

Monday, March 11, 2024 at 10:16:49 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: [Document Released to Requester] Augusta, Georgia public records request #24-518
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 at 9:11:42 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Augusta Georgia Open Records Request
To: records@americanoversight.org

EXTERNAL SENDER

-- Attach a non-image file and/or reply ABOVE THIS LINE with a message, and it will be sent to staff on this request. --

Augusta, Georgia Public Records

A document has been released for record request #24-518 along with the following message:

Good morning,

Please accept the released record(s) as our final response to your request for documents under the Georgia Open Records Act. It is our understanding that the record(s) that you have requested are as follows:

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Law (O.C.G.A. §§ 50-18-70 et seq.), American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following within three business days:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) Tim McFalls, Marcia Brown, Isaac McAdams, Sherry Barnes, Betty Reece, and anyone else communicating on behalf of the Richmond County Board of Elections, and (b) the external individuals and entities listed below (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in the listed domains).

External Individuals and Entities:

- a. America First Policy Institute (americafirstpolicy.com)**
- b. American Legislative Exchange Council (alec.org)**
- c. Americans for Tax Reform (atr.org)**
- d. Foundation for Government Accountability (thefga.org)**
- e. Hans von Spakovsky and/or anyone else communicating on behalf of The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org)**
- f. Honest Elections Project (honestelections.org)**
- g. Melody Clarke, Kerri Toloczko, and/or anyone else communicating on behalf of Election Integrity Network (whoscounting.us)**
- h. Stop RCV (stoprcv.com)**
- i. Virginia Institute of Public Policy (virginia institute.org)**

2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent or received by the Board of Elections officials listed in part 1 and containing any of the key terms listed below.

Key Terms:

- a. “ranked choice”**
- b. “ranked-choice”**

- c. “rigged choice”
- d. “rigged-choice”
- e. RCV

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that both parts of this request specifically exclude, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications responding to or forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. For example, if a specific individual received a mass-distribution news clip email from an email address ending in @americafirstpolicy.com, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if that specific individual forwarded that email to another individual with their own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from December 1, 2023, through the date the request is received.

After doing a thorough search and retrieval for the requested record(s) with the applicable custodian(s) of records, we have identified **one (1) responsive record(s)** to your open records request.

Respectfully,

Glen Talley

Glen E. Talley III | Open Records Officer, Administrator’s Office |
Augusta, Georgia
706-821-4899 | 535 Telfair Street, Suite 910, Augusta, GA 30901
| <https://www.augustaga.gov/2982/Open-Records-Requests>

- ORR 24-518.pdf

[View Request 24-518](#)

<https://cityofaugustaga.nextrequest.com/requests/24-518>

Document links are valid for one month. After April 11, you will need to sign in to view the document(s).



Questions about your request? Reply to this email or sign in to contact staff at Augusta, Georgia.

Technical support: See our [help page](#)

From: [Deidre Holden](#)
To: "[Tonnie Adams](#)"; [Timothy McFalls](#); tbraatz@hallcounty.org; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; quit.judge@ggc-ga.org; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; nboren@columbusga.org; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov; arusell@baconcounty.org; adover@cherokeega.com; norck@jacksoncountygov.com; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov; kirkj@bartowga.org; [Travis Doss](#); [Lacy Dunn](#); ssgerman@chathamcounty.org; Pam.Long@accgov.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Legislative update Crossover Day
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 6:33:54 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks Tonnie!

