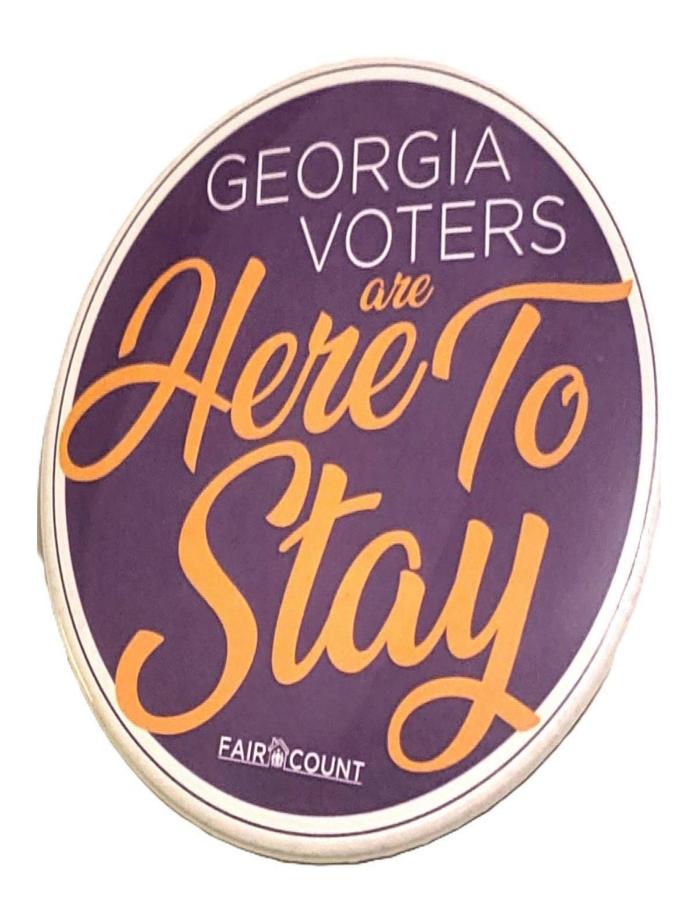


October 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.WWW.BBSAC.ORG/ELECTIONS-2024/

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Grand Rising Woke Family,

There have been many law and rule changes since the 2020 election so I want to use this month's issue to focus primarily on the upcoming election. You will find important dates, voter resources, readiness tools, election day help and information regarding critical rule changes that will have a significant impact on our election day processes. The latest news and political party lawsuit filings are included for your reference. There are also Candidate positions and other critical issues that should matter to you as a Georgia voter.

I would implore you to make a voting plan that includes **voting early!** There are many forces working against the Georgia voter. For instance, the new portal that was rolled out by Brad Raffensperger that allows a voter to be removed by only entering a name and date of birth. This is helpful for those who intend to remove themselves, but can also be used for nefarious purposes. If planning to use an Absentee Ballot, you should also consider the issues we have experienced with timely delivery, or in some cases, no delivery of mail based on changes made by Postmaster Dejoy during the 2020 election cycle. There is now an option to enroll in text message tracking of your ballot. Be sure to enroll if voting by mail.

Please also make a pledge to **list and follow-up with five people** to ensure they have registered, **intend to vote** and have created their voting plan. Offer to take them with you, provide this helpful election guide and most importantly, each of you should check your voter status and polling location frequently. If you find an issue, please reach out to your local Board of Elections **immediately**. If you don't get the resolution you need, reach out to the **Election Protection Hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE**. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. EST Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. EST weekends.

Early in-person voting begins October 15th. It is less likely that these polling locations will be changed. Most are open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday through November 1st. Some Counties will also offer one or two Sunday dates.

Humbly,

Editor-in-Chief

^{***}If you are new to our Woke Nation, feel free to visit our website https://bbsac.org to catch up on earlier publications containing more helpful election information.

October Health Awareness

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Several major breast cancer charities organize this international health campaign. It aims to encourage education about the importance of early screenings, tests, and more.

How to get involved: wearitpink.org, nationalbreastcancer.org, and breastcancernow.org. Pink is the color of support.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Break the Cycle and the Domestic Violence Awareness Project have resources on raising awareness and finding help for domestic violence. **Purple is the color of support.**

Healthy Lung Month: Many organizations have joined forces to observe October as Healthy Lung Month. It aims to educate the public about the importance of lung health.

National ADHD Awareness Month: Learn more about attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and how to find resources and support for it.

National Down Syndrome Awareness Month: Various organizations are involved in this month, including the National Association for Down Syndrome and the National Down Syndrome Society.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month: The Star Legacy Foundation educates about healthy pregnancy outcomes and stillbirth prevention.

Spina Bifida Awareness Month: The Spina Bifida Association are the go-to organization for information and resources; they have a National Resource Center.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month: The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development have been key to this month being observed. The Safe to Sleep campaign provides essential information.





SUNDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2024

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

ELECTION 2024

"LET'S TALK ABOU"



Big Bethel A.M.E. 220 Auburn Ave Atlanta, GA 30303

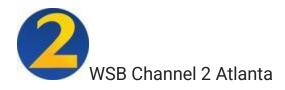
(Fellowship Hall, lower level)

Join us for an open and honest roundtable discussion designed to uplift, empower, and inspire young men of all walks of life to get up and VOTE! This forum is aimed at raising awareness of the threats to voting rights, sparking conversation about Project 2025 agendas, and calling to action those willing to rise up for their community!

All young men are welcome. Let's come together to strengthen ourselves, our relationships, and our communities.

For more information, contact Keith Burnett 404-268-4235

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



Judge asked to cancel referendum in slave descendants' zoning battle with Georgia county

By Russ Bynum, The Associated Press



Elected commissioners of a Georgia county who rolled back development restrictions protecting one of the South's last Gullah-Geechee communities of Black slave descendants asked a judge Friday to stop an Oct. 1 referendum that gives voters a chance to overturn those changes.

