

**Fair Districts  
GA Town  
Hall  
January 27,  
2026**



**LOBBY  
DAY  
TRAINING**

**FDGA Town Hall**

Tuesday, January 27  
7 p.m.

**Register Today!**

[bit.ly/FDGAJan2026](https://bit.ly/FDGAJan2026)



# Today's objectives

- Thank you for volunteering!
- Ensure you are confident and comfortable talking to legislators about mid-decade redistricting
- Equip you with tools and knowledge
- Organize the lobbying effort
- Answer your questions

# Lobbying plan for 2026

- ➔ • #1 objective: Mid-decade Redistricting Ban
- ➔ • Targeted meetings
  - House and Senate members of Reapportionment and Redistricting Committees
  - Your legislators
- Day at the Capitol
  - Rope-line discussions
  - Literature drop to all offices
  - Meetings if you can arrange them
- Follow up calls and letters

# Tonight's Agenda

- Mid-decade redistricting ban – Ken Lawler
- Lobbying protocol and logistics – Julie Edelson
- Organizing the effort – Joyce Thomas
  
- When is our Day at the Capitol?
  - February 18 or 19
  - But you can start as soon as you feel ready

# About the Mid-decade ban

- News: introduced in Senate (SR 558) and House (HR 1033)
- Why do we need it?
- What is it and how does it work?
- How should I discuss it with legislators?
  - And how do I respond to objections?
  - Ask them to sign on to the resolution
- How will it get enacted?

**Useful review:**

**Fair Districts  
GA Town Hall  
November 10,  
2025**

[FairDistrictsGA.org/townhalls](https://FairDistrictsGA.org/townhalls)

# **Mid-Decade Redistricting in Georgia**



# Primary handout – “Problem & Solution”

## MID-DECADE REDISTRICTING

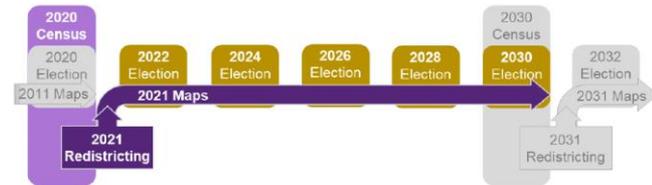
### Why mid-decade redistricting is a problem

- Confuses voters about what district they are in and who represents them
- Disrupts elected leaders' relationships with the communities they represent
- Requires legislators to adjust campaigns to changing districts
- Enables repeated gerrymandering to keep incumbents in power and stifle competition

### Why it exists

- Although GA law requires State Legislative redistricting to follow the census, it does not specify a timeline for completion.
- GA law does not specify timing or use of census for Congressional redistricting.
- GA law has no explicit requirement to use completed redistricting plans in elections.
- GA case law<sup>1</sup> allows any number of redistricting plans per decade. Since 2006, 71 districts have been altered in 4 major waves of mid-decade redistricting, all for partisan gain.

### How redistricting should work



### Constitutional amendment needed

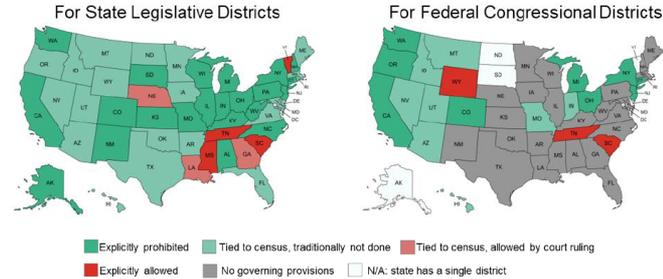
- Require that redistricting take place in—and only in—the odd-numbered year after each U.S. decennial census.
- Require that the new redistricting plan be used in the next even-numbered year election and all those following until the next redistricting plan is adopted.
- In the event of a court-ordered mid-decade redistricting, require that changes be the minimum needed to comply with the order, defined as the fewest voters and districts affected.

<sup>1</sup>Blum v. Schrader, 2006 (GA Supreme Court)

<sup>2</sup>Sources: Loyola Law School website: All About Redistricting (redistricting.lls.edu); “Taking the Re out of Redistricting”, Georgetown Law Journal, 2007



### State laws governing mid-decade redistricting<sup>2</sup>



### SR 558, HR 1033

#### SECTION 1.

Article III, Section II of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph II as follows:

"Paragraph II. *Apportionment of General Assembly.* (a) The General Assembly shall apportion the Senate and House districts and shall provide for Congressional districts pursuant to federal law. Such districts shall be composed of contiguous territory.

(b) The apportionment and districts of the Senate, ~~and of the House of Representatives, and of Congress provided for in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph shall only be changed by the General Assembly as necessary in the first odd-numbered year subsequent to after each United States decennial census.~~

(c) Following the apportionment and redistricting provided for in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, any additional changes shall only be made when necessary to comply with an order of a court of competent jurisdiction and shall be limited to those changes necessary to correct the specific deficiencies established in such court order."

