

Fair Districts GA Town Hall “A Call To Action in 2022”



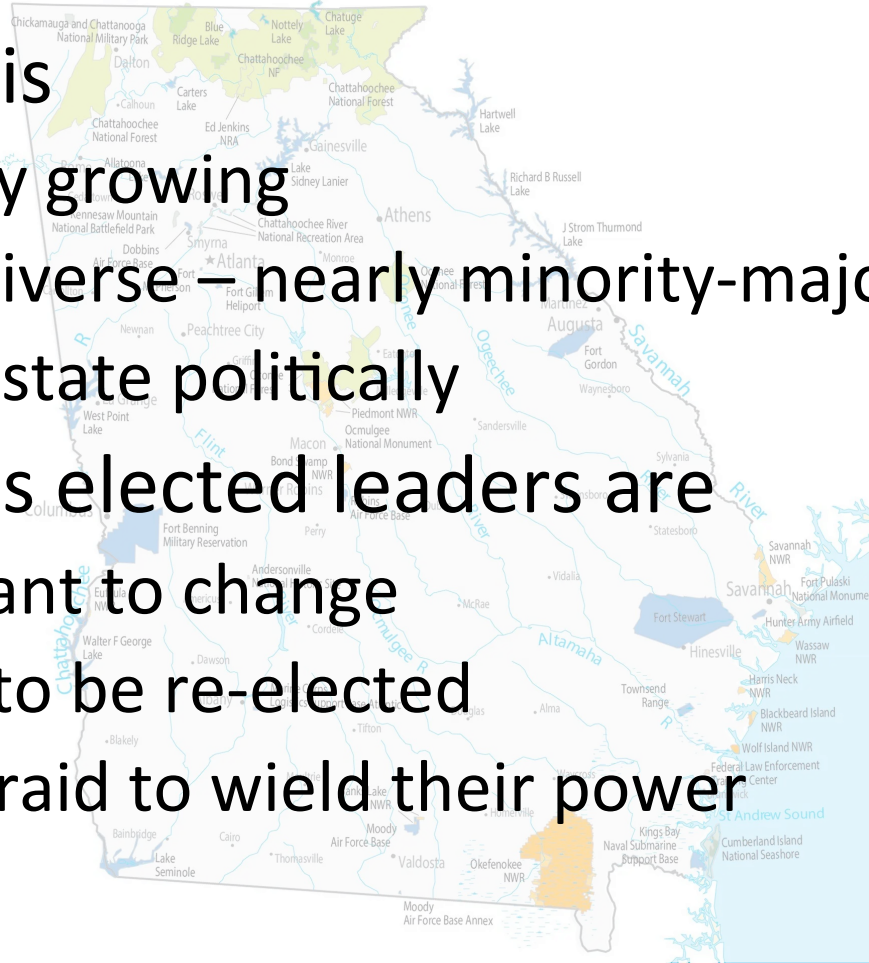
January 31, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome
- 2021 recap and strategy for 2022
- Litigation overview
- Local redistricting
- How to get involved this year
- Q&A

Things we learned in 2021

- Georgia is
 - Rapidly growing
 - Very diverse – nearly minority-majority state
 - Swing state politically
- Georgia's elected leaders are
 - Resistant to change
 - Want to be re-elected
 - Not afraid to wield their power



Fair Districts GA self-assessment

Strengths

- Passion for the cause
- Well-known by legislators – changed the conversation
- Leading voice in Georgia for redistricting
- Facts, data, and analysis
- Strong partnerships with ACLU, LWV, GLBC, Princeton

Weaknesses

- Little Republican support
- Team lacks diversity (age, race)
- Very little funding