More than 600 voters in coastal McIntosh County have already cast ballots in the special election since early voting began Sept. 9. But voting could come to a sudden stop if Senior Judge Gary McCorvey agrees with commissioners that Georgia's constitution doesn't allow voters to override local zoning ordinances.

Ken Jerrard, an attorney for the county officials, asked the judge at a Friday hearing to "save McIntosh County from being forced to fund an illegal election." Residents of the tiny Hogg Hummock community on Sapelo Island, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) south of Savannah, and their supporters spent months collecting more than 1,800 petition signatures to force a referendum that they hope will undo zoning changes commissioners approved a year ago.

Those changes doubled the size of homes allowed in the tiny island enclave, weakening protections adopted decades earlier to protect its Black landowners. Residents fear larger homes would lead to increased property taxes that would pressure some to sell land held by their families since their enslaved ancestors were freed during the Civil War.

"It's eventually going to force people off the island because they can't afford to live there," said Yvonne Grovner, who moved to Hogg Hummock four decades ago when she married a Sapelo Island descendant. "So we're hoping we can get it reversed. We don't want these big houses being built."

Grovner cast an early ballot to overturn the zoning changes Friday morning on her way to the courthouse after arriving on the mainland from Sapelo Island by ferry. Roughly 30 to 50 Black residents live in Hogg Hummock, a community of dirt roads and modest homes founded by former slaves from the cotton plantation of Thomas Spalding.

Small communities descended from enslaved island populations in the South — known as <u>Gullah</u>, or Geechee in Georgia — are scattered along the coast from North Carolina to Florida, Scholars say their separation from the mainland caused these people to retain much of their African heritage, from their unique dialect to skills and crafts such as cast-net fishing and weaving baskets.

A lawsuit by the commissioners argues that, although Georgia's constitution allows for special elections to challenge some decisions of local governments, that power doesn't apply to zoning. Jerrard said zoning powers are spelled out in a different section of Georgia's constitution, and Georgia law defines specific procedures for repealing zoning ordinances that don't include special elections. The judge seemed inclined to agree.

"You've got a high hill to climb to convince me that zoning is subject to this," McCorvey told lawyers for the island residents and the Probate Court judge who ordered the election. McCorvey said he might rule as soon as Monday. Attorneys for the Hogg Hummock residents and Probate Court Judge Harold Webster urged McCorvey to dismiss the county's lawsuit, arguing commissioners have no legal standing to challenge a special election that Webster had legal authority to order. Any legitimate court challenge to halt the referendum would have to come from voters, said Kellye Moore, Webster's attorney.

"If there are any voters out there who think this is wrong and a waste of taxpayer dollars, those people should come forward," Moore told the judge.

Both sides pointed to a <u>Georgia Supreme Court</u> decision last year that upheld another county's 2022 referendum that blocked officials' plans to build a launchpad for commercial rockets.

Jerrard noted that case was brought before the state Supreme Court by commissioners of Camden County. The fact that the court heard the case and ruled on its merits, he said, proves commissioners have legal standing to challenge special elections.

Moore pointed out that one Georgia justice who wrote a separate, concurring opinion in the spaceport case wrote that special elections might be used to challenge "zoning ordinances and decisions, taxation rates, and budgeting decisions."

In addition to trying to overturn the county's zoning changes by referendum, Hogg Hummock residents have filed a separate lawsuit accusing county officials of race discrimination and violating their due process rights.

Residents said they were blindsided when the county in August 2023 unveiled a proposal to weaken restrictions on development within Hogg Hummock adopted nearly three decades earlier with the stated intent to help its Black residents hold onto their land. Less than a month later, commissioners voted to double the maximum size of homes allowed in the community.

AREAS OF LIFE THAT COULD BE IMPACTED BY "THE PROJECT"

Project 2025

Women's Health

Ban abortion completely with no exceptions Ban contraceptives

Family

End marriage equality

End no-fault divorce

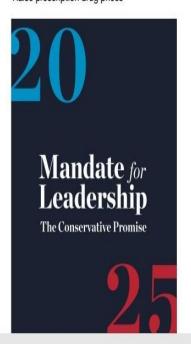
Condemn single mothers while promoting only "traditional families"

Healthcare

Cut Medicare

End the Affordable Care Act

Raise prescription drug prices



Working Americans

Give additional tax breaks to corporations and the 1%

Increase taxes for the working class

Eliminate unions and worker protections

Raise the retirement age

Cut Social Security

Education

Eliminate the Department of Education

Use public, taxpayer money to for private religious schools

Teach Christian religious beliefs in public schools

End free and discounted school lunch programs

Eliminate Head Start early childhood education

Environment and Climate

End climate protections

Increase Arctic drilling

Deregulate the oil industry

Civil Rights

End civil rights and DEI protections in government

Ban African-American and gender studies in al levels of education

Ban books and curricula that teach about slavery

Criminal Justice

Promote and expedite capital punishment

Continue to pack the Supreme Court and lower courts with right-wing judges

Homeland Security

Defund the FBI and Homeland Security

Increase Arctic drilling

Use the military to break up domestic

Immigration

Conduct mass deportation of immigrants and incarceration in "camps"

End birthright citizenship

Ban Muslims from entering the country

Federal Government

Eliminate federal agencies like the FDA, EPA, NOAA and more

Eliminate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Eliminate civil service employment protections for federal employees

Veterans & Military Families

Cut veterans healthcare benefits and reduce number of VA clinics

Cut military housing allowances

What is Project 2025?

Project 2025 is an initiative coordinated by the Heritage Foundation and led by two former Trump administration officials.

It aims to promote right-wing policies, reshape the United States federal government and consolidate executive power should Donald Trump win the 2024 presidential election. At least 140 Trump employees have been involved in Project 2025.