#### SECTION 2.

The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

- ( ) YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide that the apportionment and districts of the Senate, House of Representatives, and of Congress be changed by the General Assembly only in the first odd-numbered year subsequent to each United States decennial census unless otherwise specifically required by a court order?"
- ( ) NO

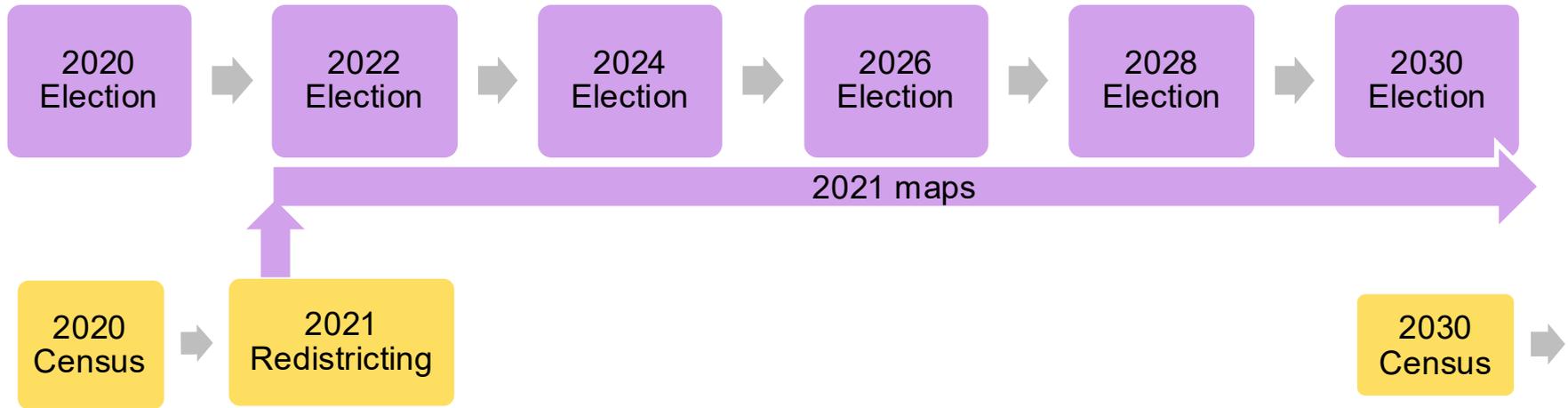
All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes." All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall become a part of the Constitution of this state.



# Why do we need to ban mid-decade redistricting?

- Mid-decade changes:
  - Confuse voters about what district they are in and who represents them
  - Burden legislators by requiring them to run in new / changed districts
  - Disrupt elected leaders' relationships with the communities they represent
  - Enables repeated gerrymandering to keep incumbents in power and stifle competition
    - 71 districts changed (100 attempts) / 4 major waves / last 20 years
- Nationwide redistricting war
  - Georgia should lead the nation by banning the practice

# The way redistricting should work



- One redistricting plan after census year
- All following elections must use that plan
- If court orders new plan, only change districts necessary to comply with court order. Minimize number of voters and districts changed.

# Loopholes in Georgia Law allow mid-decade redistricting

- GA law requires legislative redistricting to follow the census but does not specify when it must be complete.
- GA law has no deadlines or timelines for congressional redistricting
- GA law has no formal requirement to use redistricting plans to conduct elections
- GA constitution and law permit any number of redistricting plans to be made per decade
  - Blum v. Schrader, 2006 (GA Supreme Court)

*“Partisan gerrymandering may be perfectly legal, but it’s also perfectly wrong.”*



# SR 558/HR 1033 – Mid-decade Redistricting Ban

- Amendment to GA Constitution

Senate Resolution 558

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

Section 1.

Article III, Section II of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph II as follows:

"Paragraph II. Apportionment of General Assembly.

(a) The General Assembly shall apportion the Senate and House districts and shall provide for Congressional districts pursuant to federal law. Such districts shall be composed of contiguous territory.

(b) The apportionment and districts of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives, and of Congress provided for in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph shall only be changed by the General Assembly as necessary in the first odd-numbered year subsequent to after each United States decennial census.

(c) Following the apportionment and redistricting provided for in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, any additional changes shall only be made when necessary to comply with an order of a court of competent jurisdiction and shall be limited to those changes necessary to correct the specific deficiencies established in such court order."

# Current status of SR 558 / HR 1033

## SR 558

- Introduced and referred to Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee
- Sen. Elena Parent + 16 others (all Democrats)

## HR 1033

- Introduced and referred to...
- Rep. Saira Draper + 5 others (all Democrats)

# Enacting a constitutional amendment

- Committee hears, debates, and votes
  - Public testimony possible
- Rules committee votes to move to floor and set debate rules
- Floor debate and vote – requires 2/3 majority
- Both chambers must agree
- Majority vote on the November ballot

# Approaching the discussion

- Why we need it
- It's a real problem – 20-year history
- Bi-partisan problem → bi-partisan solution
- It makes their job easier – avoids disruption
- Let's close the loopholes
- Georgia can show leadership
  
- Use your handouts
- Rule #1: We are a non-partisan organization



1/27/26

# Secondary handout – “History”

Mid-decade redistricting has plagued Georgia since it was first allowed in 2006.

Since 2006, 71 districts have been altered in 4 major waves of mid-decade redistricting, always for partisan gain.

Date	Circumstance	Districts changed	Motivation	Next election result
2006	2004 election used court-drawn maps for General Assembly after court overturned 2001 Democratic gerrymander. Congressional map was ruled fair by court.	All Congressional (13) 11 Assembly Party line vote <sup>1</sup>	“We’re fixing the Democratic gerrymander.”	2006: Republicans gained 10 State House seats despite virtually no increase in statewide vote share.
2012	Redistricting for 2010 census was completed in 2011.	23 Assembly Party line vote	Produce super-majority in 2012 election	2012: Created super-majority in Senate, 1 seat shy in House, despite 2.4% decline in statewide vote share
2015	More mid-decade adjustments	17 Assembly Both parties supporting	“Make districts better for incumbents to get re-elected.” <sup>2</sup>	2016: Sustained unfair partisan advantage
2023	Federal Court orders new districts for Black voters in Congress and GGA maps. Legislature evens the score through changes in unrelated districts, taking back other seats.	1 Congressional 6 Assembly Party line vote	“We’re maintaining the existing partisan balance.” <sup>3</sup>	All districts altered unnecessarily as partisan take-backs were won as expected.

