricultural/timber production, or have significant ownership stake by someone who independently qualifies for the assessment.</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/26  Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/12
<a href="#">SB 447</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill proposes to streamline and standardize the permit approval process in Georgia by establishing strict timelines and transparency requirements for local governments.</li> </ul>	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/3  House Second Readers
<a href="#">HB 1063</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill would require electric utilities in Georgia to include specific protective contract terms when</li> </ul>	House Passed/ Adopted By

		<p>serving large data centers (100+ megawatts) to ensure that residential and retail electricity customers do not subsidize the costs of data center construction and operation.</p>	<p>Substitute 2/17</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<a href="#">HB 1000</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes a tax rebate program returning up to \$250-\$500 to individual taxpayers based on their 2024 tax liability and filing status, contingent on filing returns for both 2024 and 2025.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
<a href="#">SB 476</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The “Income Tax Reduction Act of 2026” proposes to reduce individual income tax, corporate income tax, partnership &amp; S-Corporation tax, and create a standard deduction increase while repealing numerous tax credits and exemptions.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<a href="#">SB 477</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes changes to Georgia’s tax code by accelerating and increasing tax cuts for individuals while establishing fixed, lower rates for businesses, and substantially increases standard deductions.</li> </ul>	<p>Senate Passed/Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<a href="#">HR 1114</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This resolution proposes to provide property tax relief for homeowners through reduced property tax assessment for homesteads, enhanced veterans' benefits, homeowner's incentive adjustment program, and sales tax changes.</li> </ul>	<p>House Reconsidered</p>
<a href="#">HB 1272</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill proposes a comprehensive regulatory framework for payment stablecoin issuers in Georgia, implementing the federal GENIUS Act (Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins Act).</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred 3/6</p>
<a href="#">HB 376</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill expands the historic rehabilitation tax credit program by doubling the annual funding cap and increasing maximum credits for large projects, while simultaneously tightening eligibility (higher minimum expenditure) and slightly reducing the base credit rate for non-residential structures. It incentivizes rehabilitation in rural/smaller counties through bonus credits.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/12</p>

<a href="#">HB 1077</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill extends an existing cultural tax exemption from December 31, 2027 to December 31, 2032 to continue supporting nonprofit arts and museum organizations in Georgia.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<a href="#">HB 1148</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill expands and extends Georgia's conservation property tax credit program by doubling credit amounts, extending the program 5 years, increasing annual funding, simplifying administration, and removing appraiser penalties.</li> </ul>	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>

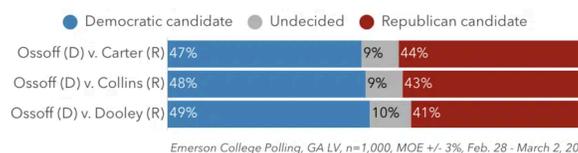
## NEWS AND UPDATES

- [Bipartisan bill calls for putting funds toward homelessness prevention in Georgia](#)
- [State lawmakers grill former special prosecutor Nathan Wade over Georgia Trump election case](#)
- [Trump side-stepped diplomacy on his way to war in Iran. Now, he's asking China and others for help](#)
- [Georgia Senate approves tax rebates of up to \\$500](#)
- [Iran live updates: 200 US troops have been wounded, including 10 'seriously'](#)
- [Emails show back-and-forth over latest Rick Jackson ad](#)
- [Family seeks answers about 12-year-old girl killed after school bus dispute](#)
- [Georgia 14th election: Harris takes first, Trump-backed fuller advances to runoff](#)
- [Where rents are falling \(or rising\) most](#)
- [Severe storm damages homes, downs trees, power lines across Middle Georgia](#)

## RESEARCH AND POLLING

### GEORGIA 2026 POLL

Hypothetical 2026 U.S. Senate Matchups



### [Georgians rooting for Ossoff ahead of 2026 U.S. Senate race:](#)

A poll by Emerson College found that Georgians are swaying towards Democratic candidate Jon Ossoff over the respective Republican candidates Mike Collins, Buddy Carter, and Derek Dooley. Of voters, Ossoff holds a tighter base with women (12 points) and voters under 50 (8 points) than his Republican counterparts. When surveying Republicans, Emerson College

found that 1 out of 4 Georgia Republicans remain undecided on their vote for Republican U.S. Senate candidates, with Mike Collins following behind at 30%.

**6 in 10 Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most cases**

% who say abortion should be ...



% who say it would be \_\_\_ to get an abortion in the area where they live

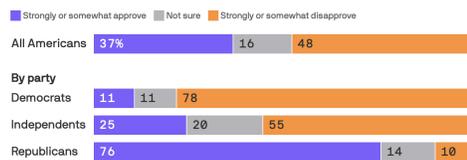


**Americans not as swayed on abortion as you may believe:**

According to a survey by Pew Research Center, 60% of U.S. adults say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, compared to 38% who say it should be illegal in all or most cases, showing that a clear majority of Americans still support legal access to abortion even after the Supreme Court overruled Roe V. Wade. Of the surveyed respondents 84% of Democrats believed that abortion should be legal in all or most cases compared to the 36% of Republicans who agreed. Overall, half (52%) of those surveyed believed that the decision to have an abortion is the sole decision of the pregnant woman.

**How Americans say they feel about the U.S. attacks on Iran**

Survey of 1,633 U.S. adults conducted March 2, 2026



Data: Yougov poll; Chart: Axios Visuals

**Americans aren't sold on Iran attacks, new polls show:**

A Monday YouGov survey of more than 1,600 U.S. adults found that nearly half (48%) strongly or somewhat disapproved of the attack, including the vast majority of Democrats (78%) and Independents (55%). Republicans overwhelmingly approved (76%).

**SOCIAL LISTENING & MIS- AND DISINFORMATION TRACKING**

- **BLUESKY:** [Kingsland case](#)
  - As of 03/16 @ 5:00 PM
    - Views: n/a
    - Likes: 2.4k
    - Comments: 83
    - Reshares: 1k
- **INSTAGRAM:** [Warnock calling out Vance](#)
  - As of 3/16 @ 5:00 PM
    - Views: 1.2M
    - Likes: 33.8k
    - Comments: 2,901
    - Reshares: 24.8k
- **FACEBOOK:** [Buddy Carter calling out Ossoff](#)
  - As of 3/16 @ 5:00 PM
    - Views: 8.8k
    - Reactions: 343
    - Comments: 293
    - Reshares: 53
- **REDDIT:** [Shawn Harris has the most votes](#)
  - As of 03/16 @ 5:00 PM
    - Upvotes: 3.1k
    - Comments: 234

**FOLLOW THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SOCIAL**

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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
			01	02 Sine Die! 🎉 (LD 40)	03	04

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