Don't Let Election 2024 Become our "1876"

The trajectory of this election brings to mind the Rutherford B. Hayes election of 1876. In that race, his opponent Samuel J. Tilden, **won the popular vote** 4,300,000 to 4,036,000. It wasn't until the Republican National Chairman, Zachariah Chandler, found a way to subvert the election by identifying a loophole. That loophole would make it possible for Hayes to win if he could somehow be awarded all of the disputed electoral votes from Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida.

In January 1877, Congress established an Electoral Commission made up of eight Republicans and seven Democrats. Hayes reportedly promised the Republicans that should he win, he would end Reconstruction. The vote was split along party lines, 8-7, putting the Republican in the White House. **This began the error of Jim Crow**.

Looking back to November 2020, you may recall that during the two months leading up to January 6, 2021 Insurrection, there was a lot of talk about this being their "1876 moment". Did you make the connection between Rutherford B. Hayes and the loss of Donald Trump back then?

Fast forwarding to the present, we may very well be facing another "1876 moment" in as much as Congress potentially needing to decide the winner if neither candidate attains 270 electoral votes. There are 220 Republicans and 212 Democrats. There are several members of Congress who currently engage with the former President through calls, trips to Mar-a-Largo, etc. which should call into question their ability to be objective.

As a people, we survived the Black Code and Jim Crow segregation laws. Project 2025 is arguably their replacement in the 21st Century.

Please don't get complacent in thinking that winning the popular vote decides the presidency. It is the gerrymandered districting that has strategically been in process for the past four years that decides the electoral votes in each state. That is how the race is decided. If you have been keeping up, you will recall that several state's district maps were ruled to be illegal. Unfortunately, they didn't make the required changes and there was no consequence. We have to stay vigilant in doing our part to get out the vote so that there isn't the slightest chance that the Georgia race comes down to less than 12,000 votes this time. We need every vote, in every district in every county.

THIS IS OUR "1876 MOMENT", DON'T BLOW IT!

POLITICO

11 damning details in Jack Smith's new brief in the Trump election case

From Trump's fictitious stats about voter fraud to the FBI's forensic analysis of Trump's phone, prosecutors previewed how they would make their case at trial.



Federal prosecutors have filed their most detailed compilation of evidence yet against former President Donald Trump in connection with the criminal case accusing him of conspiring to overturn the 2020 presidential election. | Joe Raedle/Getty Images

By KYLE CHENEY and JOSH GERSTEIN 10/02/2024 09:45 PM EDT

Special counsel Jack Smith won't get a chance to bring his best criminal case against Donald Trump to trial before the 2024 election — and if Trump wins, Smith <u>probably will never get that chance</u>. But on Wednesday, the public <u>got its most complete look</u> at the

evidence Smith has amassed to try to prove that the former president orchestrated criminal conspiracies as he sought to overturn his loss four years ago.

In a <u>165-page legal brief</u> unsealed by a federal judge (albeit with some redactions), the special counsel fleshed out detailed evidence he would use against Trump at trial, if the case ever makes it that far. Smith also presented his arguments for why Trump is not immune from the charges, despite <u>the Supreme Court's ruling</u> over the summer that granted presidents broad immunity for official acts.

Much of Smith's brief focused on Trump's state of mind in the weeks leading up to the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021. Smith described a slew of conversations suggesting that the then-president knew his claims of election fraud were spurious. And Smith laid out evidence that Trump's sole objective was to stay in power — not, as he and his lawyers have claimed, to exercise legitimate authority over election integrity.

Here's POLITICO's look at the most significant and striking details in Smith's brief.

Alone with his phone

At 2:24 p.m. on Jan. 6, as Trump supporters were attacking the Capitol, Trump took to Twitter to condemn Vice President Mike Pence, saying Pence lacked "courage" because Pence had resisted Trump's pressure to intervene in the Electoral College certification.

According to Smith's prosecutors, Trump was alone in the White House dining room when he sent that tweet. Trump's aides had left him there after failing to persuade him to call on his supporters to leave the Capitol.

"The defendant personally posted the tweet ... at a point when he already understood the Capitol had been breached," prosecutors wrote.

Trump asked: 'So what?'

The tweet criticizing Pence coincided with one of the most perilous moments of the riot: the precise minute Pence was being evacuated from his Senate office to a loading dock below the Capitol. Rioters had come within 40 feet of where he was sheltering just before this moment.

When Trump was told by an aide of Pence's evacuation, prosecutors say Trump responded: "So what?"

Trump's first call for calm — which advisers viewed as insufficient — came 14 minutes later: "Please support our Capitol Police and Law Enforcement. They are truly on the side of our Country. Stay peaceful!"

Disregarding the results

According to prosecutors, at one point during Trump's bid to overturn the results, a Trump White House aide overheard Trump tell his daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner: "It doesn't matter if you won or lost the election. You still have to fight like hell." The comment was allegedly made on Marine One.

Inventing statistics

Prosecutors said they would prove at trial that Trump and his allies often made up statistics about voter fraud "from whole cloth." For example, Trump and allies alleged that 36,000 noncitizens had cast ballots in Arizona, changing the figure to "a few hundred thousand" five days later, eventually revising it back to "bare minimum ... 40 or 50,000," then to 32,000 and back up to the original number of 36,000.

Broken promises of evidence

One week after Election Day in 2020, Trump told then-Gov. Doug Ducey (R-Ariz.) that he was "packaging up" fraud evidence to share with him, prosecutors wrote. But Trump never provided it. Ducey told Trump that Arizona was all but lost, comparing it to being in "the ninth inning, two outs, and [the defendant] was several runs down," Smith's brief recounted.

Mocking Sidney Powell

After a Fox News host called out Trump-aligned lawyer Sidney Powell for making bizarre claims about Dominion Voting machines, Trump called her on speakerphone. On the Nov. 20, 2020 call, Trump muted his line and mocked her to two aides, calling her claims about the election "crazy" and making a reference to Star Trek, prosecutors contend. On another occasion, he called Powell "unhinged."