From 2006-2019, an additional 9 bills altering 33 districts were proposed by both parties. Some of these were proposed trades of voters to make each of their seats safer and reassure their election chances. These bills did not pass.

Source: FDGA analysis of redistricting bills, 2000-2023.

- Notes:
- 1) Action was challenged in court, allowed by GA Supreme Court in *Blum v. Schrader*, 2006
  - 2) Admitted in court deposition of Gina Wright, LCRO, in *GA NAACP v. Georgia*, 2017
  - 3) Senator Bill Cowser, Senate Committee Hearing, 2023

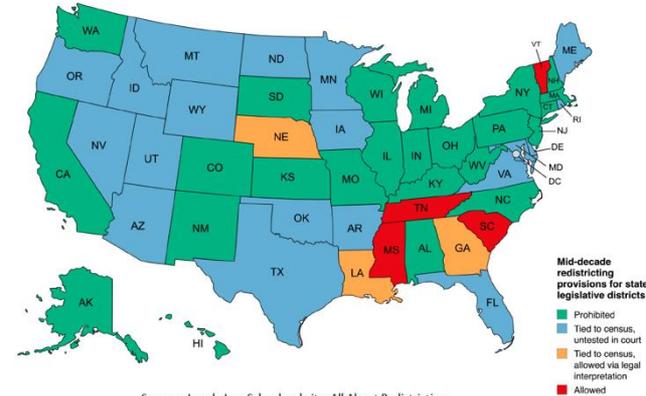
## Why is mid-decade redistricting harmful?

- Another form of gerrymandering, less visible than once-per-decade process
- Confuses voters about what district they live in and who their representatives are
- Requires representatives to run in frequently changed districts, upsetting relationships with communities
- Allows politicians to continue choosing their voters instead of giving voters the choice
- Perpetuates unfair partisan majorities
- Discourages competition; leads to uncontested seats



Fair Districts Georgia Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to encourage a fair and transparent redistricting process in Georgia. @FairDistrictsGA FairDistrictsGA.org  
Last revised January 22, 2026

Georgia is in the minority of states that allow mid-decade redistricting for state legislature, enabled by a GA Supreme Court decision.<sup>1</sup>



Sources: Loyola Law School website: All About Redistricting (redistricting.lls.edu); “Taking the Re out of Redistricting”, Georgetown Law Journal, 2007

1) Georgia law ties redistricting to the census and does not expressly permit mid-decade redistricting, but it’s permitted as of 2006 by GA Supreme Court case *Blum v. Schrader*.

## GA constitutional amendment will ban this practice

Senate Resolution 558 (introduced January 2026):

- ◆ Limits redistricting to the year following the census.
- ◆ Changes in subsequent years limited to those ordered by a court and are limited to those necessary to correct specific deficiencies identified in a court order.



Fair Districts Georgia Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to encourage a fair and transparent redistricting process in Georgia. @FairDistrictsGA FairDistrictsGA.org  
Last revised January 22, 2026



# ! Objection: It's a bill by Democrats for Democrats

- Bi-partisan problem
  - Both parties have proposed and supported mid-decade changes including horse trades
- We need to prevent future manipulation
- Voters from both parties favor competitive elections (78%) and changing law for fair maps (58%)
  - FDGA poll 2022 (see website)
- Neither party gains an advantage from this change – levels the playing field



# Objection: We have no plans to redraw maps in Georgia

- Good to hear...
- But the opportunity and temptation are still there
- Circumstances could change before 2030
- This is a permanent improvement, not just until 2031
- The loopholes should be closed regardless

# ! Objection: I'll have to check with leadership about this.

- Try to elicit their personal opinion.
- Have you experienced map changes since being elected?
- Agree that it's a problem?
- Would you support it on the merits?

# ! Objection: House members are only allowed 10 bills per session

- That refers to bills you introduce, but you can sign on to as many as you want.



# ! Objection: This is a low-priority issue.

- Fair maps are required for Free, Fair, and Secure Elections
- The assembly is already considering bills about conduct of elections & voting procedures
- Fair maps deserve equal time
- Voters want laws changed to support fair maps
  - FDGA poll 2022: 58% favor changing law to require non-partisan maps
- Nationwide polls show voters rebelling against map-rigging and prioritizing democracy issues in 2026.

**Fair conduct of elections:**  
registration, voting,  
counting, certification, ...



**Fair maps** that represent  
all Georgians and respect  
their political choices

# ! Objection: We change districts every 10 years anyway, so what's the issue?

- Voters are expecting the decennial changes, but not the repeated changes.
- It takes time to get to know your voters
- Repeated changes disrupt the relationship

# ! Objection: The problem is with other states – California, Texas, etc.

- Fair Districts objects to all map-rigging in every state, regardless of which party is “winning”.
- Redistricting War is in the news, but Georgia has been plagued for 20 years.
- Georgia is an outlier for state legislative redistricting – one of 3 states tying redistricting to census but now permitting unlimited changes.
- Georgia should show leadership and ban the practice

# ! Objection: All of our redistricting changes abide by the law

- Mid-decade changes are always done for partisan gain
- In 2023, maps were redrawn due to court order, but the maps included extra changes solely to “even the score” and maintain an unfair partisan edge.
- They may be legal, but they’re against voters wishes.