“Attitude is the 'little' thing that makes a big difference.”
Winston Churchill

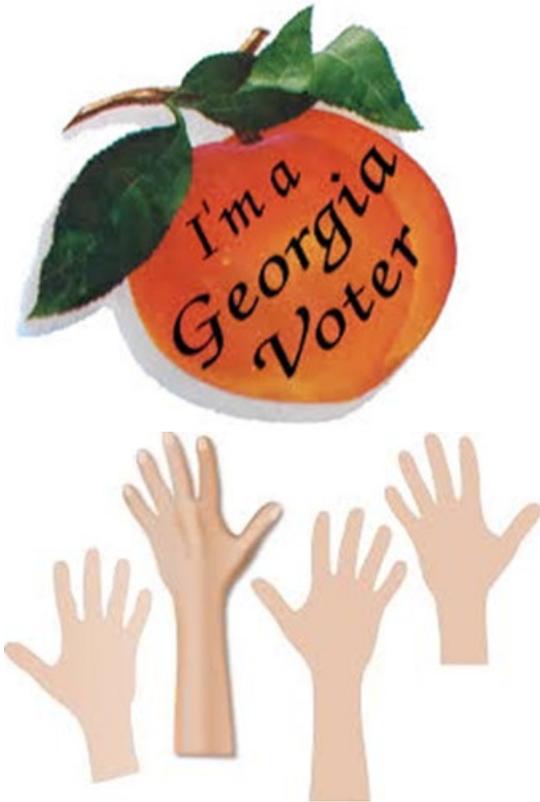
Deidre B. Holden

**Director
Elections & Registration
Campaign Finance Filing Officer
Open Records Officer
Paulding County**



240 Constitution Blvd.
Dallas, GA 30132
770-443-7503 Office
770-443-7548 Fax
678-306-7367 Cell

REACH THE PEACH 2024...VOTE



EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

NOTICE: This communication originates from the Paulding County Elections and Voter Registration Department, and it may contain privileged or other confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, or believe that you have received this communication in error, please do not print, copy, retransmit, disseminate, or otherwise use the information. Also, please indicate to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and delete the copy you received.

From: Tonnie Adams <tadams@heardcountyga.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 5:47 PM

To: tmcfalls@augustaeda.org; tbraatz@hallcounty.org; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; quit.judge@gqc-ga.org; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; nboren@columbusga.org; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcountry.com; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; Deidre Holden <deidre.holden@paulding.gov>; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov; arussell@baconcounty.org; adover@cherokeega.com; norck@jacksoncountygov.com; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov; kirkj@bartowga.org; TDoss@augustaga.gov; Lacy Dunn <lacy.dunn@paulding.gov>; ssgerman@chathamcounty.org; Pam.Long@accgov.com

Subject: Legislative update Crossover Day

Warning: This e-mail originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or attachments if you were not expecting this e-mail.

Legislative Update – the Day Before Crossover

HB 975: Elections; prohibit bar codes, QR codes, and other machine codes on ballots printed by electronic ballot markers

SB 189: Elections; text portions of ballots shall be counted for vote tabulation and recounts purposes; provide

Similar bills that remove the QR code from BMD ballots. SB 189 has passed the Senate and may be discussed in the House committee. Expect more deliberation on this topic later this session. The final passage of SB 189 during this session is not likely unless effective dates for the bill set in the future are included.

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Has been given “do pass” status and can be sent to the floor for a full House vote. GAVREO has worked with the author of this bill to amend parts to make it acceptable.

HB 426: Elections; retention and preservation of ballots and other election documents; revise provisions

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SR 221: Joint Study Committee on Run-off Elections; create

If this committee is created, it is hoped that election officials will have input and be able to testify.

HB 559: Elections; preferential treatment during advance voting to voters accompanied by children five years of age or under; provide (Draper, Saira, et al.)

Maximum age has been changed from 5 to 3 years old. This bill has been given “do pass” status as amended and is waiting to be sent to the House floor.

HB 1112: Elections; remove Secretary of State from State Election Board; attach to State Accounting Office

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HB 1118: Elections; increase penalty for use of violence to interfere with duties of poll or election workers or prevent electors from voting

Hearing tomorrow in Judiciary-Non-Civil Committee. It could be sent to Rules and be considered tomorrow. GAVREO hopes to get this one over the finish line tomorrow.

HB 1370: Elections; superintendents determine number of voting booths; provisions

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HR 780: Only citizens of the United States have right to vote in elections in Georgia; clarify – CA

Has been given “do pass” status and can be sent to the floor for a full House vote. If voted on by the House, requires 2/3 majority to pass on to the Senate.