Opportunities

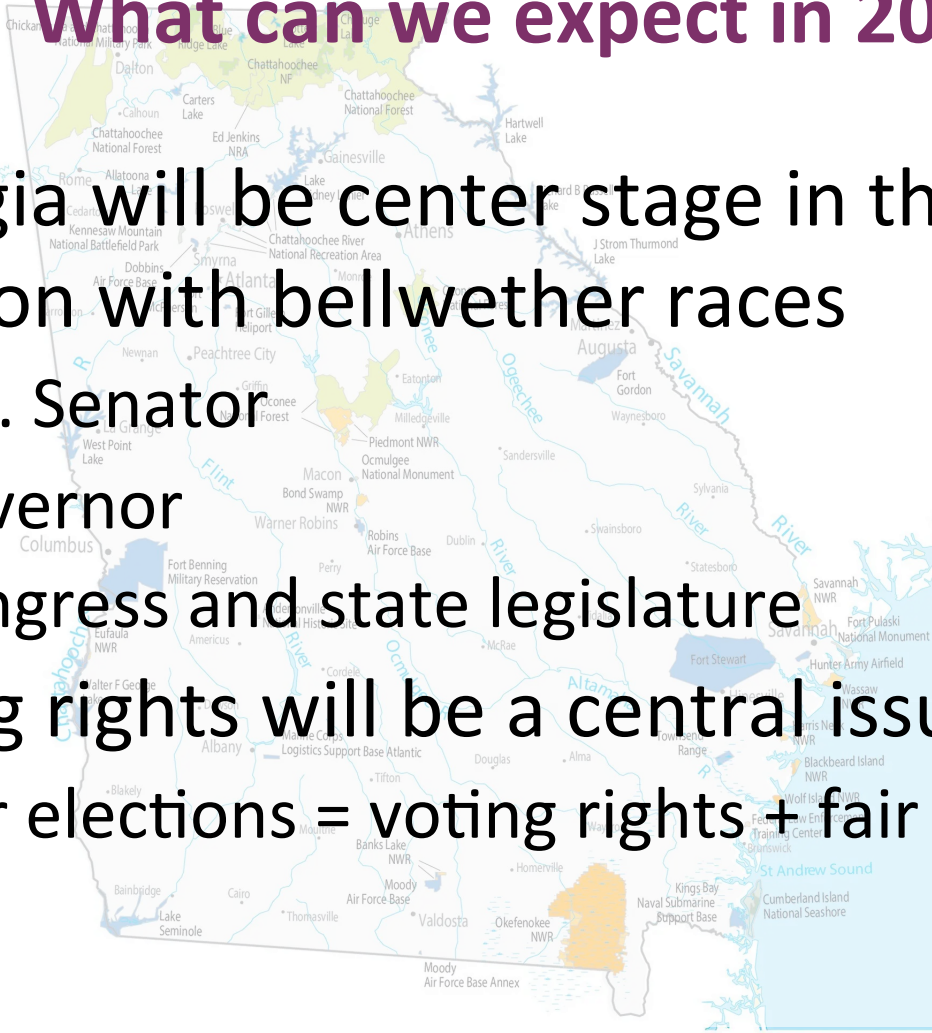
- 2022 is an election year
- Georgia now a swing state
- Georgia now a target state for reform
- Leverage our higher profile
- Drive partner activities around redistricting
- Leverage our citizen network

Threats

- Majority party has all the power
- Majority party will out-crazy this year
- Polarized political environment
- Continued attacks on voting rights driven by “Stolen election” myth
- Possible mid-decade redistricting

What can we expect in 2022?

- Georgia will be center stage in the mid-term election with bellwether races
 - U.S. Senator
 - Governor
 - Congress and state legislature
- Voting rights will be a central issue
 - Fair elections = voting rights + fair districts



2022 FDGA Strategy

- Get Local
 - Provide support for local-level redistricting
 - Local engagement for state-level effort
- Make redistricting an issue in 2022 election
- Build support for redistricting reform
 - Advocate for legislation
 - Identify best practices and tools
- Build a more sustainable organization



