



# FDGA TOWN HALL

FAIR DISTRICTS POLL 20  
What Do Voters Think N  
Thursday, May 21  
7 p.m.



**Fair Districts GA  
Town Hall  
May 21, 2026**

# Tonight's Agenda

- The Court Hath Spoken – Louisiana v. Callais
- So Have Georgia Voters – Our Statewide Poll
- The Governor Sets the Table – Special Session
- Our Action Plan – Including You!
- Q/A

# Pre-Callais: Use of race in redistricting

- Racial demographics may be used as a factor in redistricting
- Race may not be the predominant factor in drawing districts
- VRA section 2 requires drawing districts for minorities if Gingles criteria met:
  - Sufficient minority population exists to draw compact district
  - Minority groups are politically cohesive
  - Minority voters' preferences are consistently out-voted by majority
- Totality of circumstances should be considered



# The Court Hath Spoken

MIKE LUCKOVICH ATTC  
5-1-26 @ATTC.com



# What the Court said in Callais

Significantly raises the bar for proving a racial gerrymandering case under VRA Sec 2

- Plaintiffs must show strong inference of discrimination
- Plaintiffs must disentangle race from partisan voting pattern
- Plaintiffs must demonstrate that alternate maps exist that meet state's redistricting criteria AND are more fair to minority voters
- Plaintiffs may not use race as a criterion in drawing an alternate map

Louisiana's map is unconstitutional because plaintiffs did not prove racial discrimination under these new rules



# What the Court did NOT say in Callais

- Racial demographics can't be considered when drawing maps
- Racial discrimination claims will no longer be considered
- Maps drawn in other states are unconstitutional
- Georgia's maps are also unlawful



# Where does Callais leave us?

- It will be nearly impossible to prove racial discrimination in a redistricting plan.
- Court has explicitly elevated partisan interest above demographic diversity interest.
- Voting Rights Act exists on paper only.
- Georgia's maps have not been declared illegal or unconstitutional. Appeals court must weigh in.

*“The consequences are likely to be far-reaching and grave. Today’s decision renders Section 2 all but a dead letter.... I dissent because the Court’s decision will set back the foundational right Congress granted of racial equality in electoral opportunity.” – Justice Elena Kagan, Callais dissent*



# Impact of adverse ruling on Georgia

- Georgia's 2023 maps appealed to 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit in 2024
- Plaintiffs
  - New maps didn't sufficiently address discrimination.
  - Black voters from harmed areas didn't get new districts.
- State
  - No proof of VRA Sec 2 violation. Voting pattern is partisan, not racial
  - Use of VRA Sec 2 to require racial remedy is unconstitutional
  - VRA Sec 2 cannot be enforced by private parties, only DOJ
  - **Seeking relief from the 2023 decision**
- State will likely win appeal
  - Court will relieve Georgia of burden imposed in 2023 ruling
  - Court **won't order** new maps
  - Legislature will be free to consider changes

GA: \$2 million and counting defending maps



# Politicians' messaging

- Gov. Kemp: “It's clear that (the Supreme Court decision) **requires Georgia** to adopt new electoral maps before the 2028 election cycle”
- Burt Jones: “Given that Georgia was ordered to do so in its last round of redistricting, I fully support redrawing our state’s legislative maps in **compliance with today’s decision.**”
- Buddy Carter: “Call a special session. **Redraw the maps. Delay the House primaries** if needed. Keep statewide races on track. Get it done.”
- Keisha Lance Bottoms: “Any map that dilutes voting of respective communities, I’ll veto.” “The real fight and the real power rests within the states right now and how these maps are drawn.”
- Geoff Duncan: “If we are serious about strengthening democracy, our political maps must reflect the people who live here, not just the people in power. People should pick their representatives, not the other way around. I am calling for a bipartisan, independent redistricting commission to draw fair maps that give voters real choices and restore confidence in our system.”
- Jason Esteves: “Make no mistake: Georgia Republicans are plotting to rig the system. The fight for fair maps and equal representation in Georgia begins in this governor’s race...”

*Fair maps are on the ballot this year!*



# Fair Districts GA View

## ***New District Maps Should Not Be Drawn, Either In A Special Session Or In A Regular Legislative Session (2027)***

- The Callais decision does not explicitly mandate newly drawn maps for Georgia
- Redistricting prior to 2031 would be an optional mid-decade restricting
- Maps drawn in 2023 were already gerrymandered!
  - Districts for Black voters were added to improve representation
  - Other districts altered to even the partisan score – equal to 2021 maps



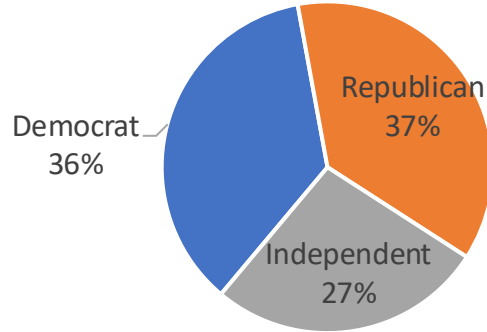
# Post-Callais Questions

- To what extent should race be considered when drawing maps?
- What constitutes fair representation without the legal protection of the Voting Rights Act?
- Overall, what are the characteristics of a fair map?

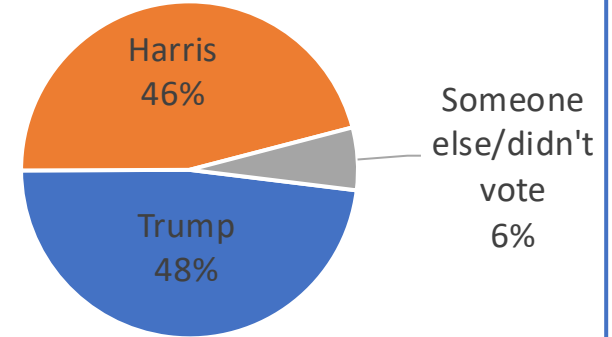


# Second-ever redistricting survey of Georgia voters

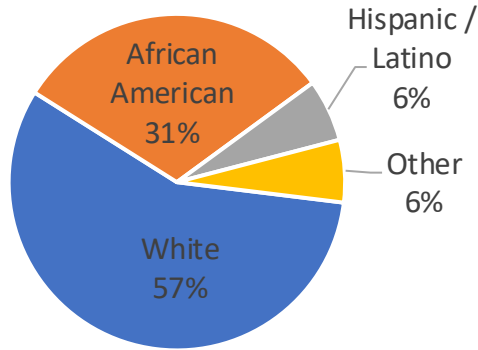
## Respondents by political party identification