SR 454: Right to Register and Vote; clarify (CA)

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Has been given “do pass” status and can be sent to the floor for a full Senate vote. Sales tax referendums shall only be on the ballot in November election of ANY year or on the General Primary or the PPP (no more March specials).

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HB 986: Elections; election interference with a deep fake; establish criminal offense

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producing a deep fake. This bill was heard by the House Technology Committee.

HB 1207: Elections; proofing of ballots by local superintendents in certain races; provide

SB 212: Probate Court Judges; relating to elections; end activities and duties

SB 355: Elections and Primaries; use of ranked-choice voting; prohibit

SB 358: State Election Board; remove the Secretary of State; authorize the board to investigate

SB 368: Government Transparency and Campaign Finance; foreign nationals from contributing to candidates or campaign committees; prohibit

HB 976: Elections; ballots used in optical scan voting systems shall use paper with a visible watermark security feature; provide

IT's been a very busy session. Marci is doing a spectacular job.

Charles Tonnie Adams
Heard County Elections Supervisor
215 E Court Square
PO Box 427
Franklin, GA 30217
706-675-3907

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From: [Travis Doss](#)
To: [Tonnie Adams](#); [Timothy McFalls](#); tbraatz@hallcounty.org; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; quit.judge@ggc-ga.org; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; nboren@columbusga.org; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; Deidre.Holden; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov; arusell@baconcounty.org; adover@cherokeega.com; norck@jacksoncountygov.com; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov; kirkj@bartowga.org; Lacey.Dunn; ssgerman@chathamcounty.org; Pam.Long@accgov.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Legislative update Crossover Day
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 6:20:18 PM

Thank you Tonnie for this update

W. Travis Doss, Jr., CERA, GEOC 

Executive Director

Richmond County Board of Elections

535 Telfair Street, Suite 500

Augusta, GA 30901

706-821-2872 (Office)

706-842-1309 (Warehouse)

706-821-2814 (FAX)

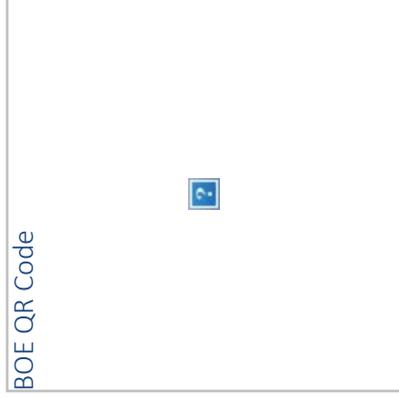
706-821-2340 (Main Line)

833-260-8683 (Toll-Free)

www.augustaga.gov/vote

richmondelections@augustaga.gov





From: Tonnie Adams <tadams@heardcountyga.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 5:47:01 PM

To: Timothy McFalls <tmcfalls@augustaeda.org>; tbraatz@hallcounty.org <tbraatz@hallcounty.org>; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov <schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov>; Rene.Russo@accgov.com <Rene.Russo@accgov.com>; quit.judge@gqc-ga.org <quit.judge@gqc-ga.org>; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us <ofinney@co.henry.ga.us>; ninarcrawford@gmail.com <ninarcrawford@gmail.com>; nboren@columbusga.org <nboren@columbusga.org>; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com <Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com>; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov <Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov>; jdoran@morgancountyga.gov <jdoran@morgancountyga.gov>; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov <ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov>; cnelson@warecounty.com <cnelson@warecounty.com>; cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov <cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov>; arussell@baconcounty.org <arussell@baconcounty.org>; adover@cherokeega.com <adover@cherokeega.com>; norck@jacksoncountygov.com <norck@jacksoncountygov.com>; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov <Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>; kirkj@bartowga.org <kirkj@bartowga.org>; Travis Doss <TDoss@augustaga.gov>; Lacey Dunn <ldunn@paulding.gov>; ssgerman@chathamcounty.org <ssgerman@chathamcounty.org>; Pam.Long@accgov.com <Pam.Long@accgov.com>

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IT's been a very busy session. Marci is doing a spectacular job.