Five lawsuits have been filed in Georgia

Lawsuit	Map(s)	Complaint	Lead legal org
Pendergrass v. Raffensberger	Congressional	Federal VRA violation, requests new Black majority district in western Atlanta suburbs	Adam Sparks; Perkins Coie; Elias Law Group / Marc Elias
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity v. Raffensberger	State House and Senate	Federal VRA violation. Lack of Black majority districts in many areas of state. Cites long history of discrimination	ACLU-GA / Rahul Garabadu
GA NAACP, et. al. v. State of Georgia, Kemp, Raffensberger	Congressional, State House, State Senate	Federal VRA, 14 th & 15 th Amendment violations for minorities in general, cites many districts in each plan, very broad complaint	Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights
Common Cause & LWV v. Raffensberger	Congressional	Violates 14 th Amendment equal protection clause, not VRA. Challenges 6 th , 13 th , 14 th districts as racial gerrymanders	Southern Policy Law Center
Grant, et. al. v. Raffensberger & State Election Board	State House and Senate	Federal VRA violation due to lack of Black majority districts in specific areas. Seeks 3 more Black majority seats in State Senate & 5 more in House.	Adam Sparks; Perkins Coie; Elias Law Group / Marc Elias

Litigation outlook

- Three cases before Judge Steve Jones are **single judge** matters – Pendergrass, Alpha Phi Alpha and Grant. Each is vote dilution challenge under section 2 of VRA involving Georgia Senate, House and Congressional maps.
- Two remaining cases are **three judge matters** and, unlike single judge cases, both contemplate litigation extending into early 2023.
- Jones has **DENIED** AG's procedural motions to dismiss in Pendergrass, Alpha Phi Alpha and Grant.
- Judge Jones has scheduled hearing to begin February 7, 2022 on plaintiff's motions for preliminary injunctions. **SIGNS FAVORABLE FOR AN EXPEDITIOUS RULING FROM JUDGE JONES. BUT . . .**
- **POTENTIAL FOR DELAY SIGNIFICANT NO MATTER HOW JUDGE JONES RULES.**

Local Redistricting



- SB 177 “Home Rule” passed in 2019
- SB 177 gives county commissions (159), county school boards (159) and independent school boards and municipalities (535) ability to propose their own maps **BUT** requires LCRO review/approval (with a local legislative sponsor) before legislative approval
- Due to census and special session delays, local redistricting is on the regular legislative session agenda; Kemp and Ralston goal to complete before 2/18/22 to meet SOS deadline
- County commission and boards of education focus this session, cities for 2023 given municipal election timing
- The Gwinnett proposals during special session illustrate the importance and potential dangers of local redistricting
- Need advocacy at local levels for transparency, public input, fairness and honoring communities of interest

Dekalb County Redistricting

- Dekalb grew by ~72k over last decade

Two redistricting public meetings were held by the County Commission on 12/9 and 12/16, issues raised:

- Transparency, opportunity for public engagement
- District deviation
- Preserve communities of interest including cities
- Super commission model

Dekalb Board of Commissioners approved submitting their proposed maps to the LCRO for review on 12/21; technical updates made and released tonight

House delegation will host three public hearings on these maps on 2/2, 2/8 and 2/9

Senator Jones had LCRO develop an alternate map to remove the super districts

Draft- DeKalb County Commission Districts

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Blue dots are existing
Commissioners