Though it's not referenced in Smith's new filing or his indictment, Trump later considered naming Powell as a special counsel to investigate election fraud, and he considered a proposal she crafted to seize voting machines from swing states for a forensic inspection.

Trump's Jan. 5 call to Steve Bannon

Prosecutors, who had more access to telephone records and emails than the congressional committee that investigated Jan. 6, allege that Trump spoke to ally Steve Bannon by phone on Jan. 5 less than two hours before Bannon issued a prescient and provocative prediction on his War Room podcast that "all hell is going to break loose" on Jan. 6.

A preview of forensic evidence

Prosecutors plan to have an FBI computer forensic examiner testify about Trump's phone use on Jan. 6. They say it will show which news and social media apps he had on his phone and will reveal that Trump was on Twitter for much of the day. Prosecutors also plan to show at trial what Fox News was broadcasting at specific times during the day, since Trump had it on in the dining room and was watching coverage of the riot.

'Make them riot'

Well before Jan. 6, an unidentified Trump campaign employee enthusiastically spoke of the potential for a riot in Michigan. The employee, whom prosecutors described as a coconspirator, allegedly sought to "create chaos" at a polling center in Detroit when it became clear a batch of election returns favorable to Biden was legitimate. "Find a reason it isn't," the alleged co-conspirator said to a colleague, prosecutors wrote. When the colleague said an outbreak of violence appeared imminent, the campaign employee replied: "Make them riot" and "Do it!!!"

Rudy's rise

Trump sidelined his campaign lawyers on Nov. 13, 2020, with Bannon informing another Trump campaign adviser — and alleged co-conspirator — that Trump had replaced them in the pecking order with Rudy Giuliani. Bannon said he told Trump that without Giuliani in charge, "this thing is over." "Trump is in to the end," Bannon added, according to prosecutors.

Rudy's follies

Counting on Giuliani didn't turn out so well. Smith's brief includes yet another instance of Giuliani's prolific record of butt-dialing and clumsy cell phone use. Prosecutors say he attempted to send a proposed resolution to Michigan lawmakers declaring the election to be in dispute — but sent it to the wrong number.

THE LATIN TIMES

Full List of Republicans Who Voted Against FEMA Relief Before Helene Battered Their Home States

No Democrats voted against the measure

Maryam Khanum / Published Oct 01 2024, 5:27 PM EDT



U.S. Representative Matt Gaetz was among the 28 Republicans that voted against the stopgap measure. AFP

As Category 4 <u>Hurricane Helene</u> approached the <u>Florida Panhandle</u>, a <u>number of Republican senators</u> and <u>representatives</u> voted against supplementing disaster relief in a <u>government funding extension</u> which was passed by both houses of Congress.

Many of the lawmakers that voted against the provision of additional necessary funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (<u>FEMA</u>) represent states that were hit particularly hard by Hurricane Helene. No Democratic lawmakers voted nay.

Read the full list of lawmakers that voted against the stopgap measure below.

North Carolina:

Representative Dan Bishop, NC 8th District Senator Ted Budd

South Carolina:

Representative Jeff Duncan, SC 3rd District Representative Russell Fry, SC 7th District Representative Nancy Mace, SC 1st District Representative Ralph Norman, SC 5th District Representative William R. Timmons IV, SC 4th District Senator Tim Scott

Georgia:

Representative Richard McCormick, GA 6th District Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, GA 14th District Representative Mike Collins, GA 10th District Representative Andrew S. Clyde, GA 9th District

Florida:

Representative Daniel Webster, FL 11th District
Representative Michael Waltz, FL 6th District
Representative Bill Posey, FL 8th District
Representative Cory Mills, FL 7th District
Representative Anna Paulina Luna, FL 13th District
Representative Laurel M. Lee, FL 15th District
Representative Matt Gaetz, FL 11th District
Representative Bryon Donalds, FL 1st District
Representative Kat Cammack, FL 3rd District
Representative Gus M. Bilirakis, FL 12th District
Representative Aaron Bean, FL 4th District
Senator Rick Scott refused to vote

Tennessee:

Representative Tim Burchett, TN 2nd District Representative Andrew Ogles, TN 5th District Representative John W. Rose, TN 6th District Senator Marsha Blackburn Senator Bill Hagerty

THIS NOVEMBER, ARE YOU VOTING FOR CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU?

POLITICAL ISSUES	DEMOCRATS Voting yes	HARRIS Supports	REPUBLICANS VOTING YES	TRUMP Supports
Raising the nationwide minimum wage to \$15	98%	YES	0%	NO
Protecting and expanding workers' rights to unionize	100%	YES	2%	NO
Lowering prescription drug prices	100%	YES	0%	NO
Cutting Medicaid funding and taking away coverage	0%	NO	99%	YES
Cutting food assistance funding	0%	NO	99%	YES
Protecting and expanding abortion access nationwide	99%	YES	0%	NO
Restricting abortion access	1%	NO	97%	YES
Removing clean air protections	2%	NO	98%	YES
Removing clean water protections	4%	NO	99%	YES
Funding gun violence prevention, mental health, and school safety	100%	YES	5%	NO
Tax relief for working families with children	89%	YES	77%	YES
Tax cut for people making over a million dollars and for major corporations	0%	NO	95%	YES
Protecting and expanding voting rights nationwide	97%	YES	0%	NO
Overturning student debt relief	0%	NO	100%	YES
Ensuring and increasing military preparedness	77%	YES	67%	YES

Don't make this a selfish vote, think about your community!