Charles Tonnie Adams
Heard County Elections Supervisor
215 E Court Square
PO Box 427
Franklin, GA 30217
706-675-3907

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From: [Ethan Compton](#)
To: [Timothy McFalls](#); [tbraatz@hallcounty.org](#); [schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov](#); [Rene.Russo@accgov.com](#); [quit.judge@gqc-ga.org](#); [ofinney@co.henry.ga.us](#); [ninarcrawford@gmail.com](#); [nboren@columbusga.org](#); [Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com](#); [Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov](#); [jdoran@morgancountyga.gov](#); [Deidre.Holden](#); [cnelson@warecounty.com](#); [cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov](#); [arussell@baconcounty.org](#); [adover@cherokeega.com](#); [norck@jacksoncountygov.com](#); [Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov](#); [kirkj@bartowga.org](#); [Travis.Doss](#); [Lacey.Dunn](#); [ssgerman@chathamcounty.org](#); [Pam.Long@accgov.com](#); [Tonnie Adams](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL]bills to focus on
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 10:53:14 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-d3r1rscg.png](#)
[2024 Ethan Compton GAVREO Legislative Committee Opinions.docx](#)

Good morning,

Attached is my opinion on the bills Tonnie mentioned in his prior email Sunday.

Ethan Compton

Election Supervisor

Irwin County, Georgia

ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov

(229) 468-0081 Office

(229) 468-0089 Fax



From: Tonnie Adams <tadams@heardcountyga.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 11:18 PM

To: tmcfalls@augustaeda.org <tmcfalls@augustaeda.org>; tbraatz@hallcounty.org <tbraatz@hallcounty.org>; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov <schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov>; Rene.Russo@accgov.com <Rene.Russo@accgov.com>; quit.judge@gqc-ga.org <quit.judge@gqc-ga.org>; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us <ofinney@co.henry.ga.us>; ninarcrawford@gmail.com <ninarcrawford@gmail.com>; nboren@columbusga.org <nboren@columbusga.org>; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com <Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com>; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov <Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov>; jdoran@morgancountyga.gov <jdoran@morgancountyga.gov>; Ethan.Compton@irwincounty-ga.gov <ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov>; Deidre.Holden@paulding.gov <Deidre.Holden@paulding.gov>; cnelson@warecounty.com <cnelson@warecounty.com>; cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov <cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov>; arussell@baconcounty.org <arussell@baconcounty.org>; adover@cherokeega.com <adover@cherokeega.com>; norck@jacksoncountygov.com <norck@jacksoncountygov.com>; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov <Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>; kirkj@bartowga.org <kirkj@bartowga.org>;

TDoss@augustaga.gov <TDoss@augustaga.gov>; Lacey Dunn <ldunn@paulding.gov>;
ssgerman@chathamcounty.org <ssgerman@chathamcounty.org>; Pam.Long@accgov.com
<Pam.Long@accgov.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]bills to focus on

House Bills:

HB 419 - where does the legislature stand on ending the General Runoff?

HB 975/SB 189 - (eliminate QR Code) will there be a change in the scanners? We must make it clear that ANY change this year would make running elections VERY difficult

HB 426 - unsealing of ballots - nothing more has been heard about this bill - where do the majority of GAVREO members stand here?

HB 974 - online ballot image database

HB 1207 - proofing of ballots (candidate must be e-mailed a copy of the ballot so he/she may proof it before final signoff)

HB 424 - (Sheriff qualifying) will this bill pass in time for qualifying in March? The bill as written has a provision that it will be effective upon Governor's signature

HB 977 - audits - the original bill required MANY more audits than the final version

HB 976 - ballot watermark - we need to find out what counties with excess paper inventory can do to prevent wasting paper that is not used by the end of the June Runoff

HB 1118 - this bill would expand protections to ALL election workers as to threats of violence. This bill was up for a hearing last week, but was pulled from the hearing.

