

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Georgia Election Security Proponents Make Significant Gains**

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So-called "election deniers" were ostensibly vindicated in Fulton County, Georgia, when election investigators brought forward over 140 violations from the 2020 election.

**Joe Rossi**, Georgia Elections Investigator, reported live before the Board and the Public on May 8 that out of over 6,000 confirmed ballot images (only a subset of the total), a net 4,081 false absentee ballots were counted for Biden over Trump in the hand audit.

"It has now been factually proven," commented Rossi, "that both the hand audit and the certified machine count have both been found to be in violation of Georgia election law. Based on these findings, for those that have fought factually, respectfully, and relentlessly, I'll close with one word: vindicated!"

According to **Garland Favorito** of VoterGA.org, "**Rick Jeffares** made a reconsideration motion to refer evidence of failure to provide or retain 173 required documents involving 20,713 certified votes that have no source tabulator. **Dr. Janice Johnston** made a similar reconsideration motion to refer evidence of failure to provide or retain over 17,852 ballot images for certified votes."

While the Georgia State Election Board (SEB) acknowledged the violations, Chairman **John Fervier** ruled motions out of order in their May 8 meeting when two board members attempted for the second time to refer Fulton County 2020 electronic vote processing violations involving tens of thousands of ballots to the Attorney General for investigation and prosecution.

Instead, the SEB passed an alternative motion to implement a monitoring team for the 2024 Fulton County elections and issue a letter of reprimand for only two rule violations. However, Chairman Fervier left the door open for reconsideration at a future meeting by telling both members that: "The chair will inquire of legal counsel as to whether this motion can be heard at a future board meeting given that the board has previously ruled on this matter."

Despite the delays in referring the evidence to the Georgia Attorney General, election security advocates have made substantial legislative gains in the interests of securing the 2024 election. While many would like to see investigation and possibly criminal prosecution for 2024 election law violations, efforts to prevent similar violations from happening again have been robust.



On March 28, the Georgia General Assembly voted to ban unverifiable QR-coded voting and improve election transparency by making physical ballots public record. New election security measures also require improved ballot chain of custody procedures to deter ballot trafficking and visible watermarks on all ballots to help detect ballot counterfeiting. The language further requires all absentee voting tabulation to be completed on Election Night to help prevent post-election ballot box stuffing.

The omnibus **SB189** bill, ensures all physical ballots are subject to Georgia Open Records Request law so election results can be publicly verified. Ballots will be inspected or copied at requestor expense while in custody of county election officials. The bill requires all early voting and mail-in ballots received prior to Election Day to be tabulated by 8pm on Election Night. The bill also contains additional sign off and sealing procedures that counties must implement no later than January 1, 2025.

The bill further gives the Secretary of State two years to eliminate the current voting system that accumulates votes hidden in QR codes. In addition, it includes clarifications for challenges of invalid voter roll entries intended to improve voter roll accuracy.

**HB974** requires visible security watermarks for ballots so counterfeit ballots can easily be spotted by election workers. It also requires additional Risk Limiting Audits (RLA) for each election with optional tabulation audits and a gradually reduced RLA risk tolerance limit over the next few election cycles.

**HB1207** further improves election transparency with meaningful access for poll watchers while providing specific protections for both poll workers and watchers. It also requires election workers to be U.S. citizens since they handle ballots and electronic images of ballots cast by Georgia voters who are all U.S. citizens.

The bills were championed by Senate Ethics Chair Max Burns and House Governmental Affairs Chair John LaHood. They include language from bills offered by Representatives Shaw Blackmon, Alan Powell and Tim Fleming as well as Senators Kay Kirkpatrick, Brandon Beach, Marty Harbin and Rick Williams.

SB189 and HB1207 passed on party line voting with most Republicans voting for them and most Democrats voting against them. Although Democrats have historically been stronger advocates of election integrity, that trend has changed since 2020. Opposition to the election integrity measures was led in the House by Representatives Saira Draper, Ruwa Romman and Stacey Evans and in the Senate by Sen. Derek Mallow.



VoterGA co-founder, Garland Favorito, who supported the bills, declared: "We believe these new fraud prevention bills contain landmark features that can be models for other states in securing their elections."

"There are great things going on in our country to secure our election platforms," according to a video statement issued by election integrity champion and LOF Founder **Mike Lindell**. "I have over 300,000 people on the ground in all 50 states; we're working with every county in the country from the ground up, and the Supreme Court down," he said.

Secure elections are a win for everyone, regardless of party, and if Georgia is an indication of a larger trend, the work of Lindell and associated election security advocates is showing substantial results.

## About

The **Lindell Offense Fund**, a 501(c)4 founded by Mike Lindell, is dedicated to securing U.S. elections on behalf of all Americans, regardless of party affiliation. <u>The Lindell Plan for Secure Elections</u> includes strategies, materials and staffing to promote transparency, fairness, and accountability to restore confidence in our elections. <u>https://LindellPlan.com</u>