

Fair Districts GA Town Hall September 8, 2025

The Voting Rights Act at 60: GEORGIA HISTORY & OUTLOOK



Guest Panelists:

Kareem Crayton, Brennan Center for Justice
Rahul Garabadu, Voting Rights Attorney

SPECIAL UPDATE

The Gerrymandering War Between the States

FDGA Town Hall Meeting
Monday, September 8
7 pm
Register: bit.ly/FDGASEPT25



Tonight's Program

- Voting Rights Act at 60
 - History of the Act in Georgia
 - Challenges and outlook
 - Kareem Crayton perspective
 - Rahul Garabadu perspective
- Redistricting War Between the States
 - Quick update
- Q & A

Post-Civil War / Reconstruction

- 1868: Georgia elects first group of 33 Black members to General Assembly
- Expelled but reinstated following GA Supreme Court ruling
- 1870 - 1900: Threats and intimidation
- 1907: Last of the 33 resigned
- No more Blacks elected until 1962

Barriers to Black Voter Participation - Jim Crow Era

- Poll tax
- Grandfather clause
- White-only primaries
- Good-character endorsements
- Literacy tests
- Complex registration procedures
- County unit system
- Threats, intimidation, violence

“... Georgia had erected the most imposing array of obstacles to Black voter registration of any southern state by the end of the twentieth century’s first decade.”

Expert report of Dr. Jason Morgan Ward, Alpha Phi Alpha v. Raffensberger, January 2022

Sample Voter Registration Questions

D. IF YOU CANNOT READ AND WRITE, YOU MUST ANSWER CORRECTLY 20 OF THESE 30 QUESTIONS:

(Some answers to questions apply to Fulton County only; check them for your county)

1. What is a republican form of government? A GOVERNMENT OF, BY AND FOR PEOPLE
2. What are the names of the 3 branches of the United States Government? LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL.
3. In what State Senatorial District do you live and what are the names of the counties in such District? DISTRICT 52: FULTON COUNTY, ONLY (CHECK YOUR OWN COUNTY FOR CORRECT ANSWERS).
4. What is the name of the State Judicial Circuit in which you live, and what are the names of the county or counties in such circuit? ATLANTA CIRCUIT, FULTON COUNTY ONLY (CHECK ANSWER FOR YOUR OWN COUNTY).

Sample Voter Registration Questions

11. Who is the Solicitor General of your State Judicial Circuit and who is the presiding judge (or judges if more than one). IN FULTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT: SOLICITOR PAUL WEBB, JUDGES: LUTHER B. ADVERSON, E. E. ANDREWS, STONEWALL DYER, VIRLYN B. MOORE, RALPH H. PHARR, DURWOOD T. PYE, CLAUDE D. SHAW, JEPHTHA C. TANKERSLAY, GEORGE P. WHITMAN, JESSE M. WOOD. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURT: SOLICITOR JOHN I. KELLY, JUDGES: J. WILSON PARKER, PAUL S. ETHERIDGE, HOKE SMITH, E. A. WRIGHT, THOMAS L. CAMP, CHARLES G. BRUCE, CHARLES A. WOFFORD. (CHECK ANSWER FOR YOUR OWN COUNTY).
12. If the Governor of Georgia dies who succeeds him and if both the Governor and the person who succeeds him die, who exercises the executive power? THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Voting Rights Act of 1965 Ushers in New Era