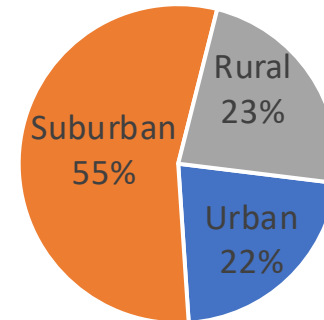
## Respondents by 2024 presidential vote



## Respondents by race



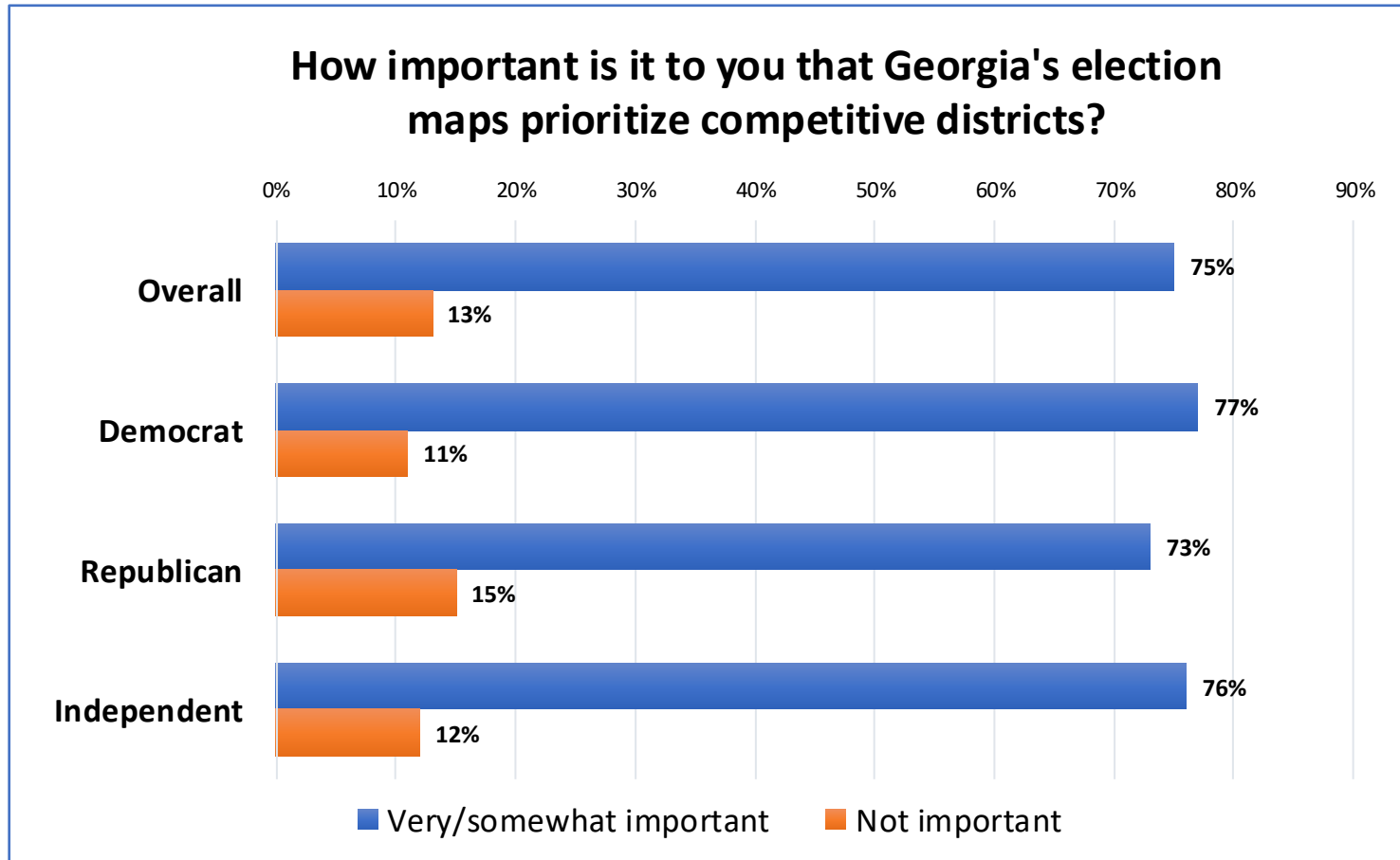
## Respondents by type of community



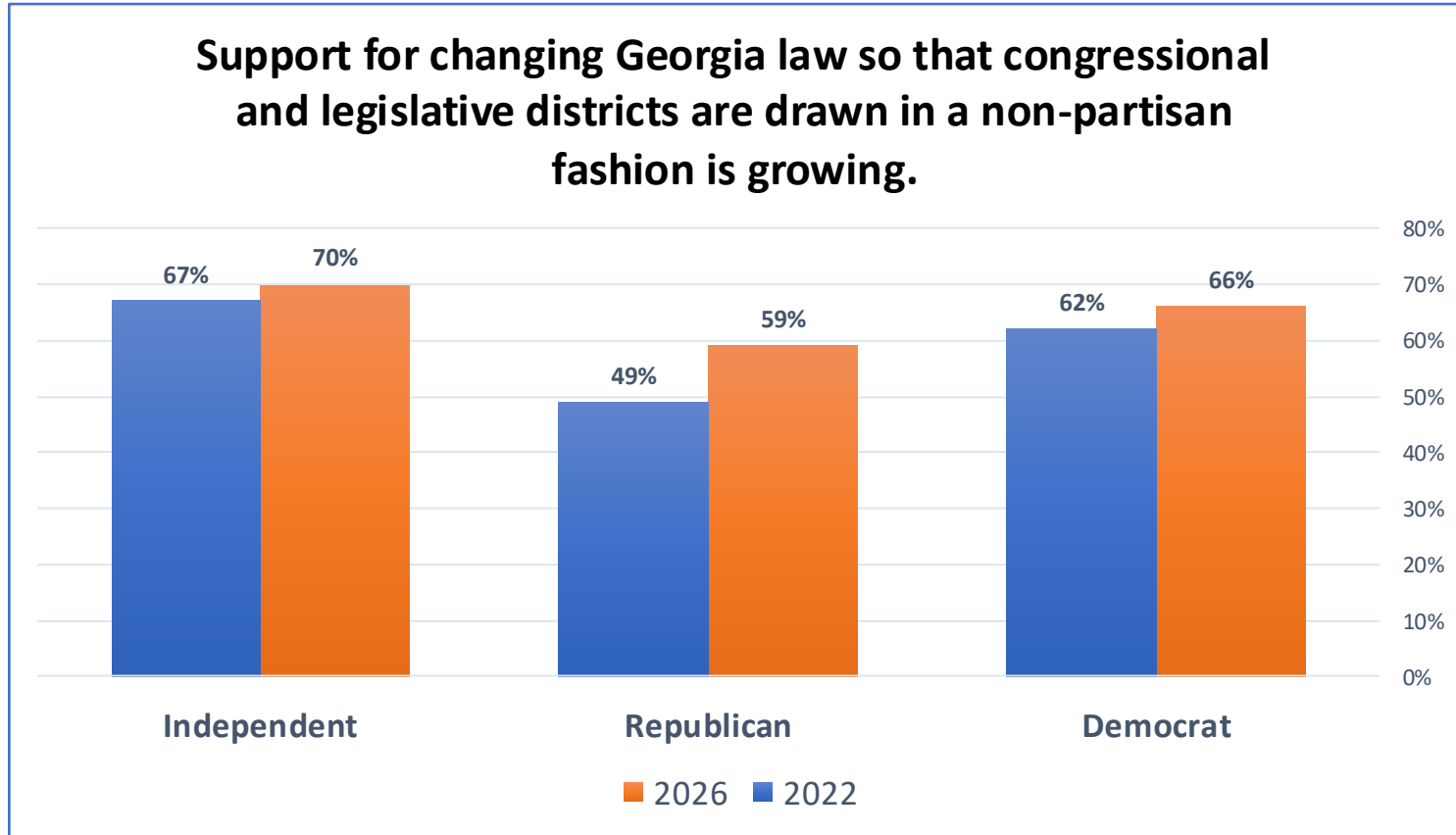
# Key Findings: What do voters want?