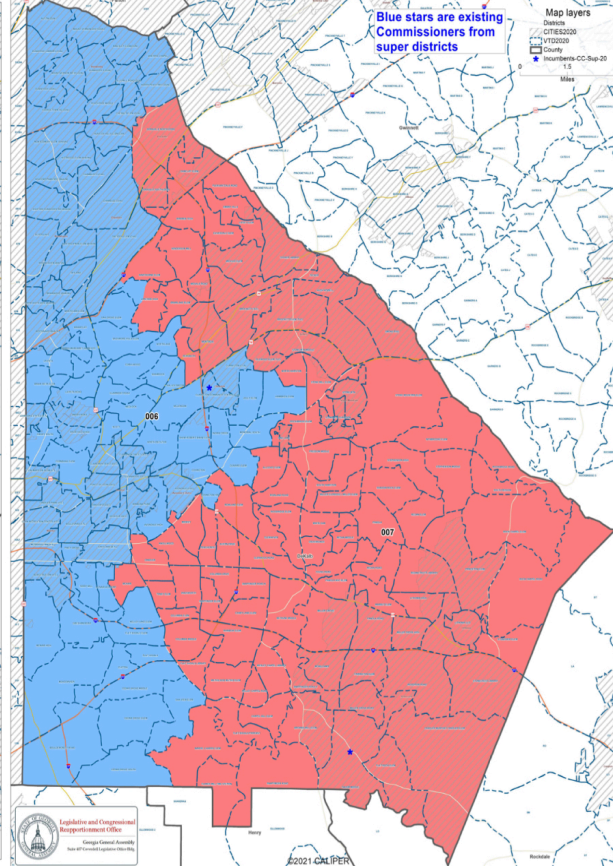
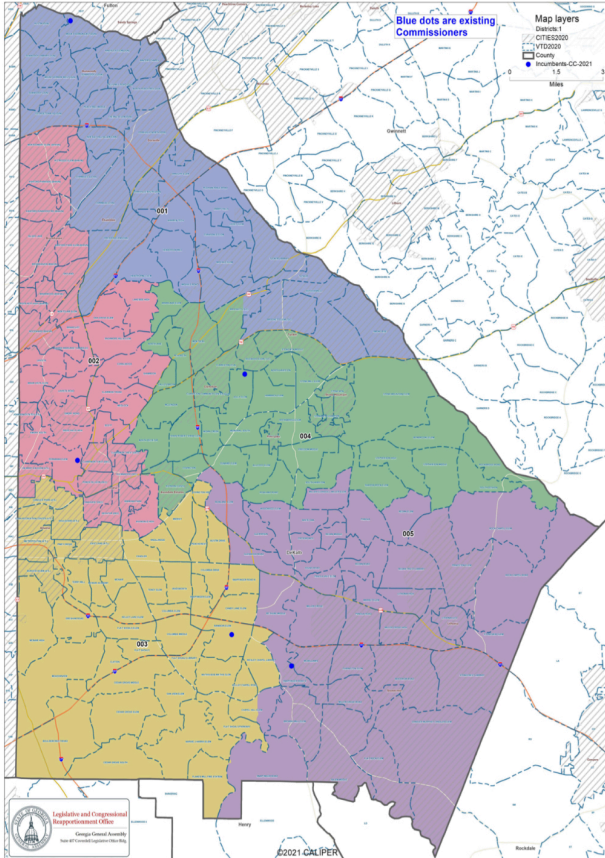
Map layers
Districts 1
CITIES2020
VTD2020
County
Incumbents-CC-2021
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Miles

Draft- DeKalb County Commission Super Districts

Sheet Details
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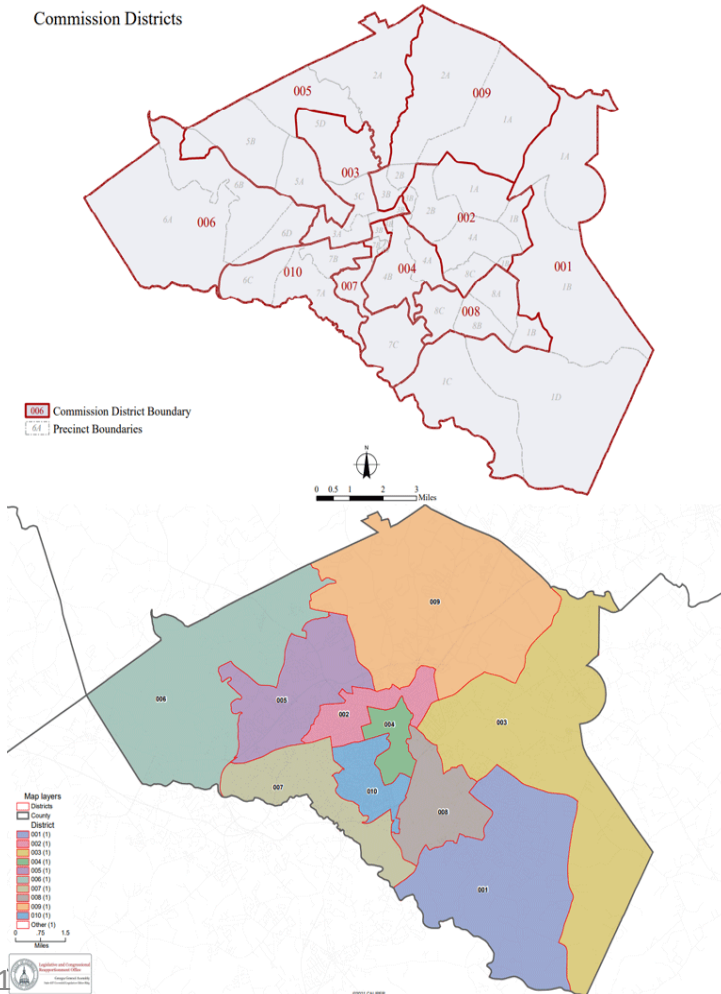
Blue stars are existing
Commissioners from
super districts

