

HB 531 Suppresses Every Form of Voting in Georgia

House Bill 531 **attacks early voting, Election Day voting, and vote by mail** — every single way that Georgians vote. To protect our democracy, we must oppose HB 531 and #LetGAVote.

GUTS EARLY VOTE AND SUNDAY VOTING

HB 531 drastically **cuts weekend voting and adopts severe restrictions on Sunday voting** that will cripple traditional “Souls to the Polls” after-church voting efforts, making voting **far less accessible and far more confusing** across Georgia.

Who is disenfranchised? All Georgia voters, especially working Georgians who rely on weekend voting to cast their ballots. During the 2020 general election and runoff, **a quarter of a million Georgians voted on days that HB 531 would eliminate.**

DISENFRANCHISES ELECTION DAY VOTERS

HB 531 **throws out valid ballots cast in-county outside of a voter’s one assigned polling location.** This arbitrarily punishes voters who have not been notified of polling place changes or who show up at locations heavily advertised during early vote, when voters are free to vote anywhere in their county. Throwing these ballots out disenfranchises tens of thousands of voters while doing nothing to make elections more secure.

Who is disenfranchised? Any Georgia voter who votes in their county of residence but outside of their one assigned polling location, which may have changed since the last time they voted. **Over 20,000 Georgians, disproportionately Black voters, voted this way during the 2020 general/runoff elections and would be disenfranchised by HB531.**

RESTRICTS VOTE BY MAIL

HB 531 **forces absentee voters to photocopy and mail sensitive personal identification information**, requires election officials to **delay mailing absentee ballots until less than a month before an election**, and **effectively bans the popular absentee ballot drop boxes** that saved lives during the ongoing pandemic.

Who is disenfranchised? Georgians who vote by mail, especially Black and Latinx voters, disabled and immunocompromised voters, low-income voters, and any voters who do not have access to copiers and printers. Over 50% of Georgians who vote by mail are over the age of 60 or physically disabled.

HB 531 Defunds Elections and Burdens Taxpayers

HB 531 **bans elections offices from accepting any private funding** and does nothing to address the resulting budget shortfall. Over \$30 million in private grant funding was necessary for local elections offices across Georgia to hire elections staff, purchase equipment, and process ballots during the COVID-19 pandemic. HB 531 needlessly bans such funding, destroys local community partnerships, and leaves counties holding the bill based on dangerous conspiracy theories.

HB 531 is Rushed, Sloppy Legislation

HB 531 was **introduced and scheduled for a hearing less than two hours later** in a newly-created Georgia House Committee and drafted **without any meaningful input or deliberation** from representatives in the minority party or election law experts. This wholesale overhaul of Georgia elections contains poorly-drafted provisions that are **not evidence based, riddled with redundancies, and full of unintended consequences**, further disenfranchising Georgia voters.