- Competitive districts – 75% support
- Non-partisan maps – change law to require – 60%
- Maps should reflect racial diversity – 60% support
- Ban mid-decade changes – 52% support
- Maps should reflect community interests – 51%
- Enact independent commission – 58% support

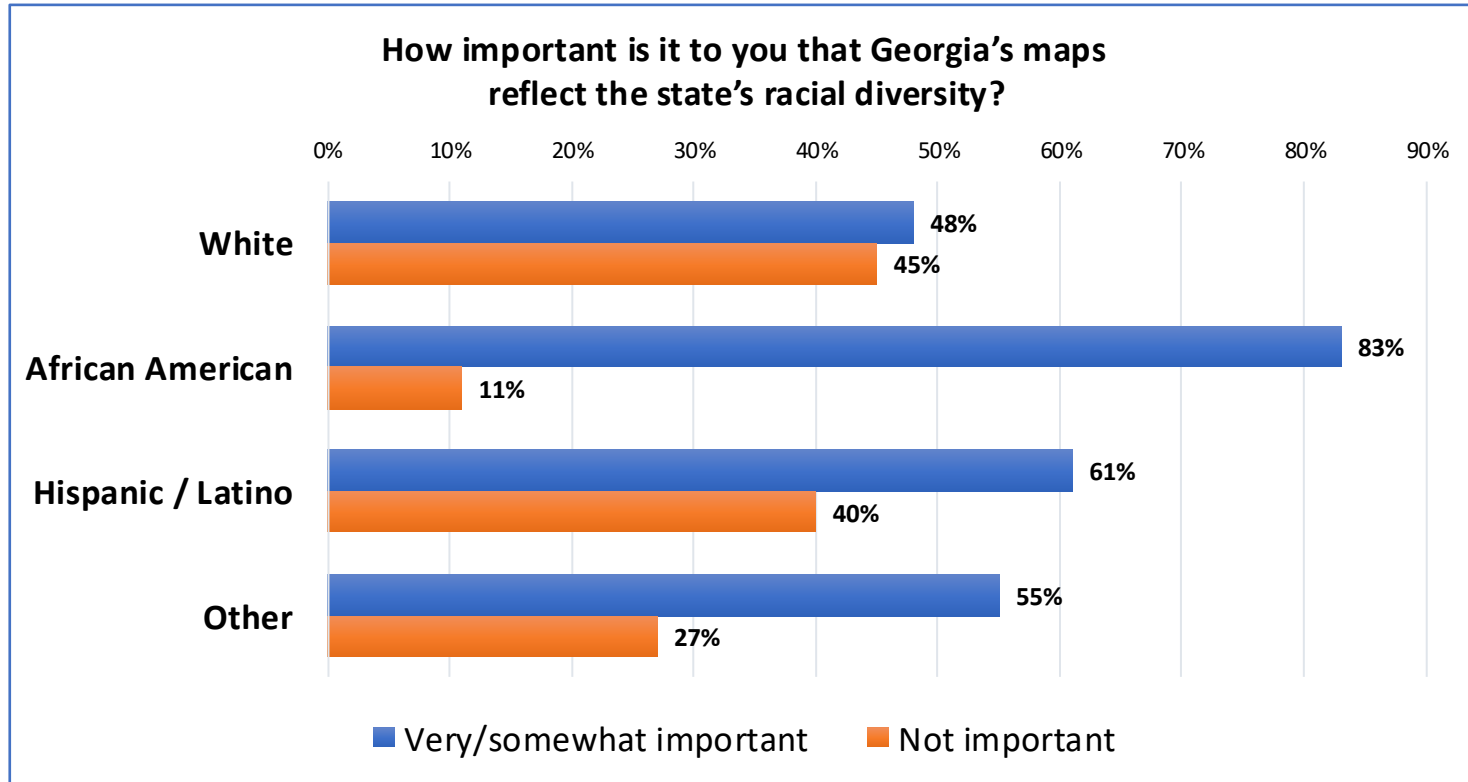
# Overwhelming Majority of Voters Want Competitive Elections



