



STATE REPORT
GEORGIA · OCTOBER 2026

— HERE WE GO AGAIN

GEORGIA REPUBLICANS **CAN'T** **BEAT GEORGIA VOTERS,** SO THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE OVER GEORGIA'S ELECTIONS.

They pushed the state's chief election official off the rulemaking board, handed it to Trump's allies, and invited his Justice Department into Georgia's voting machines — two weeks before early voting.

~700

BOXES OF 2020 BALLOTS THE FBI
HAULED AWAY

~100K

VOTER REGISTRATIONS
CHALLENGED AFTER SB 202

3-2

BOARD VOTE TO INVITE TRUMP'S
DOJ INTO THE MACHINES

THE FRAME

THEY CAN'T WIN A FAIR FIGHT, SO THEY ARE GOING AFTER THE COUNT.

Georgia voters beat Donald Trump in 2020, and Georgia Republicans have spent every year since trying to make sure it never happens again. They pushed the state's chief election official off the board that writes the election rules, handed that board to Trump's allies, and tried to rewrite how votes get counted and certified until the courts stopped them. Now they want Trump's Justice Department inside Georgia's voting machines. They can't win a fair fight, so they are going after the count. Here is what they did, step by step.

KEY FINDINGS

FOUR WAYS THEY RIGGED THE GAME.

01

Georgia Republicans took over the rulebook.

They took the secretary of state off the state election board and left it to unelected appointees Trump calls his "pitbulls," whose new rules for counting and certifying votes the courts then threw out.

02

Georgia Republicans asked for a federal probe, and Trump's FBI hauled away the ballots.

Trump's FBI hauled roughly 700 boxes of Fulton County's 2020 ballots out of the county's election hub in January, on a referral from a lawyer who had pushed to overturn that election.

03

Georgia Republicans invited Trump in.

On September 28, the state election board's Republicans voted 3-2 to invite Trump's Justice Department and Homeland Security into Georgia's voting machines, two weeks before early voting. The board's executive director, a former Republican state lawmaker, then asked the Trump administration directly to examine Georgia's voting machines and ban QR-code vote counting.

04

Georgia Republicans put election deniers on the ballot.

They nominated election deniers for governor, secretary of state and U.S. Senate.

TIMELINE

FIVE YEARS, STEP BY STEP.

NOVEMBER 2020 TO JANUARY 2021

Georgia voters beat Trump, and he demanded Republicans “find” the votes to reverse it.

Former President Biden carried Georgia by fewer than 12,000 votes. Trump then [pressed](#) Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to “find” enough votes to overturn it, and Raffensperger refused. The state’s ballots were [counted](#) three times, including once by hand, with every count confirming the result.

MARCH 2021

Republicans answered by seizing the board that writes Georgia’s election rules.

Months after the stinging loss, Republican lawmakers passed SB 202, which [removed](#) Secretary Raffensperger as chair of the state election board in favor of a chair picked by the legislature. The power grab also [allowed](#) the GOP board to take over county election offices and [opened](#) the door to unlimited challenges against neighbors’ voter registrations.

2021 TO 2022

A handful of right-wing activists used that law to challenge roughly 100,000 Georgians’ right to vote.

Six activists [filed](#) about 89,000 of the roughly 100,000 challenges lodged after SB 202 took effect, and one group, VoterGA, [challenged](#) 37,500 voters in Gwinnett County alone in 2022. Even the most receptive county [rejected](#) 96.6% of the challenges brought by election conspiracy groups.

MARCH TO MAY 2024

Republicans refused to certify, then rewrote the law to help the challengers and push Raffensperger off the board for good.

A Republican member of the Fulton County election board [abstained](#) from certifying the March 2024 presidential primary and then sued for the power to keep doing it. That spring, Republican lawmakers passed a bill [removing](#) the secretary of state from the state election board altogether and [forced](#) unhoused Georgians to use the county registrar’s office as their voting address. ProPublica [found](#) that a Georgia Republican Party task force supplied sample language for the bill, which lets challengers lean on questionable evidence.

AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER 2024

Trump crowned his “pitbulls,” and they rewrote the rules for counting and certifying votes weeks before the election.

At an August rally in Atlanta, Trump [praised](#) the board’s three-member Republican majority as “pitbulls fighting for honesty, transparency, and victory.” That majority then [passed](#) rules giving county officials more leverage to refuse to certify results and requiring poll workers to hand-count ballots on Election Day.

JUNE TO JULY 2025

The courts threw their rules out.

The Georgia Supreme Court [ruled](#) that the board had no authority to impose its certification and hand-count rules. A month later, a unanimous Court of Appeals panel [upheld](#) a ruling against that Fulton County board member that no county election official may refuse to certify results “under any circumstance.”

JULY TO DECEMBER 2025

The board’s Republicans invited Trump’s Justice Department to reopen 2020, and it came.

In July, the board’s Trump-aligned majority [voted](#) 3-2 to seek the Trump administration’s help investigating the 2020 election. By December, Trump’s DOJ had [sued](#) Raffensperger for an unredacted file of every Georgia voter’s birth date, driver’s license number and partial Social Security number. The lieutenant governor, one of Georgia’s 2020 fake electors, also [put](#) a Georgia GOP official and elections activist on the board.

JANUARY 2026

Trump’s FBI hauled away Fulton County’s 2020 ballots.

On January 28, FBI agents [seized](#) roughly 700 boxes of Fulton County’s 2020 ballots and records with Trump’s intelligence chief on site. The search [traced](#) back to a referral from a Trump White House lawyer who had pushed to overturn the 2020 results, and the FBI’s affidavit [left out](#) state investigators’ conclusion that the county’s errors did not affect the accuracy of its count. Weeks earlier, Trump had [told](#) The New York Times he regretted not ordering the National Guard to seize voting machines in swing states after his 2020 loss.