Map layers
Districts
CITIES2020
VTD2020
County
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1:5
Miles



Athens-Clark Co Redistricting

Commission Districts

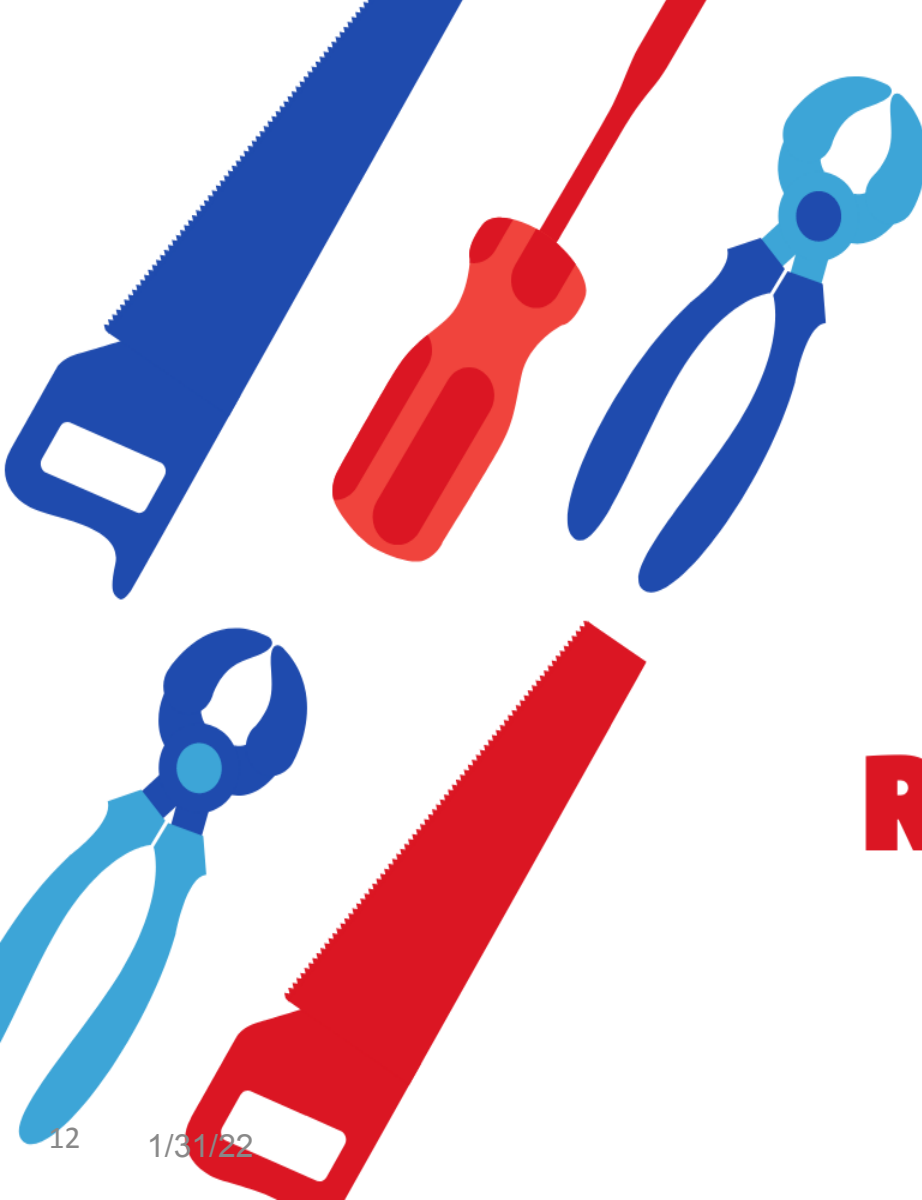


- Last fall Commissioners charged their Board of Elections with drawing a new district map based on the 2020 census
- The proposed map was passed by the Board of Commissioners 6-3 in December
- Four R legislators filed their own map on 1/6/22 with no Commissioner or public input stating the Commissioners didn't reach a "consensus" (4R/1D make up the local delegation)
 - Three of the commissioners are drawn into even # districts, so can't run again until 2024
 - 2 of 3 addresses will move districts
- The one D delegation member proposed a third map on 1/18/22, Commission voted 8-2 to approve on 1/20/22
- HB 890 passed out of the House on 1/27