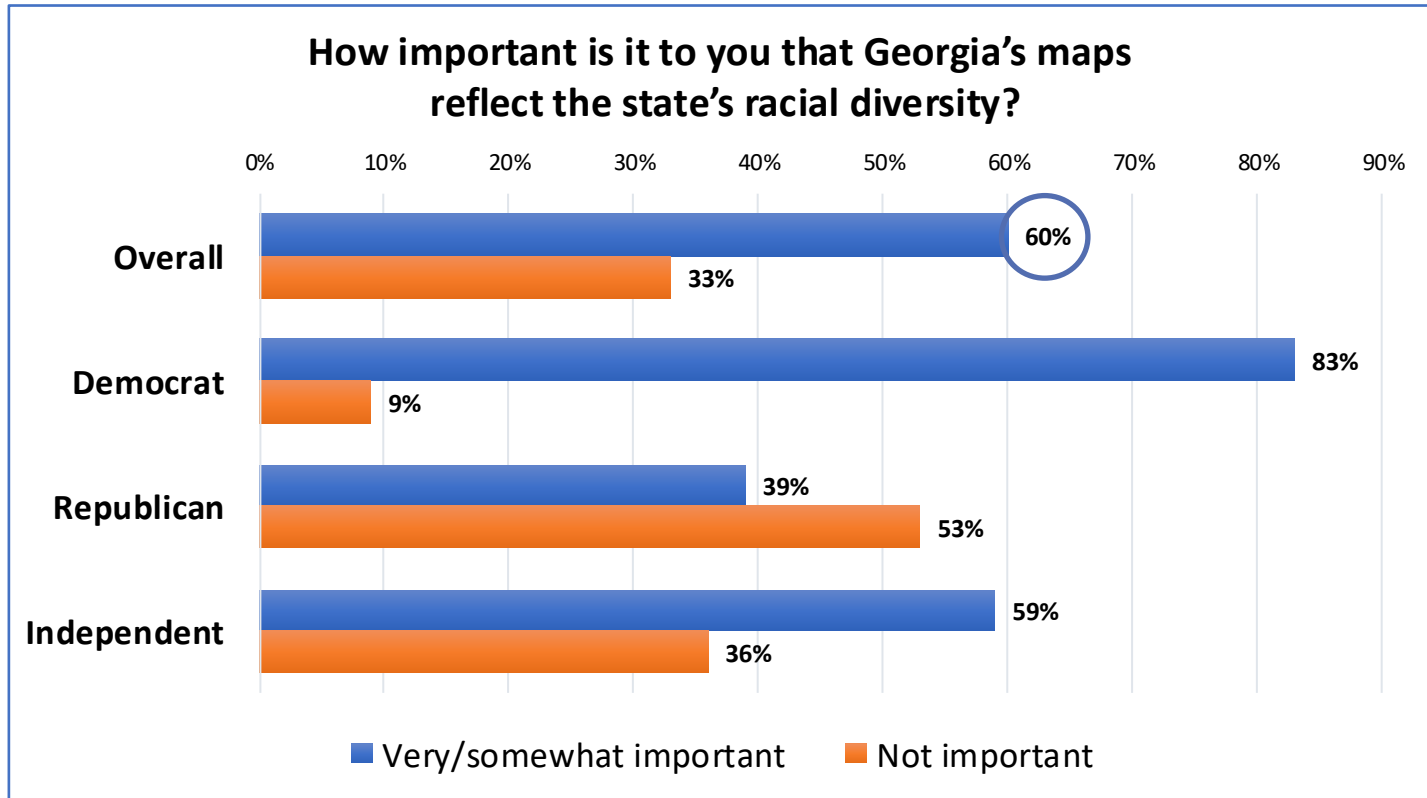
# Strong, growing support for non-partisan map drawing (64% overall, +6% YTY)



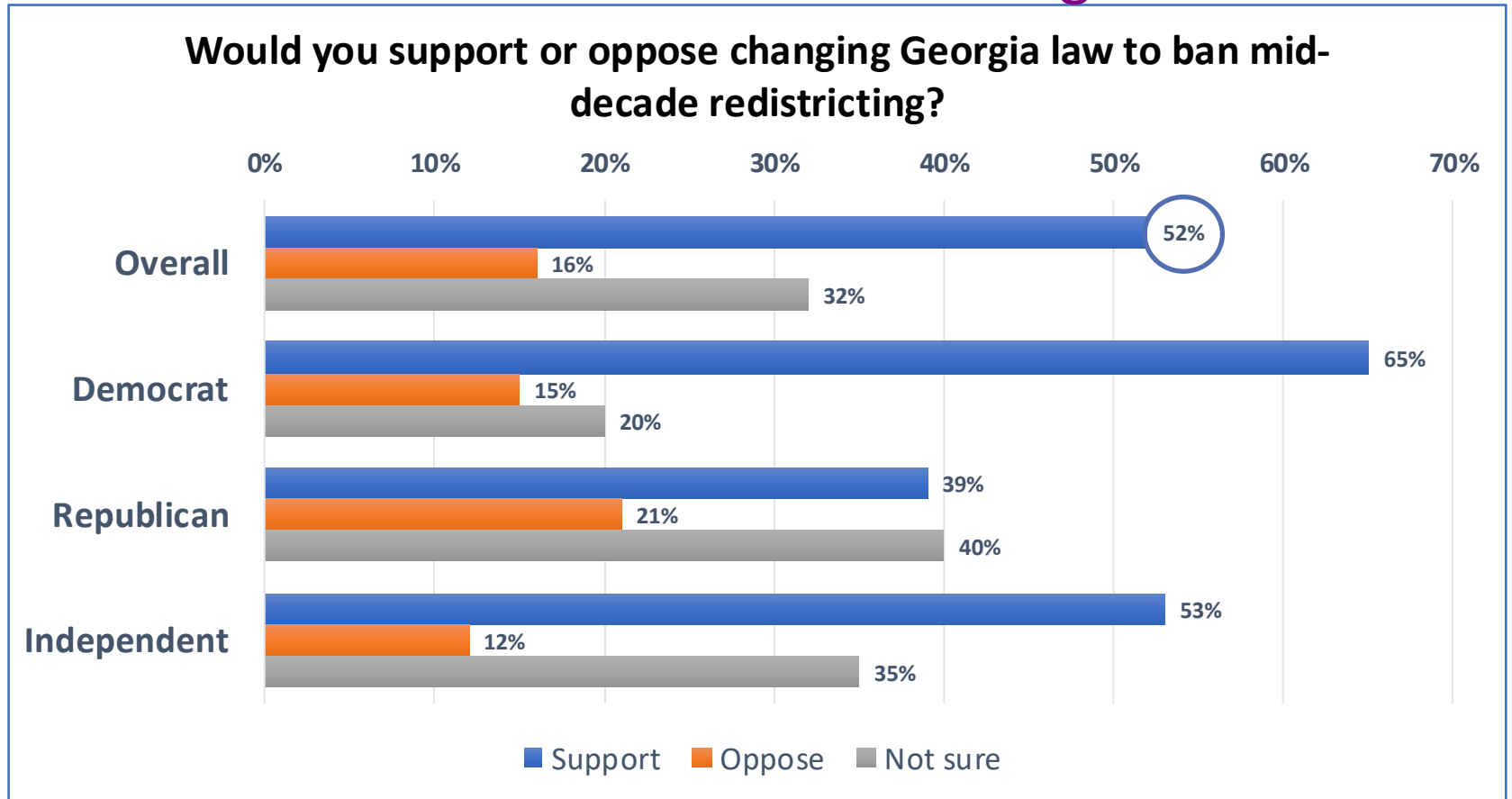
# 60% of Georgia voters believe maps should reflect state's racial diversity



