



FDGA TOWN HALL

UNDER THE GOLD DOME 2026 Redistricting Update

Tuesday, April 21
7 p.m.



Tonight's Agenda

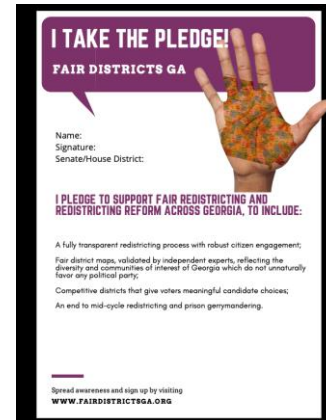
- Legislative priorities
 - Citizens Commission for redistricting
 - Transparency Act
 - Mid-decade redistricting ban
- Our lobbying effort – 2026 session
- What can YOU do now?
- Preview of coming attractions
- Q/A

Introducing Dave Thomas

- New leader of Legislative Advocacy Committee
- Lobby Day leader with Joyce Thomas
- Email: Advocates@FairDistrictsGA.org

Five Objectives for Redistricting Reform

- A fully transparent redistricting process with robust citizen engagement
- Fair district maps that represent Georgia's communities, diversity, not favoring one party over another
- Competitive districts that give voters meaningful candidate choices
- An end to ...
 - Mid-cycle redistricting
 - Prison gerrymandering



2025-2026 Legislative Filings

Objectives	Addressed by
A fully transparent redistricting process with robust citizen engagement	HR1105 / SR58 (Independent Citizens Commission) SB114 (Transparency Act)
Fair district maps that represent Georgia's communities, diversity, not favoring one party over another	HR1105 / SR58 (Independent Citizens Commission)
Competitive districts that give voters meaningful candidate choices	HR1105 / SR58 (Independent Citizens Commission)
End to mid-cycle redistricting	HR1030 / SR558 (Mid-decade ban)
End to prison gerrymandering	N/A



Independent Citizens Commission (SR58 / HR1105)

Senate Resolution 58 / House Resolution 1105

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that legislative and congressional reapportionment be done by an **independent nonpartisan commission** instead of the General Assembly...

Independent Citizens Commission SR58 / HR1105 Overview

Existing Situation

- Completely controlled by Georgia Assembly
- Firm legal standards limited to contiguity for state districts and compliance with law
- May be drawn to favor parties and protect incumbents
- Limited public input or involvement

Proposed Process

- Completely controlled by independent citizens' commission
- Present guidelines replaced by firm legal standards
- Districts strictly non-partisan, can't discriminate re race or language
- Extremely transparent, publicly visible process

Who would serve on commission?

- Membership open to all Georgia voters
- Selection overseen by Chief Justice of GA Supreme Court and review panel
- 14 members
 - 5 associated with Republican party
 - 5 associated with Democrat party
 - 4 independents
- Must be
 - Registered to vote for last 5 years
 - Voted in last 3 state-wide elections
 - Representing all areas of states and demographic groups
- Members or immediately family cannot be, within last 10 years
 - Candidate or elected official
 - Paid party or campaign position
 - Held party position
 - Political appointee
 - Paid lobbyist
 - Legislative staff
 - Donor >\$2000 to a campaign

Existing Legal Standards to be followed by commission

- Comply with US Constitution, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other applicable federal laws
- Districts must be contiguous

Existing Guidelines become legal standards for commission

- Equal population size
- Respect precinct boundaries
 - Conditionally, respect county boundaries

Independent Citizens Commission - New Legal Standards - Highlights

- Protect minority participation
- May not favor political party, incumbency, or other person or group
- May not use existing map as a basis
- May not consider political data, election results, or address of incumbents

Citizens Commission Designed for Transparency

- At least 1 public hearing to review maps in each congressional district
- Public may view, comment on, and submit maps on internet portal
- Commission must release all data used and explain the process on internet portal
- All meetings and discussions are public
- Meetings posted 14 days in advance
- Commission may not contact outside groups

Surprising History of Independent Commission in Georgia

2004

- *Larios v. Cox* – US Supreme Court decision orders new maps replacing Democrats' 2002 gerrymander

2005-6

- Assembly enacts new maps (mid-decade change)
- Governor Purdue orders independent task force on redistricting
- Task force recommends independent commission

2007

- **Republicans** introduce constitutional amendment for independent redistricting commission, but final approval is still General Assembly

2008 – 2025

- **Democrats** introduce constitutional amendment for independent redistricting commission (current form) in every session

No independent commission resolution advances out of committee. Most are never heard.