HB 1254 - this bill would allow Board of Registration to charge REASONABLE fees for voter challenges. I think some counties would be very open to this idea. It might not go anywhere this year, but it something to engage Rep. Draper on at a later date.

Senate Bills:

SB 355 - ban ranked choice voting (except UOCAVA) - this bill is probably moving through

SB 411 - parents with children five years of age or under to the front of the line

SB 413 - special elections for sales and use taxes may only be in November of any year OR concurrent with a statewide Primary (Primary in even years OR PPP every four years) - no more March specials for sales taxes

SB 446 - change in early voting (shorten the period)

There are other bills out there that affect other aspects of elections and ethics that do not directly affect our offices.

I will have a comprehensive list sometime next week.

This list is too many to focus on right now, but we can pick and choose as we go.

Charles Tonnie Adams
Heard County Elections Supervisor
215 E Court Square
PO Box 427
Franklin, GA 30217
706-675-3907

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From: [Tonnie Adams](#)
To: [Timothy McFalls](#); [tbraatz@hallcounty.org](#); [schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov](#); [Rene.Russo@accgov.com](#); [quit.judge@gcc-ga.org](#); [ofinney@co.henry.ga.us](#); [ninarcrawford@gmail.com](#); [nboren@columbusga.org](#); [Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com](#); [Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov](#); [jdoran@morgancountyga.gov](#); [ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov](#); [Deidre.Holden](#); [cnelson@warecounty.com](#); [cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov](#); [arusell@baconcounty.org](#); [adover@cherokeega.com](#); [norck@jacksoncountygov.com](#); [Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov](#); [kirki@bartowga.org](#); [Travis.Doss](#); [Lacey.Dunn](#); [ssgerman@chathamcounty.org](#); [Pam.Long@accgov.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] bills to focus on
Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024 11:18:56 PM

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HB 1254 - this bill would allow Board of Registration to charge REASONABLE fees for voter challenges. I think some counties would be very open to this idea. It might not go anywhere this year, but it something to engage Rep. Draper on at a later date.

Senate Bills:

SB 355 - ban ranked choice voting (except UOCAVA) - this bill is probably moving through

SB 411 - parents with children five years of age or under to the front of the line

SB 413 - special elections for sales and use taxes may only be in November of any year OR

concurrent with a statewide Primary (Primary in even years OR PPP every four years) - no more March specials for sales taxes

SB 446 - change in early voting (shorten the period)

There are other bills out there that affect other aspects of elections and ethics that do not directly affect our offices.

I will have a comprehensive list sometime next week.

This list is too many to focus on right now, but we can pick and choose as we go.

Charles Tonnie Adams
Heard County Elections Supervisor
215 E Court Square
PO Box 427
Franklin, GA 30217
706-675-3907

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From: [Thomas Braatz \(Elections\)](#)
To: [Tonnie Adams](#)
Cc: [Timothy McFalls](#); schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; quit.judge@gqc-ga.org; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; nboren@columbusga.org; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcountry.com; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; Deidre.Holden; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannel@glynncounty-ga.gov; arusnell@baconcounty.org; adover@cherokeega.com; norck@jacksoncountygov.com; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov; kirkj@bartowga.org; [Travis Doss](#); [Lacey Dunn](#); ssgerman@chathamcounty.org; Pam.Long@accgov.com; [Lori Wurtz \(Elections\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: letter draft
Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024 11:55:01 AM

Hi Tonnie,

I hope a lobbyist is indeed good news. Is any information about Marci Rubensohn's background and experience available? This will be helpful to have an idea where to start and guide our conversation.