2024 General Election Dates to Remember

Monday, August 19th

First day to request an Absentee Ballot

Monday, September 16th

First day to request an Absentee Ballot for Run-off

Saturday, September 21st

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens (UOCAVA) Absentee Ballots begin getting mailed

Monday, October 7th

Absentee Ballots begin getting mailed

Monday, October 7th

Voter Registration deadline (by 5:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, October 15th

First day for Early Voting

Friday, October 25th

Last day to request an Absentee Ballot

Friday, November 1st

Last day for Early Voting

Friday, November 1st

Last day to return Absentee Ballot in Drop Box

Tuesday, November 5th

Last day for an Absentee Ballot submitted by mail

Tuesday, November 8th

Last day to Return UOCAVA Absentee Ballot (Must be postmarked by November 5, 2024)





Hurry....Check your registration NOW

Confirm your registration is valid and correct before the deadline. Know when and where to vote. Go to MVP.SOS.GA.GOV.

Never miss an election

Go to **TURBOVOTE.ORG** to sign up for election alerts by text or email.

Have the right ID

Go to **DDS.GEORGIA.GOV/VOTER**. You can get a free ID for voting. Call or text VoteRiders at **844-338-8743**.

Vote in every election

Vote early in person in your county beginning 3 weeks before Election Day. Go to **bit.ly/EARLYVOTEinGA** for info or contact your County (see **bit.ly/GACountyOffices**).



Vote by mail if you must Find deadlines and ballot request info

at **bit.ly/AbsenteeVotinginGA**. Need help? Contact your county Board of Elections at **bit.ly/GACountyOffices**. For rides, questions, concerns contact Election Protection at **www.866ourvote.org** or **866-687-8683**.

The QR code is your gateway to all you need to make sure you can vote. All listed organizations are non-partisan and do not support candidates or political parties.

IF YOU ARE A REGISTERED GEORGIA VOTER AND COMMITTED TO

"DOING YOUR JOB" THIS NOVEMBER,
PLEASE JOIN US IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
GEORGIA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT
AND COMPLETE A VOTER PLEDGE*



^{*} If we are successful in securing at least 50 pledges, the Social Action Commission may be eligible to receive a \$1,000 grant for our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts!

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES:

HAVE VOTING OUESTIONS?

We're Here to Help. Year Round Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE

TEXT US

For voting information and more in your state, send a text to 866-687-8683

WWW.866OURVOTE.ORG

ENGLISH: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

SPANISH/ENGLISH: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

ASIAN LANGUAGES/ENGLISH: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

ARABIC/ENGLISH: 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)



CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION

Confirm your voter registration status.





REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

If you cannot vote in person, request an absentee ballot.





CHECK IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Select Your State to View Your Election Dates & Deadlines





REVIEW YOUR BALLOT

See a sample ballot to understand the candidates and measures you'll be voting on.





REGISTER TO VOTE

Use the online tool to register if you're not already registered.





GET ELECTION REMINDERS

Sign up for reminders about upcoming elections.





FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

Locate your polling place for in-person voting.





PLEDGE TO REGISTER

Not of age yet? Get texts on your 18th birthday to help you register to vote. You must be 13 or older to enroll.



POORPEOPLESCAMPAIGN.ORG/VOTINGRECORD



Getting to the Polls



Vote Early Day and Lime Want You to Vote Early!

After you find out where you can vote early, **use code VOTE2024** to get a free ride on a Lime bike or scooter to cast your ballot starting on Vote Early Day (October 29th)! Additional codes will be provided if applicable.



Program has not yet been announced. Updates to be provided in November's newsletter if applicable.



The 2024 Lyft Up Voting Access Program will help provide access to the polls by sharing critical voting access information and providing free and discounted rides to the polls.

Code(s) will be provided in November's newsletter



Program has not yet been announced. Updates to be provided in November's newsletter if applicable.

Get Ready to Vote

Secretary of State Website (My Voter Page)

https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do

Check Your Voter Status

Verify Local Voting Rules & Locations

Double Check Your Voting Location and hours of operation

- Locate Your Early Voting Poll Location (if applicable)
- Verify Your ID Matches Your Voter Registration Info
- Print/Scan Your Precinct Card
- Print Your Sample Ballot
- Pack your Patience!!
- If your eligibility to vote is challenged by an Elector, request a Provisional Ballot
- Be sure to review your printed ballot before you submit it
- Verify your ballot status online to confirm it was accepted

Get Ready to Vote

Did You Know?

- You can be purged/removed from the voter roll if you have not voted, updated your voter registration or renewed your license/state id for three years.
- If you were previously convicted of a felony, you may be eligible to vote?
- That you cannot be arrested for outstanding warrants on your way to/from the polls?
- My Voter Page has been updated with a Ballot Tracking Notifications? Sign up today!
- That seniors or physically impaired voters have additional rights? If you are unable to stand in line, you can:
 - Request to be moved to the front of the line if you are voting between 9:30am-4:30pm (polls are open from 7am 7pm)
 - Request that a chair be provided or refuse to accept a chair
 - Request to have your place in line held and notified when it is your turn

Get Ready to Vote

Did You Know (cont'd)?

- You may be eligible to vote via a provisional ballot if you are a registered voter and:
 - You arrive at a polling place, absentee polling place or a registration office in your county of residence and your name is not listed on the registered electors list.
 - You arrive at a polling place in your county of residence but not your assigned precinct and it is after 5:00 p.m. but before the regularly scheduled closing time you may be allowed to cast a provisional ballot. You will likely be required to execute a sworn statement that indicates that you are unable to get to your correct location prior to poll closing.
 - If your polling location should encounter any conditions/issues (i.e., late opening, voter machine outages/down time, water leaks, etc.) that prevent access for the same amount of time as every other polling location in the state, they are required to allow you equal access to voting.

Please contact the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE to report the issue IMMEDIATELY!!

- The Board of Commissioners in Cobb County, are equipping their election workers with so-called panic buttons that would allow them to quickly contact authorities in emergencies.
- The 2020 election was determined by an average of only 80 votes in counties like yours? That's it. Your vote and your county are that powerful!