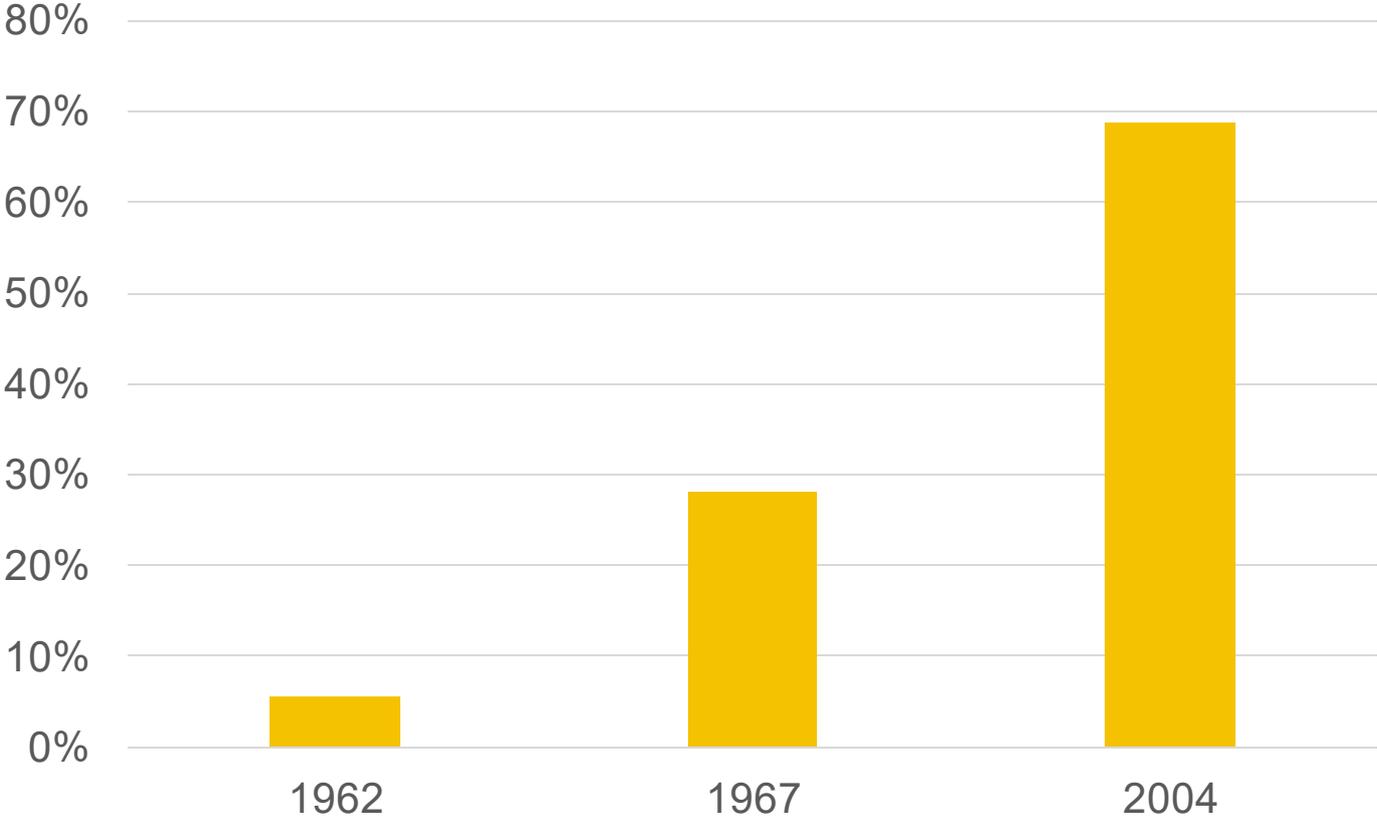
- Prohibits any voting rule that "results in the denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race or color" or membership in a language minority group.
- Key provisions
 - Effectively outlaws literacy tests, poll taxes, etc.
 - Effectively outlaws racial gerrymandering
 - Requires bi-lingual voting materials for certain jurisdictions
 - Establishes pre-clearance requirement for states with history of voting discrimination (section 4 criteria)
 - All voting changes, including redistricting, must be approved by Federal government (section 5)
 - Redistricting plans subject to pre-clearance (Georgia v. US 1973)

Voting Rights Act Amendments and Extensions

- Original Act had time-limited provisions
- 1970 - 5-year extension
- 1975 - 7-year extension
 - Protected language minorities
- 1982 - 25-year extension
 - Clarified that VRA bans practices that *result* in discrimination, regardless of *intent*.
- 2006 - 25-year extension including preclearance
 - House passed 390-33, Senate 98-0

Minority Voter Registration Grew Dramatically Following Passage of the VRA

Median Black/Non-white voter registration in 30 selected Georgia counties with low Black participation pre-VRA