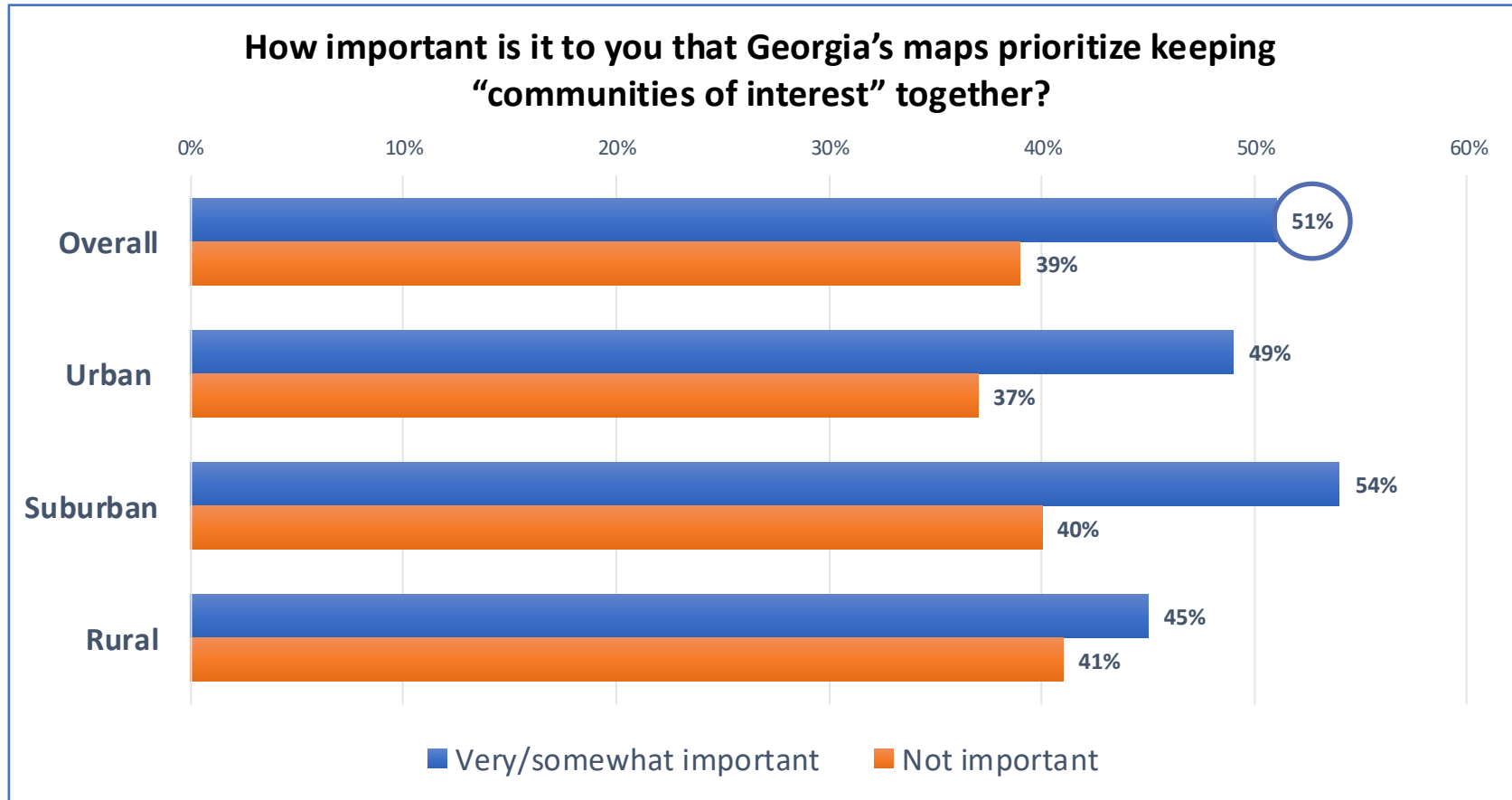
# However, importance of diversity in maps varies widely by political party



