

## Sign-On Letter to the Governor of Georgia

Dear Governor Brian Kemp,

The undersigned organizations write to respectfully urge you to exercise your authority to convene a special session of the Georgia General Assembly to address the urgent and unresolved consequences of SB 189, passed in 2024. **The scope of any such special session should be narrowly limited to:**

- 1. Extending the deadline for the elimination of QR code-based tabulation to allow time for the pilot programs contemplated in SB 214, as passed by the Georgia House of Representatives.**
- 2. Providing the Secretary of State with sufficient funding to evaluate, pilot, and prepare for the implementation of any lawful replacement system.**
- 3. Confirming that the Secretary of State is the appropriate entity to oversee the piloting and implementation of any new voting system, as contemplated in SB 214, as passed by the House.**
- 4. Reinforcing that the State Election Board's role is limited to promulgating uniform election standards consistent with laws enacted by the General Assembly.**

As you know, the General Assembly adjourned without addressing the significant impact of SB 189 (2024), which prohibits the use of QR codes for vote tabulation beginning July 1, 2026. At present, there is no approved, funded, or implementable statewide alternative in place.

This has placed counties in an impossible position. While they are required to administer uniform elections, they do not have the authority to independently change voting systems. Without immediate state action, counties face legal uncertainty, increased risk of litigation, and potential challenges in certifying election results. Compounding these risks is the very real potential for widespread voter confusion and disruption. Abrupt changes to voting systems without clear guidance, consistency, or preparation can lead to inconsistent practices across jurisdictions, longer wait times, ballot errors, and diminished public confidence in the electoral process. Without a coordinated statewide solution, Georgia risks avoidable confusion and chaos that could undermine both voter participation and trust in election outcomes.

This situation is the direct result of an unfunded and undirected mandate created by the General Assembly in 2024. It is the responsibility of the state legislature to provide a viable solution to the problem it created.

**At this time, the most urgent and workable step is a limited legislative fix to extend the current SB 189 deadline to January 1, 2028, consistent with the timeline contemplated in SB 214 for pilot programs to begin. Any broader statewide change to election infrastructure must be accompanied by a comprehensive and fully funded implementation plan.** This includes dedicated state funding to support counties with essential needs such as equipment purchases, ballot printing, security and storage, and staffing and

training. Counties must also be given adequate time to evaluate new systems, implement updated procedures, conduct thorough testing and troubleshooting, and properly train staff and poll workers. A responsible transition requires planning, funding, and time to ensure elections remain secure, accurate, and efficient.

We therefore urge you to call a special session **for the limited purpose of extending the SB 189 implementation deadline**, so that Georgia can preserve a clear, uniform, and legally sound path forward for election administration across the state.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Georgia

NAACP Georgia State Conference

Urban League of Greater Atlanta

The Georgia Coalition for The People's Agenda

Southern Poverty Law Center

All Voting is Local

Common Cause Georgia

Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.

Atlanta-North Georgia Labor Council