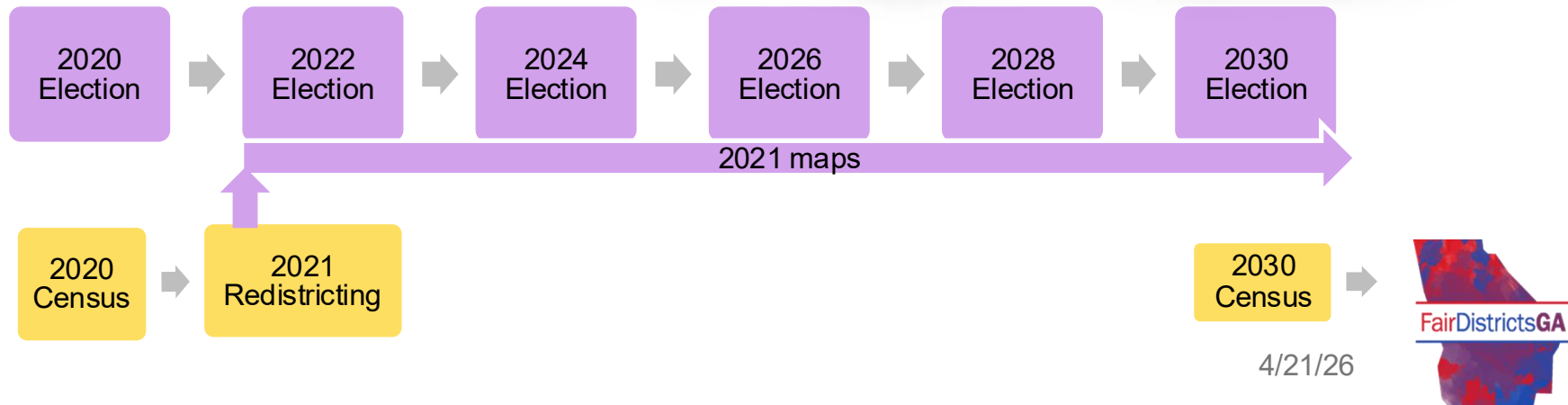


Mid-decade redistricting ban

SR558 (Parent) / HR1033 (Draper)

A RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that **changes to apportionment and districts** of the General Assembly and Congress shall only be made in the first odd-numbered year subsequent to each United States decennial census;

To provide that **additional changes shall only be made when necessary to comply with a court order**; ...



SB114 – “Transparency Act”

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, ... so as to provide certain procedures for redistricting of the General Assembly and congressional districts in this state;

- To provide for **certain hearings, information availability, procedures, and notifications;**
- ...

*Does not require a constitutional amendment
because it governs redistricting by legislators*

SB114 – “Transparency Act”

The purpose of the bill is to ensure that the plan(s) and process for redistricting are available to constituents through all of the major stages of the process with a granularity that allows them to interrogate the plan down to a residence level.