*“Partisan gerrymandering may be perfectly legal, but it’s also perfectly wrong.”*

# Part 2 – Lobbying protocol and logistics

- Julie Edelson

# Lobby Day Context

- 2nd of two-year session
- Bills carry over from Year 1, plus new bills
- 40 days, not consecutive
- Most of the legislators on the relevant committees are familiar with Fair Districts Georgia, which has been active for several years and was a strong and respected voice during the reapportionment and redistricting following the 2020 census

# Getting Started

- The Georgia General Assembly's website [www.legis.ga.gov](http://www.legis.ga.gov) is a great resource where you can find
  - Current legislation
  - Calendars for floor sessions and committee meetings
  - Representatives and senators, including their district number, party office address and phone, staff, committee assignments, sponsored legislation, and more
  - Committee member lists, which indicate the chair and other officers, and legislation assigned to that committee
- Find your own representative and senator by going to My Voter Page Georgia, <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>

# Meeting with Legislators

- Meetings by appointment - Arrange in advance
  - Allows for longer, uninterrupted discussion
  - BUT, may be delayed or cancelled by legislator's schedule
  - Call their Capitol office to arrange appointment
- Lobbying “at the ropes”
  - While in session, ask legislators to come out to meet with you outside the chamber
  - Legislators don't always respond to such requests
  - Allows for short conversations, but also allows time to speak with several legislators

# Understanding your audience

- Legislators are busy!
  - Hundreds of bills and resolutions
  - Multiple committees
  - Constituent responsibilities
  - Lobbyist demands
- Be efficient! You will not have a lot of time
  - State the issue concisely
  - Reference Fair Districts Georgia data but do not get caught up in the weeds
  - State why this issue is important to you
  - Ask for their support of our goal
  - Listen, Listen, Listen – what are their concerns? Are there any points we can make to gain their support?

# Tips for successful lobbying

- Familiarize yourself with the legislator you are meeting
  - Party affiliation?
  - Home district – rural or urban (do you have any connection with their district?)
  - Read their bio – what is their profession? Education? (any connections there?)
  - How long have they been in office? Seasoned or new?
  - What kind of legislation have they signed on to?
  - Do they have a leadership position on any committee or within their caucus?
  - ARE THEY ON THE REAPPORTIONMENT/REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE?
  - Have they signed onto the resolution ? If so, thank them!

# Tips, cont'd

- When in the meeting:
  - Be respectful, even if they are not!
  - Always address them as Senator or Representative; if they chair a committee, you may address them as Chairman or Madam Chair
  - Legislators are most responsive to their own constituents; you are seeing them in their capacity as Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee leadership or members - their work impacts all Georgians!
  - Share any handouts with the member and their aide, if one is in the meeting with you
  - If they ask a question you can't answer, don't try! This is a great opportunity for continued discussion! Say you will get back to them and be sure to include the needed follow up in your report

# Part 3 – Organizing the effort

For people volunteering to meet with legislators

- We will be requesting info from you via email.
- We will be assigning you to 2-person teams.
- We will let you know which committee members are your targets, but also visit your representatives.
- We will send you the 2 handouts.
- If you set meetings before our Day, please print copies at home.
- If you choose to meet on our Day at the Capitol, we will bring printed copies.



# Fair Districts Georgia



## Virtual Town Hall - 2026 Lobbying Workshop

# ***VOLUNTEERS***

**To help further educate Georgia Legislators of the importance of Senate Resolution 558 (SR558), and to persuade them to bring it to the floor for a vote, we are asking volunteers to help us keep a record of your outreach efforts.**

**To that end, we have developed two data collection forms for our Volunteers to use.**



# VOLUNTEER CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

***The Volunteer Information Contact*** form, will provide us with your basic contact information so we can organize all volunteer data and get in touch with you should that be needed.

We will be able to sort all volunteer info in various ways (home address, connection with other volunteers, preferences on how/to which Legislators you would like to contact, etc.) to help us further determine ways to efficiently manage this important project.

## FAIR DISTRICTS GEORGIA - 2026 LOBBY DAY VOLUNTEER CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

DESCRIPTION: Contact details and related preferences

This form is automatically collecting emails from all respondents. [Change settings](#)

FIRST NAME: \*

Short answer text

LAST NAME:

Short answer text

STREET ADDRESS \*

Long answer text

CITY ADDRESS \*

Short answer text

STATE HOUSE District and/or Name, if known

Short answer text

STATE SENATE District and/or Name, if known.

Short answer text

## VOLUNTEER CONTACT INFORMATION FORM (complete just once)

**FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME: - in separate fields** .(Your completed information will automatically load into a tracking spreadsheet, so we will be able to more easily sort all the volunteer data..

**STREET AND CITY ADDRESS: - in separate fields.**This allows us to determine the areas/Legislators that are being represented so we can reach out to additional volunteers to take on those not being contacted.

**STATE HOUSE and STATE SENATE DISTRICT: - in separate fields** if known. Again, this is to help us review our data to ensure we are covering as many legislative districts/Legislators as possible.

EMAIL: \*

Short answer text

PHONE: \*

Short answer text

FULL NAME OF OTHER VOLUNTEER YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PAIRED WITH, if applicable.

Long answer text

NAME(S) OF SPECIFIC LEGISLATORS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT.

Long answer text

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS YOU HAVE REGARDING YOUR VOLUNTEERING WITH FAIR DISTRICTS GEORGIA?

Long answer text

HANDWRITTEN VOLUNTEER CONTACT FORM

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FuCMDGQPQVfbiCNDBArIvqC8xCLH3AKT/view?usp=sharing>

📎 Add file

📁 View folder

**EMAIL** and **PHONE**: Another way we can keep in touch with you.

**FULL NAME OF OTHER VOLUNTEER YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PAIRED WITH, if applicable.** Volunteering with another you feel you would be comfortable can make it more interesting and fun.