Get Ready to Vote

Sample Voting Plan

Pre-Election Day Activities

Chec	k my	Voter	Status
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 Active Status Name/Address Change needed? New/Updated ID needed? VoteRiders – 866-ID-2-VOTE
Verify my Voting Location and hours of operation
Voting Day/Date:
Voting Day/Date (alternate):
Verify my ID matches my Voter Registration Info
Print/Scan Your Precinct Card
Print/Review Your Sample Ballot
Double Check my Voter Status
Double Check Your Voting Location and hours of operation
Prepare list of five voters to follow up with:
1
2
3
4
5.

Return/Mail Absentee ballot (if applicable)

Voting/Election Day Activities

- Triple Check my Voter Status
- Triple Check my Voting Location and hours of operation
- Photo of "Active" voter status from County or My Voter Page website
- Bring valid ID, Precinct card and/or sample ballot
- Election Protection Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE or VOTE-365.org
- Pack your Patience!!
- Be sure to review your printed ballot before you submit it
- Verify your ballot status online to confirm it was accepted or verify your ballot status with Ballot Tracking Notification settings.
- Return/Mail Absentee ballot (if applicable)

Secretary of State Website (My Voter Page)

https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do



Fulton judge overturns Georgia secretary of state decision, removes 2 names from presidential ballot

By Ross Williams/Georgia Recorder,

Georgians could have fewer choices for president when they go to vote this November after two Fulton County Superior Court judges reversed Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's decision and ruled independent candidate Cornel and Claudia De la Cruz with the Party for Socialism and Liberation are not eligible to run for president in the state.

The Wednesday decision marks a win for the Democratic Party of Georgia, which filed suit to remove the candidates.

With early voting set to begin in just over a month, the judges ordered Raffensperger to post notices at polling places in cases where there is insufficient time to print new ballots. Both candidates have vowed to appeal.

"Across the country, the Democratic Party is using the courts to wage an assault on democracy," De la Cruz said in a statement. "They are backed by their billionaire friends, and super PACs like Clear Choice which have raised huge sums of money for the explicit goal of removing third party candidates. We will appeal this ruling. People in Georgia should have the right to vote for the candidate of their choice." Claudia De la Cruz, left, and Karina Garcia are running for President and Vice-President as the candidates of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, but a Fulton County ruling is set to keep them off Georgia ballots. Photo via De la Cruz campaign

Both West and De la Cruz have criticized the Democrat's nominee Vice President Kamala Harris from her left and could conceivably attract votes from progressives who favor her over Republican former President Donald Trump, but dislike Harris' economic policies or her backing of Israel's military actions in Gaza, which inspired protests in college campuses across the nation, including in Georgia. In what is expected to be a close race, a small number of third-party votes lost to the independents could make a difference.

West's campaign urged voters to support the third-party challenger despite the ruling. "We are appealing this decision, which negates the basic democratic rights of the people of Georgia to vote for the candidate of their choice," said Edwin DeJesus, a spokesperson for the West campaign. "We will not stand by as the democratic process is undermined. This ruling is a direct assault on the voters' rights to choose their leaders, and we are fighting to ensure that every

Georgian can vote for a candidate who truly represents their values and visions for the future."

Neither the Democratic Party of Georgia nor the secretary of state's office responded to requests for comment Thursday, but Raffensperger, a Republican, referenced the cases in a Twitter thread Tuesday.

"Partisan activists are attempting to tilt the scales of this election and I believe that is wrong. This election will be decided by Georgia's voters and not political activists," he wrote. "The law is clear, and these qualified candidates have a right to be on Georgia's ballot, and I will fight for voters' rights every day to choose the candidate for whom they want to elect."

Libertarian candidate Chase Oliver and Green Party Candidate Jill Stein will appear on Georgia ballots – Oliver because Libertarians received a sufficient number of votes in the previous election, and Stein because she qualified under a new state law granting ballot access to candidates on the ballot in at least 20 other states. They will join the major party contenders, Trump and Harris, at the top of the ticket.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who was previously leading the third-party pack, though still far behind the major party frontrunners, dropped out of the race in late August and endorsed Trump.

A Quinnipiac poll conducted Sept. 4 through Sept. 8 found Trump leading in Georgia with 49% of the vote to Harris' 45%, with West and De la Cruz both receiving about 1% of the vote each and neither Oliver nor Stein breaking 1%. The poll's margin of error is 3.2%.

The poll was conducted prior to this week's televised <u>debate</u> between Harris and Trump, which could be the only in-person face-off between the two major party candidates.

Did you know that casting a vote for a 3rd party candidate is often called a "throwaway/wasted" vote since they historically never garner more than about 5% of the national vote?

Did you know that write-in candidates must be pre-approved in Georgia? If you write-in an unapproved candidate, your vote will not be counted?

Georgia State Election Board Rule Changes and

Lawsuits in Process

August 6, 2024 - New Georgia rules let local boards withhold election certification*

State board of elections passes measure proposed by Fulton board appointee who refused to certify presidential primary

Georgia's state board of elections adopted new rules for local election boards that permit them to withhold the certification of a vote in the face of unspecified discrepancies – a Republican-led move that could cause uncertainty and confusion after future election days.

The five-person board passed the measure in a 3-2 vote. The three board members who voted for it – Dr Janice Johnson, Rick Jeffares and Janelle King – were praised by name three days ago by <u>Donald Trump</u> at an <u>Atlanta campaign rally</u>.

The <u>rule</u> was proposed by Michael Heekin, a Republican appointee to the Fulton election board **who refused to certify the presidential primary earlier this year.** The rule requires local boards to initiate a "reasonable inquiry" when discrepancies emerge at a poll, and gives the power to withhold certification until that inquiry was completed. It does not define the term "reasonable inquiry", nor does it establish strict limitations on the breadth of an inquiry.

Note: One of the Attorney's helping to present this rule recommendation was from the Heritage Foundation, Authors of Project 2025.

*Latest Court Ruling follows

September 20, 2024 - Georgia State Election Board approves rule requiring hand count of ballots**

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia's State Election Board on Friday voted to approve a new rule that requires poll workers to count the number of paper ballots by hand after voting is completed, a change that critics worry could delay the reporting of election night results.