Given the focus is on current bills, our topics are pretty well set already:

HB976 – watermarks on ballot paper

HB974 – web enabled platform for cast votes ballot images; centralized, state-wide

HB977 – audits

HB975 - eliminating QR codes to switch to OCR

SB355 – prohibit RCV

SB358 – remove SoS from SEB; allow SEB to investigate SoS

SB189 – similar to HB975 re: QR codes to text

SB212 – elections duties of Probate Court Judges

SB411 – allow voters with young children to cut in line

SB413 – sales tax referendums limited to every two (2) years

Budget – ensure NO unfunded mandates

Specifically on the topic of ballot paper, due consideration of the transition of existing blank ballot stock inventory MUST be given. Given there is no central data source for current blank ballot stock levels in the 159 counties, I can't foresee a cost effective way to transition other than to say "use only watermarked ballot paper after all existing ballot paper stocks are depleted", otherwise will we need to estimate the cost to taxpayers of shredding unused blank ballot stocks? And don't we already have ballot paper security features that aren't utilized? Let's please not do something like this: <https://www.votebeat.org/arizona/2024/02/13/cochise-county-arizona-ballot-paper-security-trial/>

For the future, I'd like to see the specific constraint removed for DVS's recommendation of one voting unit (BMD + printer) per 250 electors. It's overkill and most of our polling places can't come close to providing the electrical power demands and physical space required. Hall County's polling places are primarily churches (20 of 31 locations) and the fellowship facilities are uniformly lacking. Now that the PollPad process has been improved, the most frequent processing bottleneck when we experience voter lines, is at the ICP tabulators. Further, lines have NOT historically been a problem (I know, I shouldn't have said this out loud). I calculated the availability of BMD time per voter for the entire election event window, and the result is that voters have 37 minutes/ballot to make all their choices for all the contests if everyone in the county goes to the polls. This requirement is a solution making unnecessary problems and increasing expenses for little to no benefit.

The topic of innovation really needs to be addressed, but I'm not sure where to start. People making rules for which they likely don't understand the implications strikes me as absurd.

Thanks and best regards,
Tom Braatz
Hall County Elections

From: Tonnie Adams <tadams@heardcountyga.com>

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 11:59 AM

To: tmcfalls@augustaeda.org; Thomas Braatz (Elections) <tbraatz@hallcounty.org>; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; quit.judge@gqc-ga.org; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; nboren@columbusga.org; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; Deidre Holden <dholden@paulding.gov>; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov; arussell@baconcounty.org; adover@cherokeega.com; norck@jacksoncountygov.com; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov; kirkj@bartowga.org; TDoss@augustaga.gov; Lacey Dunn <ldunn@paulding.gov>; ssgerman@chathamcounty.org; Pam.Long@accgov.com

Subject: letter draft

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Dear Committee:

I am pleased to announce that GAVREO has decided to hire Marci Rubensohn through Holland and Knight as our lobbyist.

To prepare for our first meeting with her, we must prepare a list of concerns dealing with legislation. The focus for now will be on bills that have been filed and heard in committee. Later we will focus on legislative goals for the 2025-2026 legislative biennium.

Please compile a list of items to discuss for a meeting next week, time to be determined.

I would like for a list to be available by Sunday evening, if possible. The meeting will most likely be held Tuesday.

This is an exciting new chapter for our organization, and I look forward to working with Marci on our legislative priorities.

Thank you,

Charles Tonnie Adams
Heard County Elections Supervisor
215 E Court Square
PO Box 427

Franklin, GA 30217
706-675-3907

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From: [Nancy Boren](#)
To: adover@cherokeega.com; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov; [Deidre Holden](#); jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; arussell@baconcounty.org; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; tbraatz@hallcounty.org; quit.judge@gqc-ga.org; tmcfalls; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov; kirkj@bartowga.org; [Travis Doss](#); [Lacey Dunn](#); ssgerman@chathamcounty.org; Pam.Long@accgov.com; [Tonnie Adams](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] legislative update
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 10:42:37 AM

House Rules Committee Chairman Richard Smith passed away in his sleep this morning.

I spoke with Randy Robertson last night regarding the restriction to sales tax referendums in general elections in even years. He is willing to discuss having those elections with any regularly scheduled election in even-numbered years. I discussed election officials are often concerned about the length of general election ballots and want to decrease opportunities for a two physical page ballot and voter fatigue for down ballot issues.

