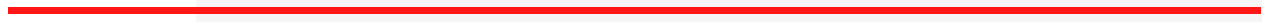




2022 ELECTION DISRUPTION TOOLKIT





Common Cause Georgia is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to strengthen public participation in our democracy and ensure that public officials and public institutions are accountable and responsive to citizens. We believe that voting should be **free, fair and accessible** for every eligible citizen, which is why we persevere in these efforts to protect and strengthen voting rights for all Georgians. We look for ways not only to defend and protect the right to vote, but to go on offense making sure people have the access and information they need.

2022 Elections

This is the first election cycle with newly drawn maps following Georgia's 2021 Redistricting. Races include midterm Congressional elections, a hotly contested gubernatorial race, and many state and local contests. As the eyes of the nation again turn to Georgia and tensions run high following the January 6th hearings, it is important to safeguard against disruptions to the elections process.



REDISTRICTING

Redistricting at the Legislative and Congressional Level

2020 marked an important year in American politics. While the presidential election captured the attention of the nation, another important event at the core of our democratic process occurred that sets the course of the political landscape for the next decade. Every 10 years maps that define state legislative and congressional districts are redrawn to adjust for population changes after U.S. Census results are released through a process known as redistricting. In Georgia, the state's General Assembly determines the district lines that make up the new map. This approach to the redistricting process grants overwhelming authority to the majority party when drawing the new maps that have the potential to determine the outcome of elections.

Redistricting at the Local Level

Georgia is unique in the sense that the legislature ultimately determines county commission and county school board districts across the state's 159 counties. In most states, local governments are responsible for redrawing their district lines once every 10 years, to reflect the demographic changes reported in the census data. In Georgia, however, local governments are only allowed to propose maps, but lawmakers have the final say. Under the guides of the maps recently approved by the Georgia General Assembly, Cobb and Gwinnett counties in suburban Atlanta, as well as consolidated city-counties governing Athens and Augusta have experienced some of the most intense forms of gerrymandering.



Hate Groups in Georgia

THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER TRACKED 24 HATE GROUPS IN 2021 BASED ON THEIR FINDINGS THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HOME TO SUCH GROUPS:

| COUNTY | GROUP |
|-----------|---|
| CHATHAM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISRAEL UNITED IN CHRIST |
| CLAYTON | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISRAEL UNITED IN CHRIST |
| COBB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMERICAN VISION THE DUSTIN INMAN SOCIETY |
| DEKALB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> THE UNITED NUWAUPIANS WORLDWIDE/ALL EYES ON EGIPT |
| FAYETTE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVENANT PEOPLE'S MINISTRY |
| FULTON | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFFIRMATIVE RIGHT HOI ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNS ISRAELITE SCHOOL OF UNIVERSAL PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE LUXOR COUTURE NATION OF ISLAM NEW BLACK PANTHER PARTY OCCIDENTAL QUARTERLY/CHARLES MARTEL SOCIETY SICARII 1715 |
| GLYNN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NATION OF ISLAM |
| GWINNETT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRONG HOLD BAPTIST CHURCH |
| LOWNDES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GREAT MILLSTONE |
| LUMPKIN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMERICAN PATRIOTS USA |
| STATEWIDE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMERICAN NAZI PARTY ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY LEAGUE OF THE SOUTH PATRIOT FRONT |

Peacekeeping & Conflict Management

The United States has seen a rise in political violence since the 2016 Elections. As more Americans are beginning to outwardly express their frustrations with the political process, the safety of Election Officials, Poll Workers, Poll Monitors, and Voters is a topic of concern for the 2022 Midterm Elections

Therefore, it is important to proactively work to address the needs and challenges at the local level to best prepare for unanticipated challenges that Georgians at various levels of the electoral process face. This can best be achieved through peacekeeping efforts and conflict management training.

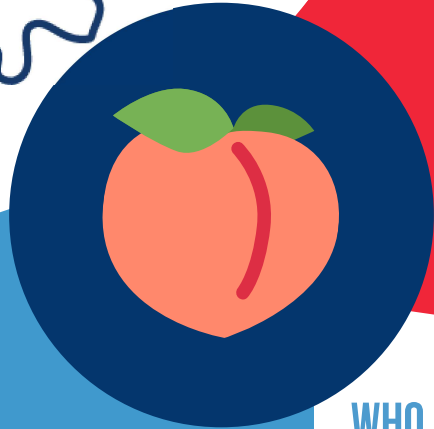
CURRENT VOTING CLIMATE

- Voter Suppression & Intimidation
- Polarization & Division
- Raised Tensions & Anxiety
- Misinformation & Disinformation
- Limitation of Drop Boxes & Access to Absentee Ballots





ELECTION PROTECTION PEACHKEEPERS



Peacekeeping at a Glance

Peachkeepers (Peacekeepers) are trained volunteers dedicated to providing spiritual and emotional support for Georgians at every level of the election process.