- Local advocacy now focused on the Senate

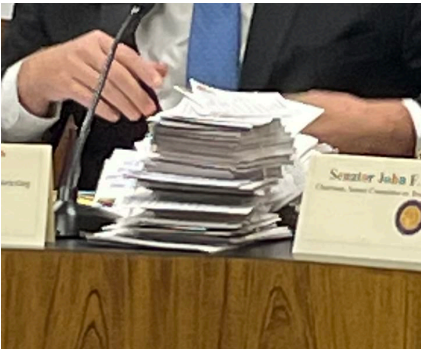


LOCAL REDISTRICTING TOOLKIT

[Bitl.y/FDGALocalToolkit](https://bit.ly/FDGALocalToolkit)



Meet Pam Woodley!



Community Survey

- Take 2 minutes to make your voice heard!
- Link in chat





CALL TO
ACTION

- Local redistricting
 - Contact your local elected officials
 - Contact your local legislators
 - Attend public forums, testify/submit comments
- Join the FDGA ***Action Team***
 - Urgent action notices during legislative session
- Join the FDGA ***Letter to the Editor*** team
- Ask your current legislators and November candidates to commit to redistricting reform



<https://www.mobilize.us/faircount/event/400371/>

Q and A

Thank you

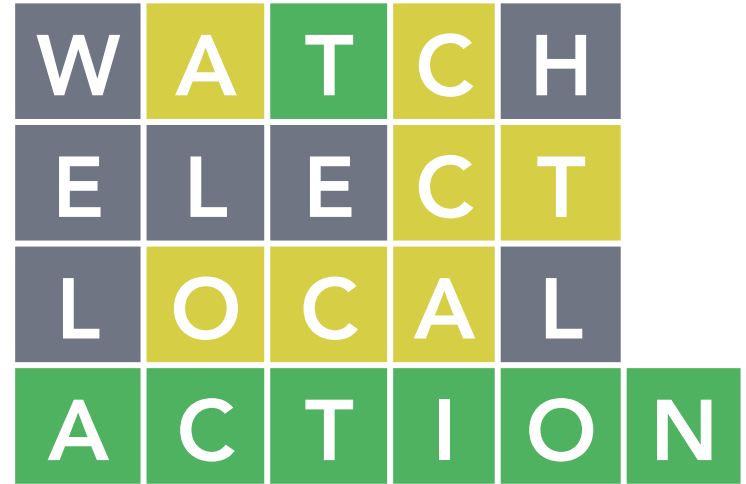
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Next Town Hall



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