Nancy

From: Tonnie Adams <tadams@heardcountyga.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 10:37 AM
To: adover@cherokeega.com <adover@cherokeega.com>; cnelson@warecounty.com <cnelson@warecounty.com>; cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov <cchannell@glynncounty-ga.gov>; [Deidre Holden](mailto:Deidre.Holden@dholden@paulding.gov) <dholden@paulding.gov>; jdoran@morgancountyga.gov <jdoran@morgancountyga.gov>; ninarcrawford@gmail.com <ninarcrawford@gmail.com>; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us <ofinney@co.henry.ga.us>; Rene.Russo@accgov.com <Rene.Russo@accgov.com>; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov <schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov>; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com <Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com>; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov <ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov>; arussell@baconcounty.org <arussell@baconcounty.org>; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov <Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov>; tbraatz@hallcounty.org <tbraatz@hallcounty.org>; [Nancy Boren](mailto:Nancy.Boren@NBoren@columbusga.gov) <NBoren@columbusga.gov>; quit.judge@gqc-ga.org <quit.judge@gqc-ga.org>; tmcfalls@augustaeda.org <tmcfalls@augustaeda.org>; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov <Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>; kirkj@bartowga.org <kirkj@bartowga.org>; TDoss@augustaga.gov <TDoss@augustaga.gov>; [Lacey Dunn](mailto:Lacey.Dunn@ldunn@paulding.gov) <ldunn@paulding.gov>; ssgerman@chathamcounty.org <ssgerman@chathamcounty.org>; Pam.Long@accgov.com <Pam.Long@accgov.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] legislative update

Bills on the House Rules calendar for a vote today:

HB 976: ballots must have watermark

New bills dropped:

HB 1060 - seeks to repeal SB 202 - this bill is going nowhere

SB 411 - allows parents with children five years of age or under to go to the front of the line (there is a democrat version of this bill that has already been heard in the Governmental Affairs Committee)

SB 413 - would restrict sales tax referendums to general elections in even years

Meetings today:

House subcommittee on elections (Governmental Affairs): 1:30 PM

HB 974: scanned ballot database (2nd hearing - expect a committee substitute to resolve resolution requirements)

HB 975: no QR codes - This bill was not discussed at the last meeting, but expect this bill to go forward at some point (maybe even today), since the Senate has their own version of this bill

HB 977: additional audits - carried over from the last meeting. Our main concern with this bill is being able to conduct additional audits in time for certification deadline

Senate Ethics Committee: 5:00 PM

SB 212: Probate Judge bill - 3rd meeting this has been discussed - I would not be surprised if this is passed by the committee

Further updates from last week:

Rick Jeffares was confirmed as a member of the State Election Board on Thursday by the Senate

John Fervier was confirmed as the Chair of the State Election Board by the House and Senate on Thursday

SB 355 (prohibit ranked choice voting) and SB 358 (Secretary of State and SEB relationship) were passed by the Senate on Friday and have been assigned to the Governmental Affairs Committee in the House

Charles Tonnie Adams
Heard County Elections Supervisor
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706-675-3907

From: [Tonnie Adams](#)
To: adover@cherokee.ga.gov; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannel@glynncounty-ga.gov; [Deidre Holden](#); jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; arussell@baconcounty.org; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; tbraatz@hallcounty.org; nboren@columbusga.gov; quit.judge@ggc-ga.org; tmcfalls; Shauna.Dozier@claytoncountyga.gov; kirkj@bartowga.org; [Travis Doss](#); Lacey.Dunn; ssgerman@chathamcounty.org; Pam.Long@accgov.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] legislative update
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 10:38:03 AM
Attachments: [Leg update 1-30-2024.docx](#)

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HB 976: ballots must have watermark

New bills dropped:

HB 1060 - seeks to repeal SB 202 - this bill is going nowhere

SB 411 - allows parents with children five years of age or under to go to the front of the line (there is a democrat version of this bill that has already been heard in the Governmental Affairs Committee)