For More Information

Agnes Gray
agray@commoncause.org
(404) 465-4820

WHO IS IDEAL FOR PEACEKEEPING?

- Faith Leaders
- Social Workers
- Counselors

PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES

Conflict Anticipation

Proactive planning; Assessing potential problems and conflicts and intervening before situations escalate.

Conflict Regulation

Limiting the amount of physical or psychological harm; Not necessarily trying to resolve conflicts as much as trying to isolate and limit their effects.



Georgia

WHAT'S THE TEA WITH DISINFORMATION?



Turn on your television, crank up your favorite radio station tunes, or log into Instagram to scroll through your feed. Almost every second of the day, most are questioning: Is this fact or fiction, and how can I be sure that this is true?" Essentially, cynicism and skepticism shape the lens of many. In this section, we will address and discuss the concepts of both misinformation and disinformation, how it fuels election disruption, and examine both national and international trends.

CHECK YOURSELF: THINK, RESEARCH, SHARE!



WITH THE CLICK OF A SEND ICON, IT IS EASY TO RAPIDLY SPREAD FALSE INFORMATION.

Here are some tips to slow the spread of dis-information and misinformation by asking the following:

IS THE INFORMATION RELEVANT AND TIMELY?

IS THE SOURCE A CREDIBLE SOURCE?

IS THE SOURCE AUTHORITATIVE?

WHAT MAKES THE PERSON AN EXPERT?

IS THE INFORMATION ACCURATE?

IS THERE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE?

CAN YOU IDENTIFY BIAS?

WHAT ARE OTHER EXPERTS SAYING ABOUT THE CLAIM?

IS THE PURPOSE OF THE INFORMATION CLEAR?

WHY WAS THE INFORMATION WRITTEN?

IS GLOBAL ELECTION DISINFORMATION ERODING DEMOCRACY AS WE KNOW IT?



With internet access and rapid technological advancements, it is clear that our world has become a global village powered and fueled by the world wide web. With the proliferation of global social media platforms, it is clear that disinformation has no borders. Disinformation and misinformation are both pervasive threats across the globe. This section will discuss how misinformation and disinformation fueled Election Disruption in 2020 and beyond in the United States.



VOTE



VOTE





After a grueling 2020 Election Cycle plagued by a mysterious global health crisis , the Election was certified. Joe Biden was declared the winner of presidential election and 46th President of the United States. Regardless of personal opinions on the President's capabilities as a leader and one's preference, it is clear that: 1. Joe Biden was instated as the President of the United States. 2. There is no factual evidence to support claims that widespread fraud occurred in the 2020 Election.

DISINFORMATION IN GEORGIA

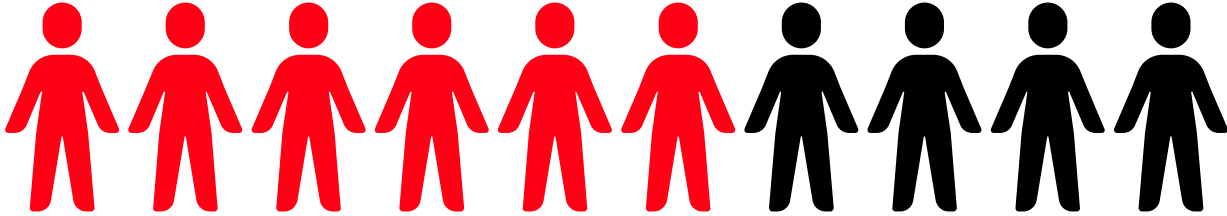


Fulton County Election worker Shay Moss testifying about the harassment endured due to Election Fraud conspiracy.