**SPECIFIC LEGISLATORS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT, if applicable.** Contacting legislators you know or feel comfortable with will offer an easier volunteer experience.

**ANY QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS/ CONCERNS YOU HAVE...**We need and want your feedback and ideas to help this overall project.

**HANDWRITTEN VOLUNTEER CONTRACT FORM: This is a link to the handwritten version you can use instead.**

1/27/26



**VOLUNTEER CONTACT INFORMATION FORM**

**FIRST NAME**

**LAST NAME**

**STREET ADDRESS**

**CITY ADDRESS**

**STATE HOUSE DISTRICT (if known)**

**SENATE DISTRICT (if known)**

**EMAIL**

**PHONE**

**FULL NAME OF OTHER VOLUNTEER YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PAIRED WITH (if applicable)**

**NAME(S) OF SPECIFIC LEGISLATORS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT**

**ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS YOU HAVE REGARDING YOUR VOLUNTEERING WITH FAIR DISTRICTS GEORGIA?**

1/27/26



# VOLUNTEER CONTACT SPREADSHEET

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	Form Responses										
1	Timestamp	Email Address	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	ADDRESS:	STATE HOUSE and STATE SENATE District, if known:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	FULL NAME OF OTHER VOLUNTEER YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PAIRED WITH, if applicable.	NAME(S) OF SPECIFIC LEGISLATORS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT.	ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS YOU HAVE REGARDING YOUR VOLUNTEERING WITH FAIR DISTRICTS GEORGIA?
2	1/23/2026 11:58:31	kdawler@bellsouth.net	Ken	Lawler	10800 Carrara Cove	State House 48, State Senate 14, Congressional 7	kdawler@bellsouth.net	4044221035	Ginger Glazer	Rob Leverett, Scott Hilton	Who are you crazy people?
3											
4											
5											



# LEGISLATOR CONTACT REPORT

During Lobby Day and throughout the Legislative session, you will likely be in touch with multiple Legislators. Some you may attempt contact with only once, others you may try more often.

Please submit call, visit, email, etc. details for each attempt with each Legislator you make, so we will be informed of all of your efforts for our review of next steps.

## LEGISLATOR CONTACT REPORT - FDG - 2026

B I U ↺ ↻

Report by Volunteer of contact (or attempt) with Legislator

FIRST NAME: \*

Short answer text

LAST NAME: \*

Short answer text

EMAIL: \*

Short answer text

PHONE: \*

Short answer text

## LEGISLATOR CONTACT REPORT FORM

**FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME: - *in separate fields.***

Again, this is so when your information is automatically loaded into our tracking spreadsheet, we will be able to more easily sort the data.

**EMAIL and PHONE: - *in separate fields.*** Another way we can keep in touch with you.

NAME OF LEGISLATOR \*

Short answer text

DATE OF CONTACT ATTEMPT OR SUCCESS \*

Month, day, year



RESULTS OF YOUR ATTEMPT OR SUCCESS: PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC RESPONSES, FOR EXAMPLE: \*

Did they agree that mid-decade redistricting is a problem? Did they agree to sign onto the bill?  
Did they lean one way or the other on the issue?  
Other?

Long answer text

DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEMPT CONTACT AND/OR A VISIT AGAIN? IF SO, HAS A DATE BEEN CONFIRMED (please advise). \*

Long answer text

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO REPORT?:

FOR EXAMPLE: What are you planning to discuss, ask, or accomplish at your next contact with this legislator?

Long answer text

LEGISLATOR CONTACT HANDWRITTEN FORM <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ES13VO-wRQJo8rRT7f7asqasul48G5l/view?usp=sharing>

**NAME OF LEGISLATOR AND DATE OF CONTACT: - *in separate fields.*** We need to know who and when you are trying to reach.

**RESULTS OF YOUR ATTEMPT OR SUCCESS:** Specific feedback is helpful. We have provided a few we'd like you to be sure to include..share with us if you have others you think are relevant and important to collect.

**PLAN TO CONTACT AGAIN?** We hope we are all successful on the first attempt.

**ADDITIONAL INFO TO REPORT** need help?, your contact goals, what's working?, what's not?, etc.

**HANDWRITTEN LEGISLATOR REPORT FORM:** This is a link to the handwritten version you can use instead



**LEGISLATOR CONTACT REPORT FORM**

**FIRST NAME**

**LAST NAME**

**EMAIL**

**PHONE**

**NAME OF LEGISLATOR CONTACTED**

**DATE OF CONTACT ATTEMPT OR SUCCESS**

**RESULTS OF YOUR ATTEMPT OR SUCCESS – PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC RESPONSES, for example: Did they agree that mid-decade redistricting is a problem? Did they agree to sign onto the bill? Did they lean one way or the other on the issue?**

**DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEMPT CONTACT AND/OR VISIT AGAIN? IF SO, HAS A DATE BEEN CONFIRMED? (Please advise)BE PAIRED WITH (if applicable)**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO REPORT, for example: What are you planning to discuss, ask, or accomplish on your next contact with this Legislator?**



more comfortable (less uncomfortable?) operating alone.

- I targeted all of the known members of the GLBC plus a few other legislators with the intent to thank those already signed the pledge, lobby those that hadn't, and alert everyone to SB558.
  - I probably made it to the offices of less than half of my list. I will plan for another run at it exclusive lobby day.

Many of the legislators were just not at the Capitol today, this week at all, or just when I stopped by. Many of the ones who were in were engaged at the appropriations hearing.