The board's decision went against the advice of the state attorney general's office, the secretary of state's office and an association of county election officials. Three Republican board members who were praised by former President Donald Trump during a rally last month in Atlanta voted to approve the measure, while the lone Democrat on the board and the nonpartisan chair voted to reject it.

"The new rule requires that the number of ballots — not the number of votes — be counted at each polling place by three separate poll workers until all three counts are the same. If a scanner has more than 750 ballots inside at the end of voting, the poll manager can decide to begin the count the following day."

**Lawsuits filed by the RNC and DNC follows

AJC POLITICS

Election boards in Georgia must certify the state's election results, judge says

The State Election Board recently approved a rule calling for an undefined 'reasonable inquiry' before the results are certified on Nov. 12.



Credit: Miguel Martinez-Jimenez

Baxter Drennon (left), a lawyer representing the Republican National Committee, hands documents to Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney on Tuesday during a trial brought by the Georgia Democratic Party challenging the State Election Board's certification rule. (Miguel Martinez/AJC)

By Mark Niesse and David Wickert

Oct 1, 2024

A Fulton County judge appeared unlikely to toss out a new rule by the State Election Board requiring county officials to investigate election results, but he said they must certify them.

In two preelection trials Tuesday, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney said state law requires county election boards to certify results one week after Election Day.

Republicans who raised the question agreed that certification is mandatory — but with an important caveat. They said individual board members had the right to vote "no" and a majority of members could decide to exclude precincts from certification if they suspected fraud or irregularities.

McBurney didn't immediately issue rulings after the Republican-controlled State Election Board recently approved a rule calling for an undefined "**reasonable inquiry**" before certification on Nov. 12.

Democrats who sued said the rule created an opening for rogue election board members to reject the results. They warned the rule could lead to disputes over the vote count.

"The deadline is the deadline. Get done what you can. What is reasonable to one person might be not reasonable to another. But you make your inquiry and then it's wheels up at 5 p.m. on the 12th of November," McBurney said.



Credit: Miguel Martinez-Jimenez

Ben Thorpe, a lawyer representing the Georgia Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee, argued the "reasonable inquiry rule" the State Election Board recently approved offers "no direction." Arguing in Fulton County Superior Court on Tuesday, Thorpe said: "It's then left to the determinations of individual actors. ... That may support a decision to delay or otherwise vote against, individually or as a board, certification." (Miguel Martinez/AJC)

For decades, the certification of elections by local boards was an obscure process followed mostly by politically engaged partisans and citizens. But it's become a controversial matter in the wake of Donald Trump's false allegations that voting fraud in 2020 cost him reelection as president.

Across the country, some local board members, mostly Republicans, have voted against certifying results. A recent **Atlanta Journal-Constitution investigation** found at least 19 Georgia board members have voted not to certify election results since 2020. On Tuesday, the responsibilities of local election board members were front and center in two lawsuits heard by McBurney.

In the first case, Democrats sued to overturn two State Election Board rules — one requiring local boards to conduct a "reasonable inquiry" into the accuracy of results before

certifying and another granting them access to all election documents as they conduct their inquiry.

While McBurney indicated he's unlikely to throw out the "reasonable inquiry" requirement, he could issue an order clarifying the extent of the rules and their relationship to existing state laws.

The rule doesn't provide any details about what's reasonable or what the inquiry would involve.

An attorney for the Republican Party, Baxter Drennon, said the State Election Board's rule should withstand court scrutiny.

"There's not a bona fide dispute here," Drennon said. "The rules are consistent with the law, and frankly if someone has a concern about what their obligation is under the rules, they should look to the law because the same obligations exist in the law."

Certifying elections is a **critical step** when county election boards approve results to the best of their knowledge. Only after certification can candidates contest the outcome in court.

If the majority of a county election board voted against certifying this fall's election — in violation of state law — the courts could get involved at that point to order certification, McBurney said.



Credit: Miguel Martinez-Jimenez

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney didn't immediately issue rulings Tuesday after the Republican-controlled State Election Board recently approved a rule calling for an undefined "reasonable inquiry" before certification on Nov. 12. But he did say local election boards are required to certify elections. "The deadline is the deadline," he said. "Get done what you can. What is reasonable to one person might be not reasonable to another. But you make your inquiry and then it's wheels up at 5 p.m. on the 12th of November." (Miguel Martinez/AJC)

Attorneys for the Democrats told McBurney the rule goes "wildly beyond" state laws that determine when a vote has been legally cast.

"The reasonable inquiry rule provides all kinds of flexibility but no direction," said Ben Thorpe, an attorney for the plaintiffs. "It's then left to the determinations of individual actors. ... That may support a decision to delay or otherwise vote against, individually or as a board, certification."

McBurney said he was less concerned about the rule allowing local board members to examine all election-related documentation. He said it didn't require county election board members to take additional steps before certification.

In the second lawsuit, Fulton County election board member Julie Adams asked McBurney to rule that local board members' duties are discretionary, not ministerial. Adams voted against certifying this year's presidential primary and then sued the county.

Adams' attorney, Richard Lawson, cited the oath that board members take, which requires them to prevent "fraud, deceit and abuse" to the best of their abilities.

And while Lawson agreed that certification is mandatory, he argued board members could agree not to certify certain precincts if they deemed the results problematic.

Daniel Volchok, an attorney for the Democratic National Committee, called the Republican argument "a recipe for chaos" that could deny Georgians the right to have their votes counted. He said state law requires disputes about fraud and other irregularities to be decided in the courts — not by unelected election board members.

Democrats fear a repeat of the 2020 election, when Trump alleged the election was stolen and unsuccessfully fought the outcome in court. Investigations debunked allegations of drop box ballot stuffing, counterfeit ballots and ineligible voters. Three counts showed Joe Biden won the presidential contest in Georgia by about 12,000 votes. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the State Election Board include the Democratic National Committee, the Georgia Democratic Party and Democrats on county election boards. Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign supported the lawsuit.