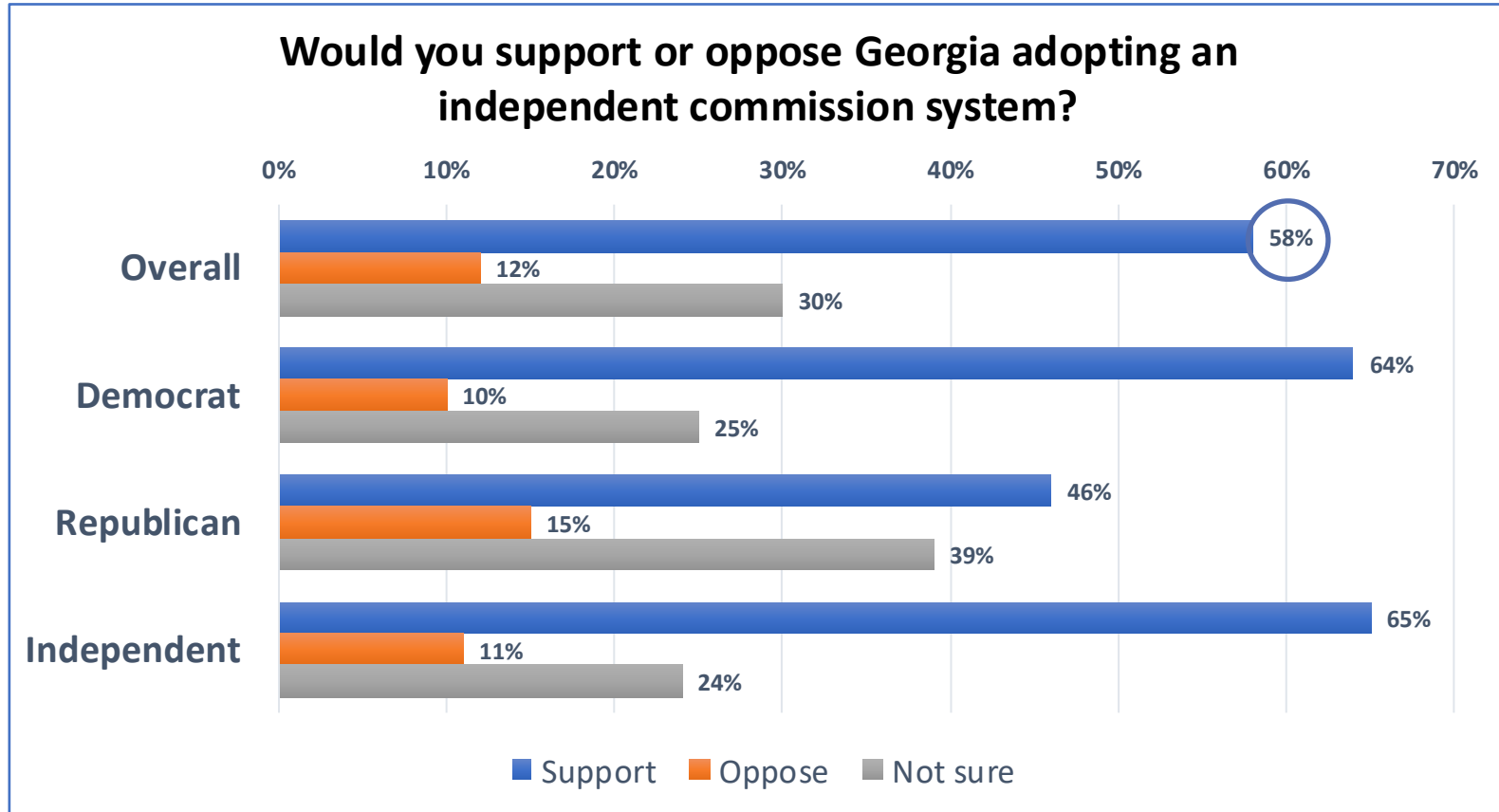
# Majority of Georgia voters support banning mid-decade redistricting



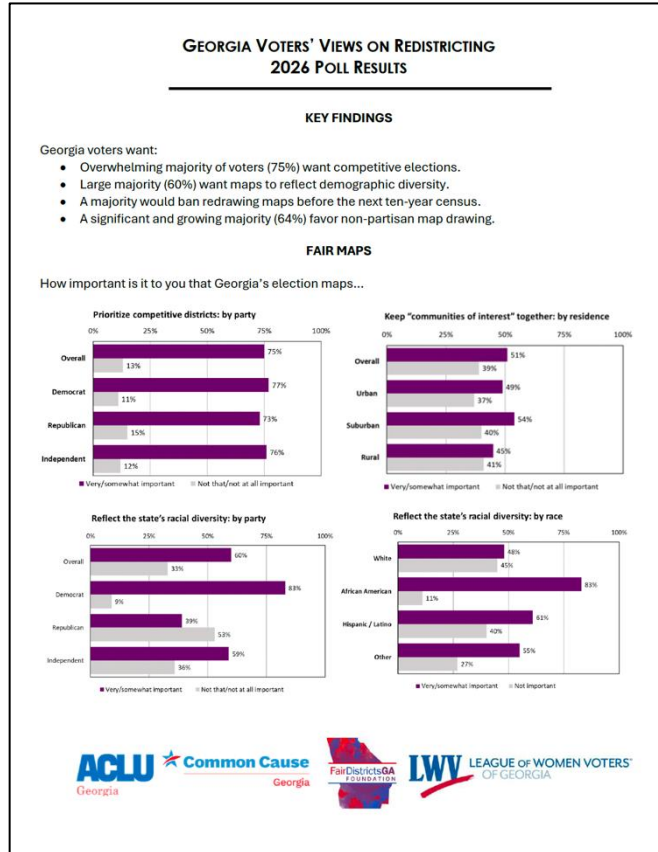
# Majority of voters from across Georgia want cohesive representation for their communities.



# Majority of Georgia voters support independent commission for redistricting



# Coming soon to our website...



# What do we mean by fair maps?

Maps should reflect and respect Georgia citizens, yielding representatives that are a cross-section of voters

- Respect voters' political preferences
  - Reflect the political preferences of all voters distributed across the state based on past elections
  - Encourage competition in areas where voters are closely divided
- Reflect and respect Georgia's diversity and communities of interest. As defined by citizens and census data, maps should take into account:
  - Defined social, economic, and educational interests
  - Existing county and municipal boundaries
  - All demographic groups including majority and minority
- Comply with traditional redistricting criteria
  - Equal population, contiguity, compactness
- Minimize voter movement among districts while complying with the above.



# Key takeaways from Fair Maps policy

- Maps should be built around defined Communities-of-interest (CoI)
- Must measure how well maps reflect CoI
- Must measure how well maps reflect racial demographics
  - Majority and minority
- Must measure how well maps reflect political interests
  - Partisan lean & competition

*It's better to get a fairly drawn map in the first place than file lawsuits after the fact.*



# Special Legislative Session



- June 17 - ? (1.5 weeks min.)
- Scope:
  - Revise, repeal, enact, amend maps for Congress, State House, State Senate in light of Callais
  - Address the ballot barcode issue
- House and Senate Redistricting and Reapportionment Committees will play key role

# Three step approach to advocacy

Before session

- 1. Fair Maps Policy:** Adopt a new "fair maps" policy. **Release it publicly.**  
Supported by the poll with lays the foundation.
- 2. Fair Maps Benchmarks:** Create and **publicly release** statistical benchmarks for fair maps - political and demographic.

During session

- 3. Score and Grade Maps:** Score and grade maps as released, then testify and publicize.

Benchmarks can be used to encourage citizens and other organizations to draw their own maps and grade them.