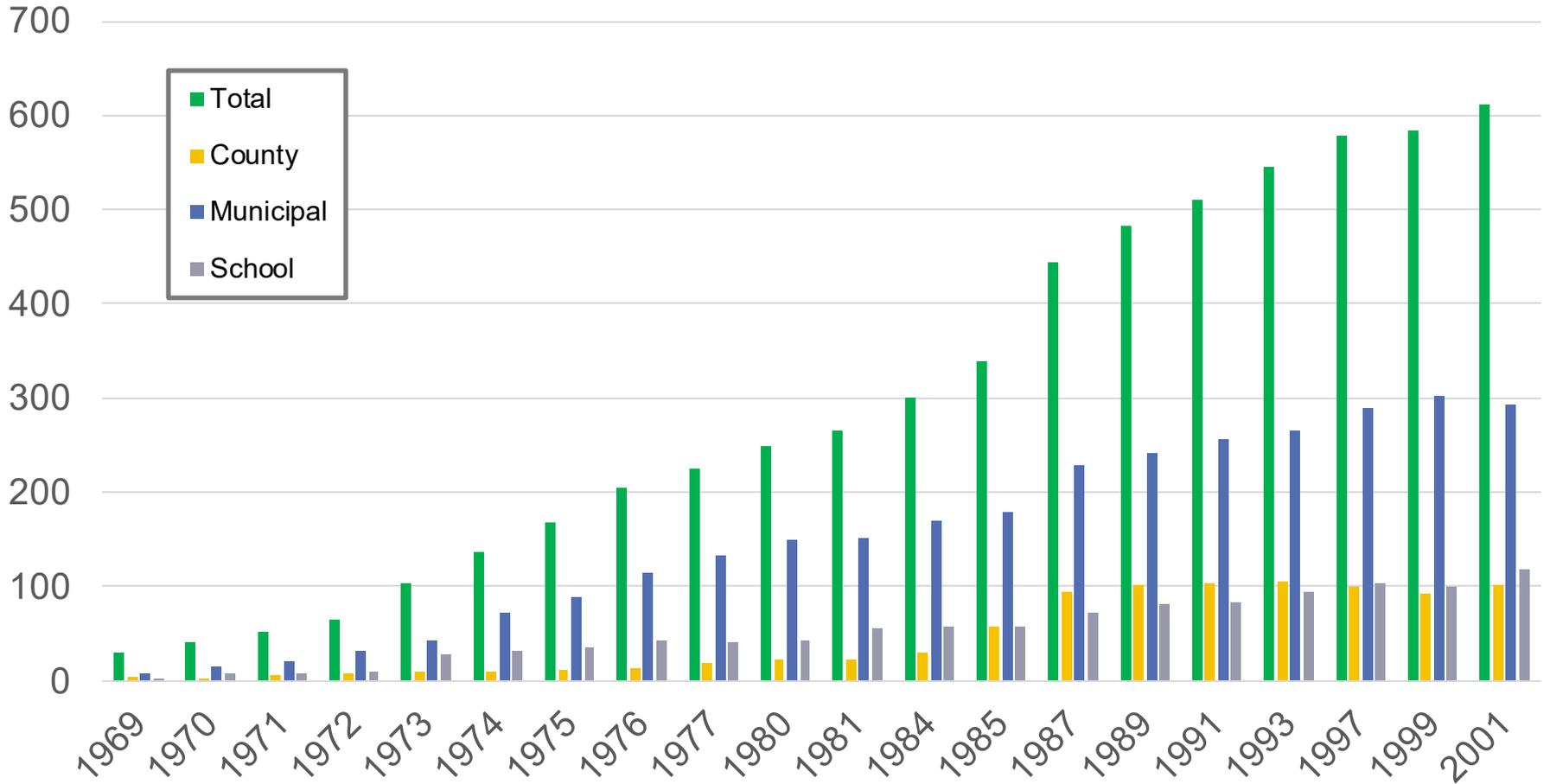


Source: Bullock and Gaddie, Voting Rights Progress in Georgia, 2006



9/8/25

African-American Elected Officials in Georgia



Source: Bullock and Gaddie, Voting Rights Progress in Georgia, 2006

9/8/25

Voting Rights Act at 60: Great Progress, but Challenges Persist

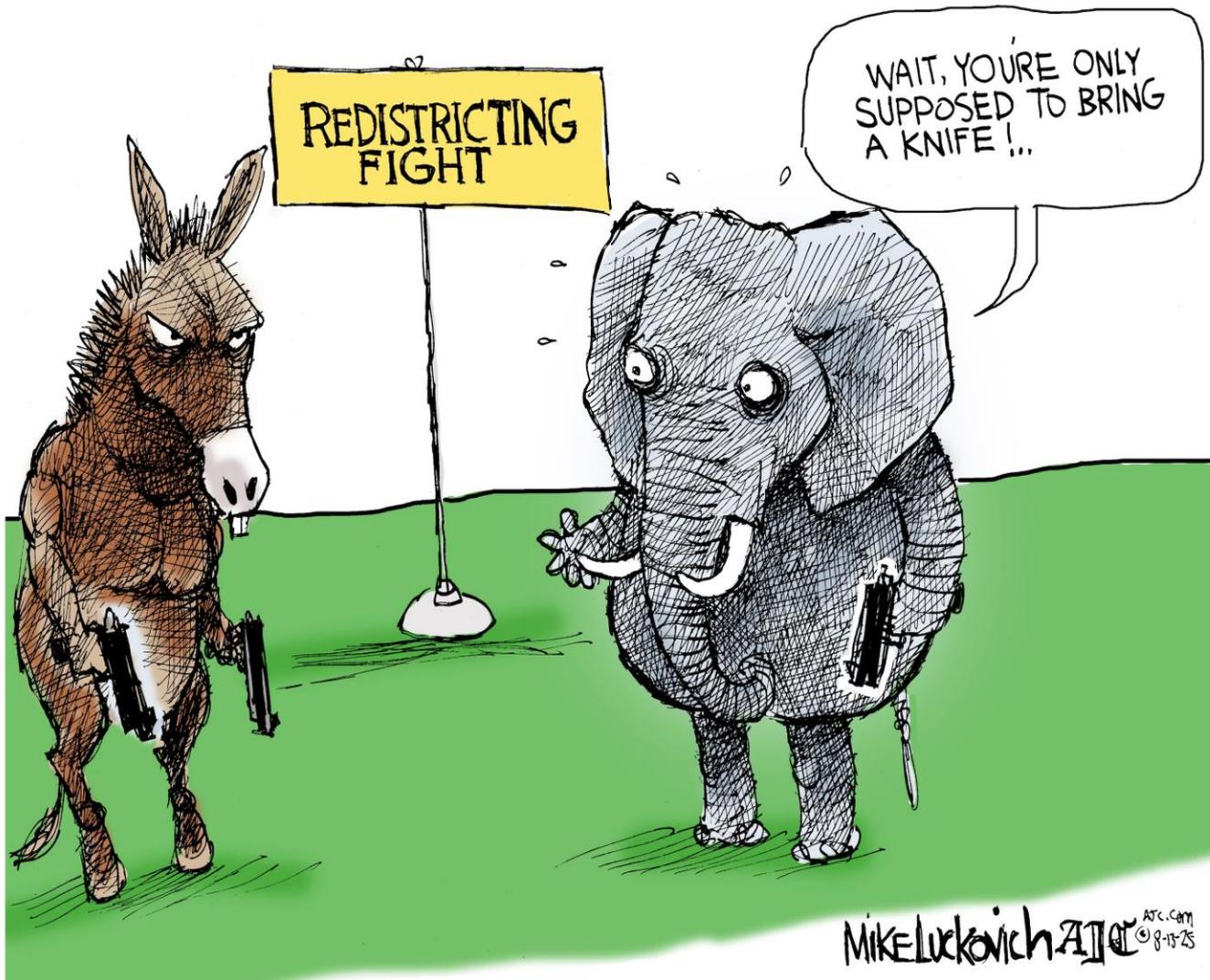
- Redistricting battles over race in politically polarized state
- Restrictive voting laws following election losses
- US Supreme Court decisions



LIBERALS
DEMOCRATS
Dems
DEMOCRATS

REPUBLICANS
GOP
MAGA
REPUBLICANS

Politics



Two ways to support Fair Districts



- Fair Districts GA Foundation
 - Supports research, education, communication, & community programs
 - Tax-deductible charity 501(c)(3)



- Fair Districts GA
 - Supports legislative advocacy and lobbying
 - Not tax deductible



@FDGAven

FairDistrictsGA.org/Donate

Thank you!

Thank you

Email: info@fairdistrictsga.org

Twitter: [@FairDistrictsGA](https://twitter.com/FairDistrictsGA)

Web: fairdistrictsga.org

Facebook: [@FairDistrictsGA](https://www.facebook.com/FairDistrictsGA)

Instagram: [@FairDistrictsGA](https://www.instagram.com/FairDistrictsGA)

Next Town Hall Mid-decade Redistricting

November 2025



Your support made this program possible
– Thank you!



FairDistrictsGA.org/donate



[@FDGAVen](https://twitter.com/FDGAVen)



9/8/25

Fair Districts GA Town Hall September 8, 2025

The Voting Rights Act at 60:

GEORGIA HISTORY & OUTLOOK



Guest Panelists:

Kareem Crayton, Brennan Center for Justice
Rahul Garabadu, Voting Rights Attorney

SPECIAL UPDATE

The Gerrymandering War Between the States

FDGA Town Hall Meeting
Monday, September 8
7 pm

Register: bit.ly/FDGASEPT25