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From: [Tennie Adams](mailto:Tennie.Adams@heardcountyga.gov)
To: adover@cherokee.ga.gov; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannel@glynncounty-ga.gov; [Deidre Holden](mailto:Deidre.Holden@cherokee.ga.gov); jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; arusell@baconcounty.org; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; tbraatz@hallcounty.org; nboren@columbusga.org; quit.judge@ggc-ga.org; [tmcfalls](mailto:tmcfalls@cherokee.ga.gov); [Shauna Dozier, CERA, GAVREO President](mailto:Shauna.Dozier@CERA.org); [Joseph Kirk \(kirkj@bartowga.org\)](mailto:Joseph.Kirk@bartowga.org); [Lacey Dunn](mailto:Lacey.Dunn@heardcountyga.gov); [Travis Doss](mailto:Travis.Doss@heardcountyga.gov); [Sabrina German](mailto:Sabrina.German@heardcountyga.gov); [Pam Long](mailto:Pam.Long@heardcountyga.gov)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] leg update
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:31:57 PM
Attachments: [leg update 1-24-2024.docx](#)

new bills/resolutions overnight:

HB 998 Elections; prohibit bar codes, QR codes, and other machine codes on ballots printed by electronic ballot markers; provisions

This bill contains much more than the previous bills with the same title:

- 1: No bar codes or QR codes on ballots
- 2: Requires an audit of all BMD's to verify they have not been tampered with. This must be done at least 15 days before an election.
- 3: Removes drop boxes from code
- 4: Removes a valid out of state ID from the accepted forms of ID for voting (there is an error in this part of the bill, as earlier in the code it mentions an ID from "any other state")
- 5: Requires a full audit of all ballots from the selected race in an audit
- 6: Changes the date of a runoff to six weeks following the original primary or election

HR 837 House Study Committee on Dominion Election Equipment; create

Members would be appointed by the Speaker of the House. There is no mention of how many members from the minority party would be appointed.

I have also attached an update on HB 976, 974, and 977 and SB 355 and 358 after the hearings yesterday. SB 355 and 358 were passed by the Senate Ethics Committee.

Charles Tonnie Adams
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From: [Tonnie Adams](#)
To: adover@cherokee.ga.gov; cnelson@warecounty.com; cchannel@glynncounty-ga.gov; [Deidre Holden](#); jdoran@morgancountyga.gov; ninarcrawford@gmail.com; ofinney@co.henry.ga.us; Rene.Russo@accgov.com; schastain@gilmercounty-ga.gov; Zachary.Manifold@gwinnettcounty.com; ethan.compton@irwincounty-ga.gov; arussell@baconcounty.org; Lashandra.little@fultoncountyga.gov; tbraatz@hallcounty.org; nboren@columbusga.gov; quit.judge@gqc-ga.org; [tmcfalls](#); [Shauna Dozier, CERA, GAVREO President](#); [Travis Doss](#); [Sabrina German](#); [Lacey Dunn](#); [Kirk, Joseph](#); [Pam Long](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legislative update
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:19:46 PM
Attachments: [Leg update 1-22-2024.docx](#)
[legislative update 4-18-2023.docx](#)

Committee:

My apologies for being silent the past few weeks. We are almost finished with L and A, so I can focus my attention on legislative matters.

Please see attached the bills that have been dropped since January 1.

The Elections Subcommittee in the House and the Ethics Committee in the Senate met today. I am watching both of these meetings for an update on the day's proceedings.

For now, please comment on the bills on the attachment.

This does not mean that bills introduced last year won't be discussed or passed this year. See your last update for those bills. If you need that update, it is also attached.

We are also monitoring the budget process to see what monies will be allocated to the elections division.

Also a BIG THANK YOU to Deidre Holden for organizing GAVREO Day at the Capitol, which as a reminder is February 7.

More updates later.

Thank you for your service on the committee.

Charles Tonnie Adams
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