# Fair Maps Policy

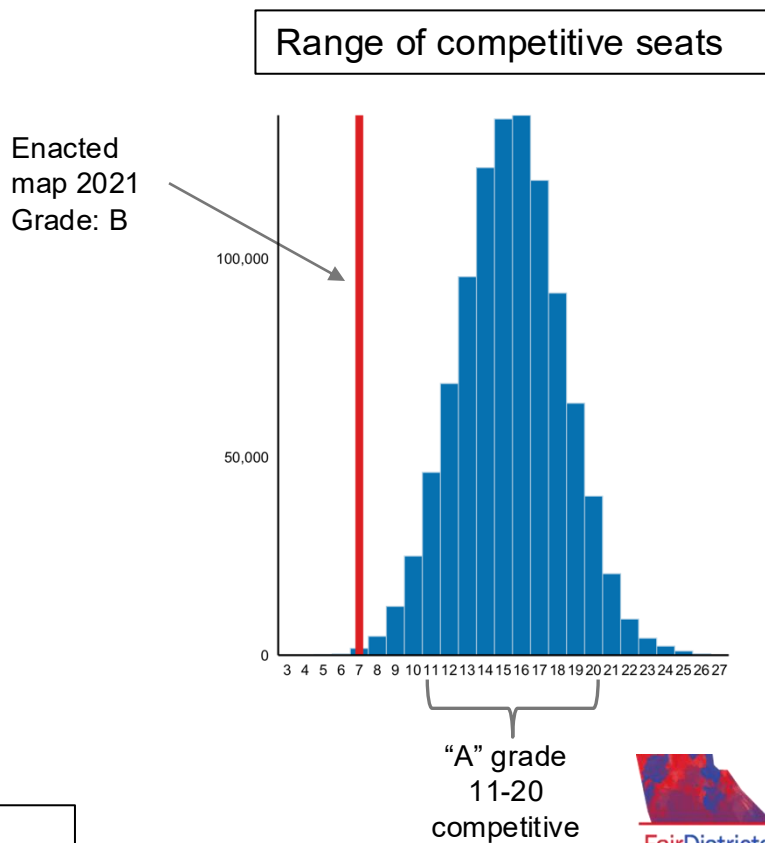
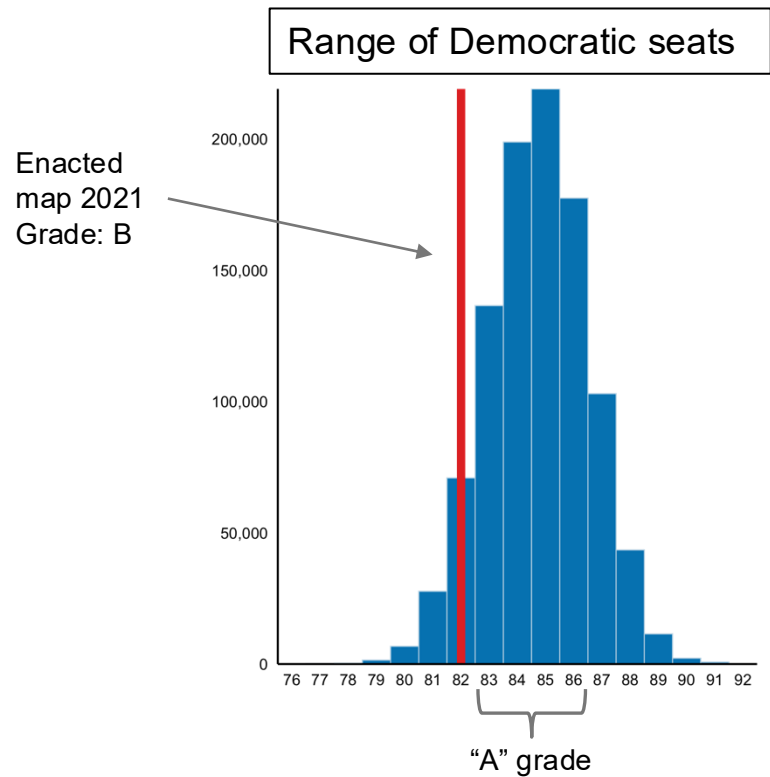
- Debut event – This town hall
- Press release – Poll + Policy
- Media interviews
- What YOU can do
  - Copy and distribute the poll summary
  - Contact local media – letter to the editor
  - Meet with your legislator
  - Explain what voters want
  - Explain the policy
  - Make it local – talk about your community

# Fair Maps Benchmarks by FDGA Research Team

- Updated statistical profiles for state maps
  - Demographic diversity
    - Range of districts for minority groups + majority
    - Black, Hispanic, Minority coalition, White
    - Basis: 2020 census
  - Political fairness
    - Competition
    - Partisan lean
    - Basis: Census + 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024 major statewide elections
- New, improved map features on our website



# 2021 Example: One-million-map simulation for Georgia House reveals fair maps should also have 11-20 competitive districts.



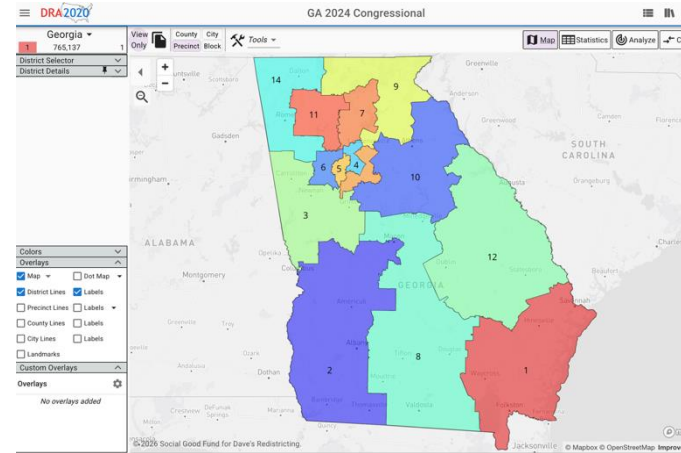
Source: Princeton Gerrymandering Project 1M map simulation, using 2018-20-21 statewide races as partisan index



5/21/26

# Fair Maps Benchmarks

- Public release – before session starts – on our website
- Media coverage
- What YOU can do
  - Contact local media – letter to the editor
  - Meet with your legislator
  - Explain why benchmarks are important
  - Make it local – talk about your community
  - Draw your own map and measure it!
    - Best tool: [Davesredistricting.org](https://davesredistricting.org)
    - Compare maps statistics from Dave to our benchmarks
    - Show how easy it is to draw fair maps



# Join Phone Call Campaign – 50501GA

- Place 3 phone calls in 5 minutes
- [5calls.org/state/georgia/georgia-racial-gerrymandering/](https://5calls.org/state/georgia/georgia-racial-gerrymandering/)
- Enter your address
- Simple call script w. phone numbers
- Record your action

5 Calls

Donate

YOUR LOCATION IS  
**Alpharetta**  
Change location

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

**Oppose Racial Gerrymandering in Georgia**

GEORGIA

## Oppose Racial Gerrymandering in Georgia

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp has [called a special session](#) of the state legislature, set to begin on June 17, with the express stated purpose of redrawing the state's electoral maps in the wake of the Supreme Court's [gutting of the Voting Rights Act](#). Governor Kemp's actions follow those of other Republican-led states such as

Contacts for this topic:

-  **Scott Hilton (R-GA)**  
This is one of your state legislators.
-  **Josh McLaurin (D-GA)**  
This is one of your state legislators.
-  **Brian Kemp (R-GA)**  
This is the Governor of your state

 **Scott Hilton (R-GA)**  
**404-656-0188**

Hi, my name is [NAME] and I'm a constituent from Alpharetta.