- Senators Orrock & Harbison were unavailable. I filled out a meeting request form.
- Senator Mangham was not in. I left a pledge form. He is my Senator.
- Senator Rhett was not in. I left a card.
- Senators Jackson & Halpern were not in but I left a thank you note because both have signed the pledge.
- None of the Representatives in Cordell suite 404 were available. This included McQueen, Beckles, Davis, and Paris. I left a message and a copy of the pledge.
- Representative Bell's office was open but wasn't staffed. There was a sign-in log that I filled out.

Unavailable were

- Senator Lucas
- Senator Parent
- Senator Harold Jones
- Senators Merritt & Wicks
- Representatives Glaize & Burnough

# LEGISLATOR CONTACT REPORT SPREADSHEET

Timestamp	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	NAME OF LEGISLATOR	DATE OF CONTACT ATTEMPT OR SUCCESS	RESULTS OF YOUR ATTEMPT OR SUCCESS: PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC RESPONSES, FOR EXAMPLE: Did they agree that mid-decade redistricting is a problem? Did they agree to sign onto the bill? Did they lean one way or the other on the issue? Other?	DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEMPT CONTACT AND/OR A VISIT AGAIN? IF SO, HAS A DATE BEEN CONFIRMED (please advise).	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO REPORT: FOR EXAMPLE: What are you planning to discuss, ask, or accomplish at your next contact with this legislator?
1/23/2026 12:00:32	Ken Lawler	Lawler	klawler@belcoouth.net	404-422-1025	Rob Leverett	1/23/2026	Considering our proposal	Yes	Such a nice guy
1/24/2026 12:26:14	DAVE	THOMAS	BORN2STEP@GMAIL.COM	504-957-9290	ORROCK	1/21/2026	UNAVAILABLE - FILLED OUT A MEETING REQUEST FORM	YES	INTENDED TO SPEAK ABOUT SR558. MANY OF THE LEGISLATORS WERE NOT IN THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITAL AT ALL OR WHEN I STOPPED BY, THOSE IN WERE ENGAGED IN THE APPROPRIATIONS HEARING
1/24/2026 12:26:14	DAVE	THOMAS	BORN2STEP@GMAIL.COM	504-957-9290	HARBISON	1/21/2026	UNAVAILABLE - FILLED OUT A MEETING REQUEST FORM	YES	INTENDED TO SPEAK ABOUT SR558. MANY OF THE LEGISLATORS WERE NOT IN THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITAL AT ALL OR WHEN I STOPPED BY, THOSE IN WERE ENGAGED IN THE APPROPRIATIONS HEARING
1/24/2026 12:26:14	DAVE	THOMAS	BORN2STEP@GMAIL.COM	504-957-9290	MANGHAM	1/21/2026	UNAVAILABLE - LEFT A PLEDGE FORM	YES	INTENDED TO SPEAK ABOUT SR558. HE IS MY SENATOR
1/24/2026 12:26:14	DAVE	THOMAS	BORN2STEP@GMAIL.COM	504-957-9290	RHETT	1/21/2026	NOT IN - I LEFT A CARD	YES	
1/24/2026 12:26:14	DAVE	THOMAS	BORN2STEP@GMAIL.COM	504-957-9290	JACKSON	1/21/2026	WERE NOT IN BUT I LET A THANK YOU NOTE BECAUSE HE HAS SIGNED THE PLEDGE	YES	
1/24/2026 12:26:14	DAVE	THOMAS	BORN2STEP@GMAIL.COM	504-957-9290	MISC	1/21/2026			TARGETED ALL KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE GLBC PLUS A FEW OTHER LEGISLATORS WITH THE INTENT TO THANK THOSE THAT HAD ALREADY SIGNED THE PLEDGE, LOBBY THOSE THAT HAD NOT, AND ALERT EVERYONE TO SR558.
1/24/2026 12:26:14	DAVE	THOMAS	BORN2STEP@GMAIL.COM	504-957-9290	HALPERN	1/21/2026	WERE NOT IN BUT I LET A THANK YOU NOTE BECAUSE HE HAS SIGNED THE PLEDGE	YES	
1/24/2026 12:26:14	DAVE	THOMAS	BORN2STEP@GMAIL.COM	504-957-9290	MCQUEEN	1/21/2026	NOT IN - I LEFT A MESSAGE AND A COPY OF THE PLEDGE	YES	



# A FEW REVIEW NOTES

The Volunteer Contact Form can be found at:

<https://forms.gle/SAW1YTMpsxHnBtuo9>

**HANDWRITTEN VERSION**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FuCMDGOPQVfb1CNDBArIvgC8xCLH3AKT/view?usp=sharing>

The Legislator Contact Form can be found at:

<https://forms.gle/PqZhYKKhwEoajACb8>

**HANDWRITTEN VERSION**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ES13V0-wRQJo8rRTZfZfasqaaul48G5I/view?usp=sharing>

- ✓ If you prefer to print and complete a form manually that you can scan and send, please email them to [FairDistrictGLBC@gmail.com](mailto:FairDistrictGLBC@gmail.com). You can print from the link or print the manual form and scan/send.
- ✓ If you would prefer to send the information via email without using the form, feel free. Please be sure to answer all questions as noted on the form and email them to [FairDistrictGLBC@gmail.com](mailto:FairDistrictGLBC@gmail.com)
- ✓ If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about our Volunteer Reporting Forms/method, feel free to send an email to [FairDistrictGLBC@gmail.com](mailto:FairDistrictGLBC@gmail.com) or contact any of the presenters today with your thoughts and suggestions. We want this to be as easy as possible on you.

I (Joyce) can be reached at 504-231-7268.

# Thank you

Email: [info@fairdistrictsga.org](mailto:info@fairdistrictsga.org)

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

Web: [fairdistrictsga.org](http://fairdistrictsga.org)

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

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

## Next Event Annual Lobby Day



Your support made this program possible  
– Thank you!