JANUARY 2026

Georgia Senate Republicans took Trump’s side in his grab for Georgians’ private data, and a judge tossed it.

In January, Republicans on a state Senate committee [advanced](#) a party-line resolution demanding that Raffensperger hand over the data, and Raffensperger [accused](#) its backers of “putting political ambition ahead of common sense and public service.” The next day, a federal judge [dismissed](#) the DOJ’s voter data lawsuit for being filed in the wrong court, and the department refiled in Atlanta.

MAY TO JUNE 2026

Georgia Republicans nominated election deniers for governor, secretary of state and U.S. Senate.

Rick Jackson, the GOP nominee for governor, [said](#) of 2020 that “our people really let us down” and ran an ad [calling](#) Raffensperger “Judas.” Tim Fleming, the nominee for secretary of state, has said there were “irregularities” in 2020 and [tried](#) to dismantle Georgia’s automatic voter registration. Similarly, Senate GOP nominee Mike Collins [blasted](#) a mock piece of election equipment with an AR-15 in a 2022 campaign video while vowing to “get to the bottom of 2020.”

JUNE 2026

Senate Republicans tried to force hand counts of the top races in every election and settled for close ones.

In a June special session, Senate Republicans [passed](#) a bill on a party-line vote that would have required a full hand recount of the top two races on the ballot. The final law now [requires](#) a hand recount of the top two state races, such as governor, whenever the margin is half a percentage point or less, and gives counties 17 days to finish it.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Two weeks before early voting, the board's Republicans begged Trump to come for the machines.

Days after the board [demanded](#) access to Georgia's voter registration data and system, three of the board's four Republican members [voted](#) on September 28 to seek help "from any quarter," including Trump's DOJ and DHS, and to have Raffensperger share voting machine data with both agencies. The board's chair, a Kemp appointee, and its lone Democrat voted no. The board's executive director, a former Republican state lawmaker, then [asked](#) the Trump administration to examine Georgia's voting machines and ban QR-code vote counting.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Trump's DOJ lost again, and the man behind the Fulton raid moved on to another probe.

A federal judge [dismissed](#) the Justice Department's refiled lawsuit for Georgians' private voter data, finding the state could comply with federal law with a redacted list. The lawyer whose referral launched the Fulton raid [stepped](#) down this week from the DOJ's "grand conspiracy" investigation of Obama- and Biden-era officials but remains at the department.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US

GEORGIA'S ELECTIONS WORK — AND THE FIGHT CAN RUN LONG.

Georgia's Elections Work, and Republicans Running Them Have Said So

State investigators [concluded](#) that the errors they found in Fulton County's 2020 count did not affect its accuracy. The state election board's own Republican chair [voted](#) against inviting Trump's agencies in, saying, "I have a fundamental issue with the federal government becoming involved in Georgia elections." Raffensperger has [beaten](#) Trump's DOJ in court twice to keep Georgians' private data private. And the machine upgrade the board now demands would have required \$15 million Raffensperger [asked](#) Republican lawmakers for last year, money they never approved.

In Georgia, the Fight Over the Count Can Run Long

Any statewide race without a majority [goes](#) to a runoff on December 1, and the new hand recount law adds up to 17 days for close state races. That is weeks of extra time for a Trump-friendly board and Trump's DOJ to sow doubt about results they don't like.

WHAT GEORGIA VOTERS NEED TO KNOW

HOW TO VOTE IN GEORGIA

Voters pick our leaders, not the other way around. Georgia Republicans and Trump's allies on the state election board have spent five years trying to flip that, taking over the board, chasing debunked 2020 theories all the way to an FBI raid, and now inviting Trump's Justice Department into our voting machines. They can't win a fair fight, so they are trying to hold onto power by controlling the count, rigging the game at your expense while Georgia families pay more for groceries and rent. Their plan only works if a missed deadline, a challenge letter or a razor-thin margin hands them an opening.

Here's what every Georgian needs to know:

OCT 5

REGISTER BY
MONDAY

OCT 13–30

EARLY VOTING

NOV 3

ELECTION DAY

DEC 1

POSSIBLE RUNOFF

- 1 Register by Monday, October 5.** Check your registration or register for the first time on the [My Voter Page](#), and make sure your address is current.
- 2 Early voting runs October 13 through October 30.** Vote at any early voting site in your county, including Saturday, October 17 and Saturday, October 24, which every county must [offer](#).
- 3 Bring a physical ID.** A Georgia driver's license, U.S. passport, military ID or tribal ID works; a digital license [won't](#). Anyone without ID can [get](#) a free Georgia Voter ID Card at a county registrar or DDS office.
- 4 Mail ballots must arrive by 7 p.m. on November 3.** Absentee applications must [reach](#) your county by October 23, and a postmark won't save a late ballot, so return it by mail, by hand or in a drop box inside an early voting site.
- 5 Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.** Anyone in line at 7 p.m. gets to vote, and provisional voters have three days afterward to fix a problem with their county registrar.
- 6 Be ready for December 1.** Any statewide race without a majority [goes](#) to a runoff, and every registered Georgian can vote in it, even those who skipped November.



TRY AND STOP US · GEORGIA · OCTOBER 2026

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US.

Try And Stop Us is an organization fighting to defend elections in 2026 and beyond. As Donald Trump and his allies work to rig the game and sow distrust in our elections because they can't win a fair fight, Try And Stop Us moves quickly to amplify the work of organizers and local leaders — helping their voices reach further, faster, as one unified story. For more information, please reach out to info@tryandstopus.org.

TRYANDSTOPUS.ORG

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