In Georgia, claims of election fraud and misconduct swirled around the state. The primary claim was that a preliminary audit found 30,000 fake ballots, a false narrative stemming from an episode of the show "War Room" with Steve Bannon, a former Trump White House chief strategist. John Fredericks, a radio host, claimed that affidavits from four people present at the recount said up to 30,000 ballots were counterfeit. Although we can say with certainty that this information was proven false through Georgia's hand recount and Risk Limiting Audit, it is a prominent example of disinformation. Although the narrative can be disproven, it does not mitigate the cataclysmic impact of false reports. For instance, election workers being harassed and threatened in various counties across the state because of the misinformation and disinformation promulgated during the 2020 Election Cycle.

ELECTION FAST FACT: DID YOU KNOW?

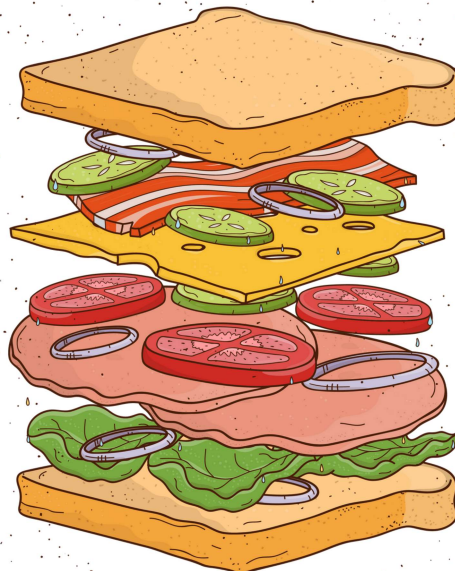
FALSE NARRATIVES HAVE CAUSED MANY TO QUESTION THE STATE OF OUR FRAGILE DEMOCRACY.



IN A RECENT SURVEY, 64% OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION INDICATED AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY IS IN CRISIS AND IS AT RISK OF FAILING. TO PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, ROUGHLY 6 OUT OF 10 AMERICANS SHARE SENTIMENTS OF DEEP PESSIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION.

4 TIPS FOR DEBUNKING DISINFORMATION:

1. DO not attack the messenger, attack the message in a calm manner.
2. Identify bad actors who spread dis-information and mis-information.
3. Be sure to make sure your response is accurate, brief, and concise.
4. Utilize the message sandwich. (Layer your feedback: Praise, Criticism, Encouragement)



DISINFORMATION CONCLUSION

It's easy to think that disinformation is a relatively new concept, but political and election disinformation is not a recent phenomenon. In ancient Rome when Octavian, the rival of Marc Antony, launched a disinformation campaign through etched slogans on coins.



Rather than being a new threat, disinformation continues to evolve with technological advancements and new media platforms, allowing it to reach a greater than ever audience. Political disinformation and misinformation is a pervasive threat that can chip away at the fabric of democracy. Effectively combatting misinformation and disinformation requires **media literacy** and **fact-checking** of sources. These methods will assist Election administrators, officials, and the general public to dismantle deceptive narratives in the disinformation age.

KNOW THE LAW

Should there be problems at the polls, it is important to know what the law permits and cite the code section when reporting.

Intimidating or Harassing Voters, Poll Workers, and Election Officials Is **Illegal**

Examples of illegal voter intimidation:

- Direct confrontation of prospective voters
- Insulting, offensive, or threatening language
- Shouting, yelling, or raised voices
- Giving information about voting requirements
- Blocking voters' entrance to a polling place
- The use or threat of physical violence

Under federal law (52 U.S.C. § 10307(b)), an action that has the **effect** of intimidating a voter is illegal, regardless of **intent**.

Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-566(1)-(2)), it is a **felony** to threaten a poll worker or election official, use violence against a poll worker or election official, or attempt to prevent a poll worker or election official from doing their job in any way.

Georgia's protections against intimidation of election officials and poll workers extend to the vote counting process, mail-in ballot verification, and all other aspects of election administration.

Campaign Activity at Polling Places (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-414):

- No person shall solicit votes or distribute or display any campaign literature, signs, etc. or ask for signatures for petitions or conduct any polls:
 - Within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building within which a polling place is established;
 - Within any polling place; or
 - Within 25 feet of any voter standing in line to vote at any polling place.
- These restrictions also apply to rooms under the control or supervision of the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk in which absentee ballots are being cast.
- This law also states that once voters have been issued a ballot, they cannot use cellular telephone or other electronic communication device.

Guns at Polling Places (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-413(i)):

- No guns/firearms (apart from those of police officers or certified security guards) are allowed within 150 feet of polling places.