[FairDistrictsGA.org/support](https://FairDistrictsGA.org/support)

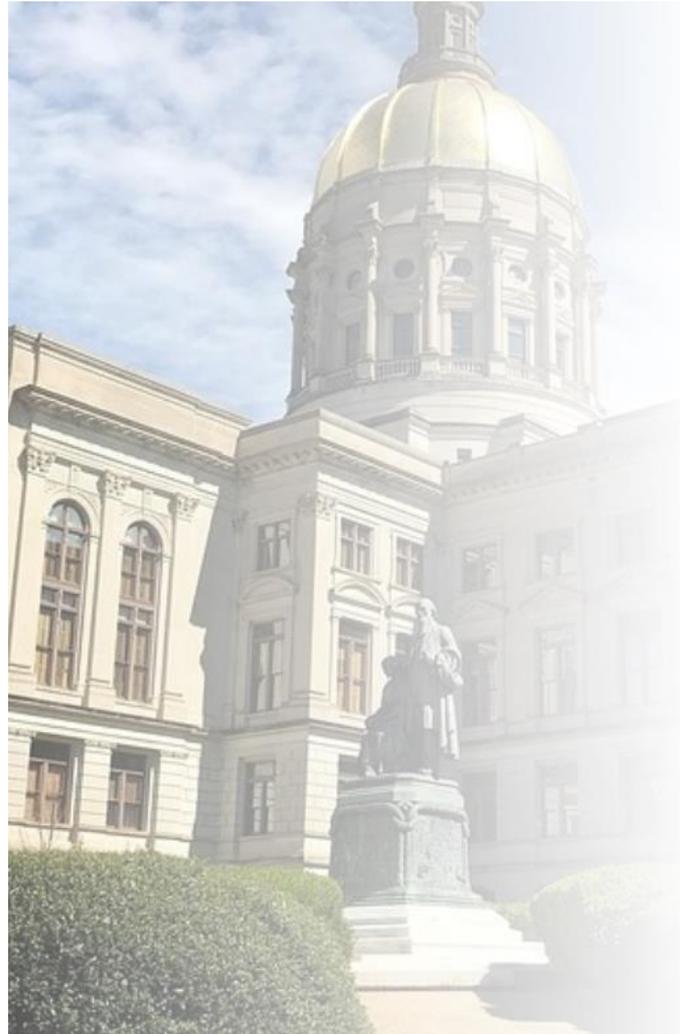


[@FDGAVen](https://twitter.com/FDGAVen)



1/27/26

**Fair Districts  
GA Town Hall  
January 27,  
2026  
Appendix**



**LOBBY  
DAY  
TRAINING**

**FDGA Town Hall**

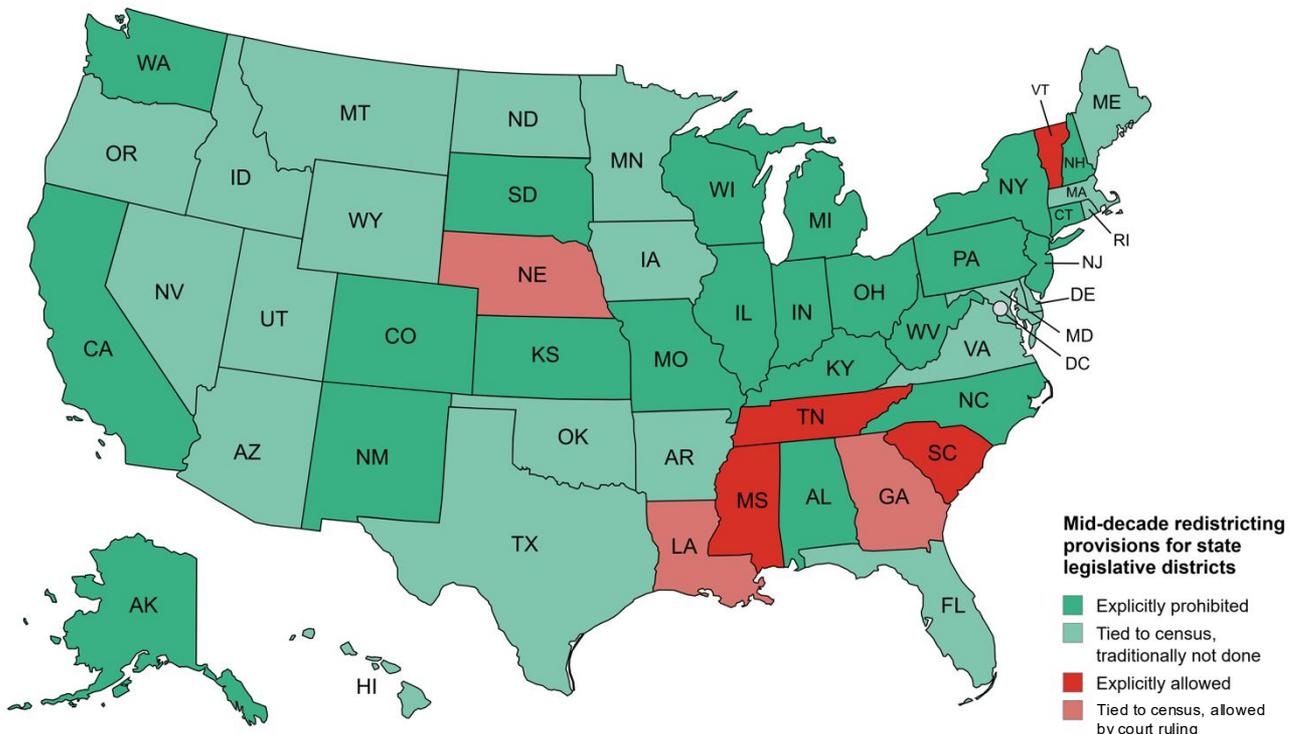
Tuesday, January 27  
7 p.m.