- Ensure access to the staff and legislators responsible for the process

SB114 – “Transparency Act”

Public Hearing Schedules

- Minimum of two public hearings in each judicial district during the process
 - One public hearing prior to the development of the plan
 - One public hearing after the introduction of the plan, at least one week prior to the final vote
 - At least one hearing in the first and second largest municipalities in each judicial district

SB114 – “Transparency Act”

Public Hearing Representation and Public Access

- General Assembly represented by both parties and committee members
- Hearings on the internet live and by recording
- Detailed plans available for inspection at the hearings
- All meetings on the plan are open to the public
- Explanation of factors considered in the creation of the plan
- Public access to all documented communication during the process



SB114 – “Transparency Act”

Notifications

Public Hearings and Other Meetings

- Advance hearing notifications on the General Assembly website and in local legal organs
- Published notice of the plan(s) shortly after its assignment to committee
- Votes preceded two weeks by notification

2025-2026 Legislative Progress

<u>Bill(s)</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Committee Referral</u>	<u>Lobbying</u>	<u>Hearing</u>
HR1033 / SR558	Mid-Cycle Redistricting	Yes	Yes	No
HR1105 / SR58	Independent Commission	Yes	No	No
SB114	Transparency	Yes	No	No



Mid-decade Ban Discussions

Rep. Rob Leverett – House Committee Chair

"NO ... BUT" ... FOR A HEARING

- Does not want legislators to have additional constraints on power (to re-district)
 - Not personally a proponent of mid-cycle redistricting
- Appeared to give FDGA a fair hearing

Mid-decade Ban Discussions

Sen. Mike Hodges – Senate Committee Chair

HARD 'NO' FOR A HEARING

- Uncertainty with pending court cases
- Election Year – no appetite for wading into potentially controversial topics/processes
- Bigger Priorities, mostly around economic & financial issues
 - Full Legislative Calendar
- Not hearing from constituents

Mid-decade ban Discussion

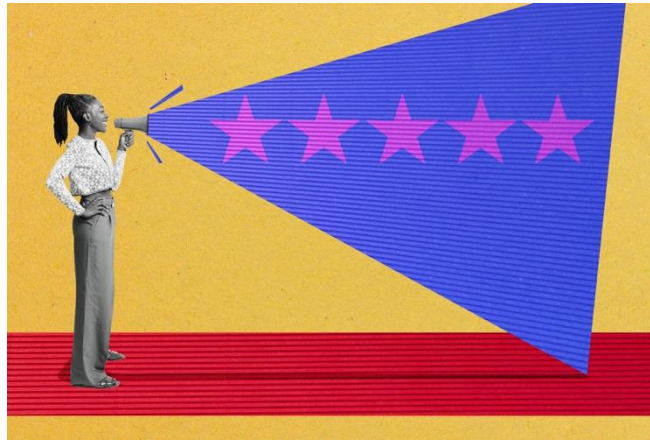
Minority Whip Rep. Sam Park

- All in on redistricting reform
 - Very concerned about re-districting post-Callais Supreme Court decision
- Suggested concentrating on most vulnerable Republican candidates to generate support
- Generally, there needs to be public pressure
- Willing to help strategize

Mid-decade Ban Discussions

General Conclusions

- Must have Republican support for any legislation to move forward
- Requires constituent contact, possibly in an overwhelming amount



What can YOU do?

- Vote in the primary election!
 - Early voting April 27 – May 16
 - Election day May 19
- Tell your candidates you want redistricting reform
 - We will be asking YOU to solicit pledges from candidates through November election day
 - Formal pledge campaign will start after primary
- Become a local champion
 - Email Advocates@FairDistrictsGA.org
- Fair Districts GA is non-partisan
 - We don't support candidates or campaign
 - We do post thank-yous for pledges



Preview of Coming Attractions

- April 25 – Augusta event – seeking local champion
- May 21 – Release of new redistricting poll
- Mid-June – Launch pledge campaign
- June/July – US Supreme Court Decision on Voting Rights Act
- Late August – Town Hall on Supreme Court decision



Redistricting poll – 2026 edition



FDGA TOWN HALL

FAIR DISTRICTS POLL 2026 What Do Voters Think Now?

Thursday, May 21
7 p.m.

Registrations now open:
bit.ly/FDGAMay2026



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/support

Thank you!

Thank you

Email: info@fairdistrictsga.org

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Next Event Town Hall





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