RULES FOR POLL WATCHERS

- All poll watchers must be identified to election officials in advance of the election by party or candidate representatives. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408(b).
- All poll watcher appointments must be confirmed in writing and submitted to election officials before Election Day. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408(b).
- Political **parties** may only designate **two** poll watchers to monitor the mail ballot tabulation process. These monitors must be appointed in advance. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(3).
- All appointed poll watchers must report immediately to the poll manager to obtain their official poll watcher badges prior starting their shifts. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408(d).
- **Poll watchers may not in any way interfere with the conducting of the election. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408(d).**
- Poll watchers may not talk to voters, use cell phones, take photos, record videos, or campaign for candidates. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408(d).
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- **Georgia election officials can remove any poll watcher who is disruptive or not adhering to any of these rules. (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-408(d))**
- The rules and regulations that apply to poll watchers at polling places also apply during the mail ballot tabulation process and the vote counting process.
- Anyone who materially interferes with or interrupts an election official or poll worker's duties during mail ballot processing or the vote count is guilty of a **felony**. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-566(2).

RULES FOR VOTE CHALLENGERS

- Any challenge that is intended to intimidate or results in intimidation is a **felony** under Georgia law. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-567.
- Any challenge to a voter's right to vote must be made in writing, prior to the voter casting a ballot, and must distinctly specify the grounds for the challenge. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-230(a).
- A challenge must be based on specific personal knowledge or evidence that a voter is ineligible. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-230(d).
- It is **illegal** under federal law to challenge any voter's eligibility based on their **race, ethnicity, national origin, language, appearance, surname, or religion**. 18 U.S.C. § 242; 42 U.S.C. § 1983; 52 U.S.C. §§ 10301, 10303, 10503.
- Challenges can't be based solely on returned mail, the racial or ethnic composition of a polling place, or discrepancies between the voter registration list and any other list of people. 52 U.S.C. § 10101(a)(2)(B).
- If a challenge is actually based on personal, specific knowledge or evidence, the voter must **immediately** be given the opportunity to address the challenge before the board of registrars. A voter who can't immediately appear should be allowed to cast a **provisional ballot**. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-230(i).

ELECTION CERTIFICATION

We should also be on guard for disruption surrounding the certification of the election results during this election cycle. This is made all the more possible by confusion surrounding the rules for election certification in Georgia.

- Election powers in Georgia are divided between the Secretary of State and the State Elections Board.
 - The Secretary of State's office is responsible for Voter Registration and Certification of Elections.
 - The State Elections Board is responsible for promulgating and enforcing rules and regulations and hearing violations of such.
- Administration of Elections is handled by the Counties, meaning there could be as 159 processes at work in Georgia.
- County election superintendents provide certified election returns to the Secretary of State. His office then tabulates, computes, and canvasses the results and makes the decision to certify election results.
- This stage of the process is open to public observation and is subject to disruption from observers, or from county or state officials not following the lawful process or declining to certify an election before the deadline.

REPORTING THREATS OR DISRUPTION AT THE POLLS

Election officials can report all threats to their local FBI Election Crimes Coordinator (ECC). ECCs are FBI Special Agents, located in each of the FBI's 56 Field Offices, who are assigned to assist state and local election officials with any incidents related to an election crime. To find your nearest ECC, contact your local FBI Field Office, or contact the EAC, which can provide ECC contact information upon request.

Contacting the ECC at your local FBI office is the best way to report threats. Should you have any trouble identifying or contacting your ECC, you also may call the Public Integrity Section (PIN) of the U.S. Department of Justice via its main line at 202-514-1412. Please ask for John D. Keller, PIN's Principal Deputy Chief, or Sean F. Mulryne, Deputy Director of PIN's Election Crimes Branch. Election Officials can also report any election related threats to the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324), prompt 1, then prompt 3. You also may file an online complaint at tips.fbi.gov.

You can also report disruption at the polls to the non-partisan, election protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.



Of course, in the event of violence or safety concerns, please call

9-1-1.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Southern Poverty Law Center Hate Map

Identifying Possible Threats

Hate Groups Across Georgia

To learn more about Southern Poverty Law Centers' finding on hate and extremist groups throughout the state of Georgia please visit: <https://www.splcenter.org/states/georgia>.

Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

De-escalation Series

U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Security Resources for Election Officials