**Register Today!**

[bit.ly/FDGAJan2026](https://bit.ly/FDGAJan2026)



# Georgia is an outlier in allowing mid-decade changes for state legislative maps



Explicitly Prohibited – 24

Tied to census, traditionally not done – 19

Tied to census but legally allowed - 3

Explicitly Allowed – 4

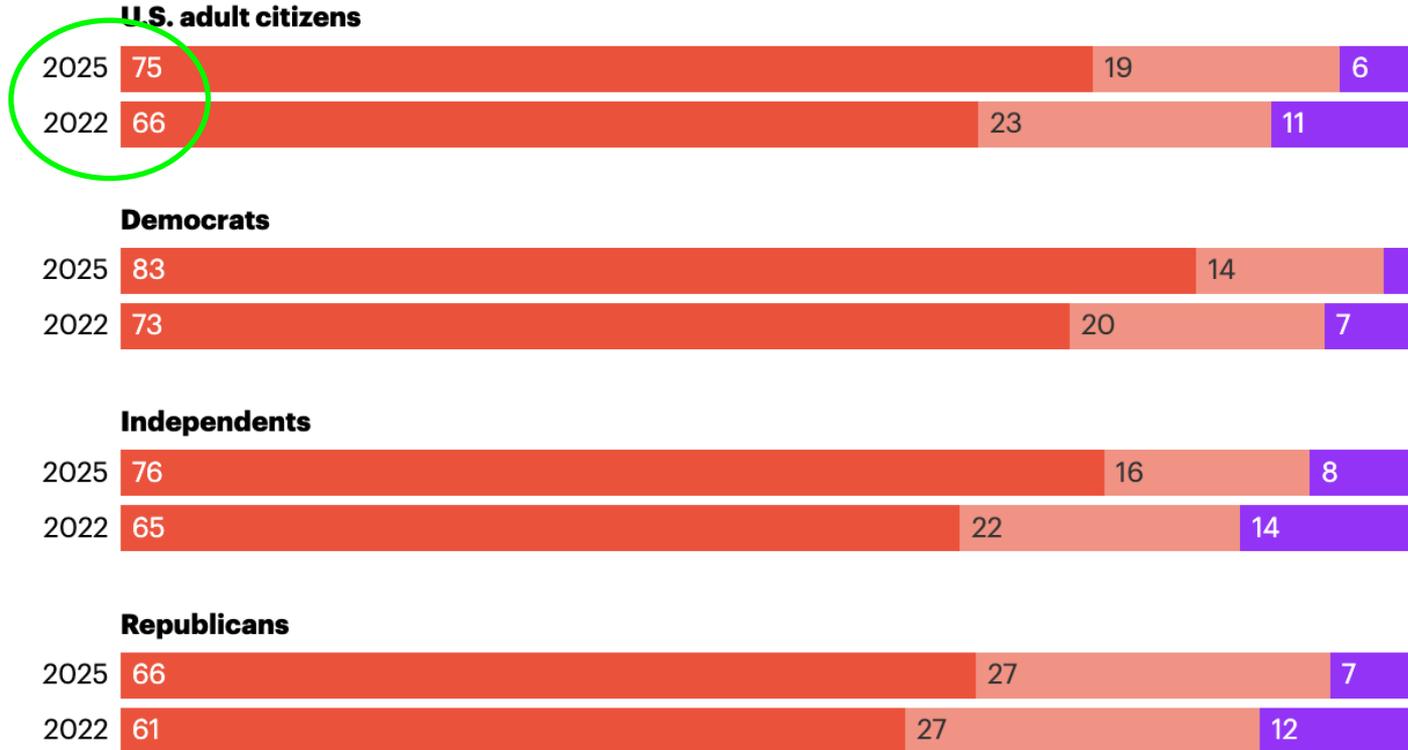
Sources: Loyola Law School website: All About Redistricting ([redistricting.lls.edu](http://redistricting.lls.edu/)); "Taking the Re out of Redistricting", Georgetown Law Journal, 2007



# Americans overwhelmingly see gerrymandering as a **major problem** — more so than in 2022

How big of a problem do you think it is when states draw legislative districts that intentionally favor one party? (%)

Major problem Minor problem Not a problem



# Democracy #1 Issue in 2026 election

**When it comes to deciding your vote for Congress next year, what is your most important issue?**

	Single most important issue
Protecting constitutional rights/protecting democracy*	26%/23%
The cost of living	16%
The cost of health care premiums	10%
Immigration and border security	10%
Dealing with political violence in America	9%
Abortion	7%
The cost of electricity	4%

**Notes:** The poll was conducted Oct. 24-28 and surveyed 1,000 registered voters nationally. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. Half of respondents were given "protecting constitutional rights" as a choice, while the other half were given "protecting democracy."

**Source:** NBC News poll

Graphic: NBC News



1/27/26



# 2023 redistricting disrupted way too many voters – for partisan gain

Map	Required new Black districts	Enacted map changes			Competing proposal changes		
		Districts	Voters	Partisan take-backs	Districts	Voters	Partisan take-backs
Congress	+ 1	9/14	28.8%	1	8/14	25.4%	none
State Senate	+ 2	15/56	14.4%	2	10/56	8.4%	none
State House	+ 5	57/180	15.7%	5	22/180	6%	none

*Court-ordered changes improved representation for Black voters but included unnecessary partisan changes.*



1/27/26