I'm calling to urge Rep. Hilton to oppose redistricting in the June 17 special session. Redrawing maps to further diminish the representation of Black people is racist, partisan, and antidemocratic. It harms the rights of everyone in the state and moves our country in the wrong direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**IF LEAVING VOICEMAIL:** Please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied.

After your call, share the result to show the next representative:

- UNAVAILABLE
- VOICEMAIL
- CONTACT
- SKIP

# Legislative Advocacy - Prior To The Session

- Engage with Partner Organizations
- Early Contact with Key Legislators
  - Meetings
    - House & Senate leadership
    - Committee chairs
    - Committee members
      - Include constituents – voter engagement
  - Offer assistance with map evaluation



# Legislative Advocacy - Prior To The Session

## Transparent Process Steps

- ***All meetings and discussions are public***
  - Public access to all documented communication during the process
- Explanation of factors considered in the creation of the plan
- Public may view, comment on, and submit maps online

## Transparent Process Steps - Notification

- Advance hearing notifications on the General Assembly website
- Published notice of any plan(s) immediately after its assignment to committee
- Votes preceded by ample prior notification

# Legislative Advocacy - During The Session

- Map Evaluations
- Plan & Organize Testimony
- Continued Rapid Response To The Public
- *Demonstrations*
  - *June 17 at the Capitol / Liberty Plaza*

# Legislative Advocacy - During The Session

## Plan & Organize Testimony

- Who
  - FDGA
  - Other organizations
  - Constituents / representative leaders
- Topics
  - Preserve communities of interest
    - Municipalities / Suburbs / ...
    - Historic minority areas
    - Coastal recreation community
    - ...

# Legislative Advocacy - During The Session

Possible testimony themes (3 min / person limit):

1. Legality / validity of session (Why / why now?)
2. What is a fair map? How measured? (benchmarks)
  - Communities of Interest
3. What do voters want? Poll findings
4. Map scores / grades (6 maps)
5. Mid-decade - history, harms, ban

# Legislative Advocacy - During The Session

## Continued Rapid Response To The Public

- Media interviews
- Opinion / Editorials
- Letters-To-Editor

*Demonstrations*

# Public Awareness / Media Actions

- May 1 press release re Callais decision
- May 15 press release re Special session call
- Op-Ed for AJC: No gerrymandering in special session

Available on our  
website – For Media  
/ In the news section

- 
- Press release: Poll + fair map policy
  - Press release: Benchmarks
  - Press release / coverage: In-session advocacy

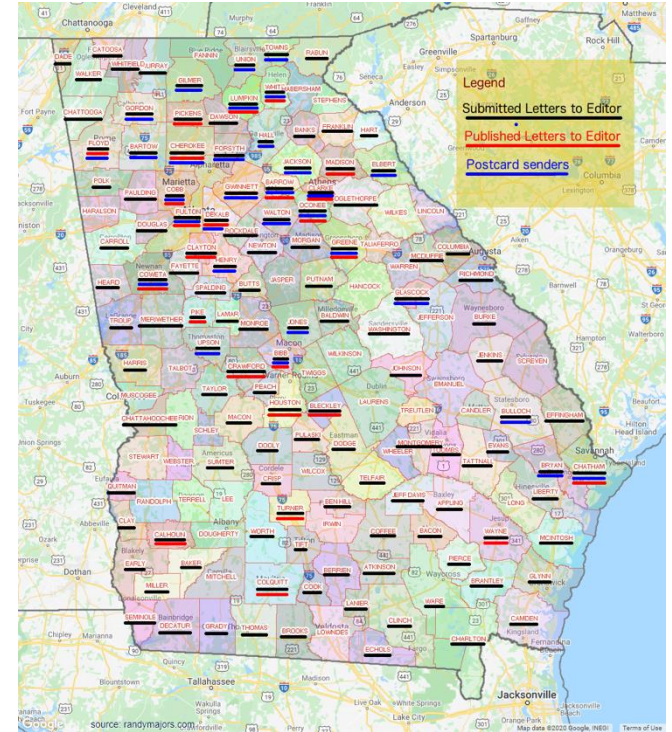
*Copy / reuse these messages for your local media!*



# Legislative Advocacy Tools

## Campaign of Public Engagement

- Post card campaign
- Op-eds
- Letters to the editor
- Sign-on letter (multi-org)
- Direct lobbying
- Legislative scorecard
- Town halls – virtual and in-person
- Event appearances
- Flyers



# Additional Actions You Can Take Now

- Urgent need for volunteers – Legislative Engagement
  - Testimony
  - Office visits (incl. in home districts)
  - Telephone calls
  - E-mails
  - Contact Dave Thomas: [Advocates@FairDistrictsGA.org](mailto:Advocates@FairDistrictsGA.org)

# Additional Actions You Can Take Now

- Subscribe and stay tuned to our newsletter
  - **FairDistrictsGA.org/newsletters**
- Urgent need for volunteers – Public Engagement
  - Website content posting (Wordpress only, no coding)
  - Facebook / Instagram alerts
  - Email/newsletter alerts (Mailchimp using templates, no coding)
  - Contact Michael Beach: [\*\*Comms@FairDistrictsGA.org\*\*](mailto:Comms@FairDistrictsGA.org)
- Be alert for another town hall before session
  - Latest updates
  - New calls to action

# 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

Email:  
info@fairdistrictsga.org  
Twitter: @FairDistrictsGA  
Web: fairdistrictsga.org  
Facebook: @FairDistrictsGA  
Instagram: @FairDistrictsGA



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FairDistrictsGA.org/support

Thank you!

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## Fair Districts GA Town Hall Appendix