McBurney could issue a ruling in the coming days.



The Associated Press

Republican-led group sues to block Georgia rule requiring hand count of ballots



ATLANTA (AP) — A Republican-led group is challenging Georgia's new requirement that poll workers count the total number of ballots by hand, saying it's another example of the State Election Board overstepping its legal authority.

Eternal Vigilance Action amended its existing lawsuit on Wednesday to also challenge that rule adopted Friday by the board.

The group, founded and led by former state Rep. Scot Turner, a Republican, was already suing the board over rules that it earlier adopted on certifying votes, a

step that finalizes results. One of those rules provides for an undefined "reasonable inquiry" before county election officials certify while another allows county election officials "to examine all election related documentation created during the conduct of elections."

Turner's lawsuit is scheduled for an Oct. 4 hearing before Fulton County Superior Court Judge Thomas Cox. Eternal Vigilance Action is asking Cox to overturn the rules, or at least put them on hold until after November's presidential election.

The new ballot counting rule and two others having to do with county certification of vote totals were passed by a majority on the board made up of three Republican partisans who have been praised by former President Donald Trump. The rules have raised alarms among Democrats, voting rights groups and others who fear they could be used to cause chaos and undermine confidence in the election results in this crucial swing state if Trump loses to Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris in November.

Turner, however, said in a telephone interview that his lawsuit is motivated by his view of constitutional principles, saying the board is part of the executive branch that is intruding on powers reserved for legislators.

"They are not an elected body," Turner said the State Election Board. "They are not accountable to voters, therefore they should not have lawmaking authority."

The new ballot counting rule requires that the number of ballots — not the number of votes — be counted at each polling place by three separate poll workers until all three counts are the same. If a scanner has more than 750 ballots inside at the end of voting, the poll manager can decide to begin the count the following day.

Georgia voters make selections on a touchscreen voting machine that prints out a paper ballot that includes a human-readable list of the voter's choices as well as a QR code that is read by a scanner to tally the votes.

Proponents say the rule is needed to ensure the number of paper ballots matches the totals recorded on scanners, check-in computers and voting machines. The three workers will have to count the ballots in piles of 50, and the poll manager needs to explain and fix, if possible, any discrepancies, as well as document them.

In a memo sent the day before the election board voted on the ballot counting rule, Attorney General Chris Carr's office said the rule is "not tethered to any statute" and is "likely the precise kind of impermissible legislation that agencies cannot do." The memo from the Republican Carr's office warned that any rule that goes beyond the board's authority is unlikely to survive a legal challenge.

Turner said he viewed his lawsuit as putting Carr's arguments before a judge. His amended lawsuit also adds challenges to rules that the board adopted to require daily public updates of the number of votes cast during early voting, to potentially allow more partisan poll watchers to observe the tabulation of votes.

Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and an association of county election officials had also cautioned the board against passing the rule. They said it could delay election night reporting of vote totals and could weaken protections on the chain of custody of ballots.

Results wouldn't be delayed if poll workers send the memory cards that record the votes in machines to the central tabulation location before finishing the hand tally. Another lawsuit from state and national Democratic groups is also challenging the two certification rules. A judge has set a Tuesday bench trial in the Democrats' lawsuit.

The State Election Board has been besieged by critics in recent months as it considers new rules, many of them proposed by Trump allies that opponents say could erode public confidence in the election results.

"They are providing bonfire material for conspiracy theorists to attack the legitimacy of elections based on the complaints of a very noisy minority of Republican voters," Turner said.

Democrats Sue to Block Georgia Election Board Rule on Hand Counting Ballots

"This rule is unproductive and unlawful," a Democratic spokesperson said.

By Chris Walker, Truthout

Published October 2, 2024



People vote during the midterm elections at Morningside Baptist Church Gym on November 8, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia. Michael M. Santiago / Getty Images

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the Democratic Party of Georgia have jointly filed a lawsuit against the Georgia State Election Board (SEB), challenging a new rule that requires the hand counting of ballots on election night.

The SEB rule, which passed by a 3-2 vote across ideological lines (with all three members in favor being **conservative Trump supporters**) requires poll managers and two additional workers at each precinct in the state **to count ballots by hand** on election night after they've been run through a voting machine, to ensure both counts result in the same number.

All three individuals at each precinct must agree on the final count totals before results can be submitted — and if there is an inconsistency between the hand count and the machine count numbers, they must determine why the vote was wrong and correct it, if they can.

Ostensibly, the rule is meant to ensure vote totals being counted by machines are accurate. However, the rule change, in conjunction with <u>another rule passed by the SEB earlier this year</u>, could allow for election results to be delayed into the next day, and possibly for weeks, potentially resulting in missed deadlines to have the voting outcomes submitted to the full state's totals.

Ironically, the process also makes election fraud easier to carry out. An overzealous local election official, for example, hoping to help a political candidate "win" a race in the state — including Georgia's 16 Electoral College votes that are up for grabs in the presidential race — could abuse the new rule in order to do so, under false claims of trying to root out election fraud.

Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris <u>are essentially tied in the contest</u> <u>for president within Georgia</u>. Any delays that result in votes not being counted could hurt either candidate's chances of winning.

The DNC and the Democratic Party of Georgia submitted their lawsuit against the rule change earlier this week, <u>filing their complaint to the Fulton County Superior Court</u> based in Atlanta. The two <u>Democratic entities said that the rule</u> "adds an additional hurdle to Georgia's established process for collecting and tabulating ballots," making it so poll workers have to take an additional, unnecessary step before submitting votes to the state.

The rule is also too ambiguous, their brief contends, as it's unclear how exactly poll workers would "resolve" any discrepancies between hand count ballots and machine counts. (Statistically, counting ballots by hand <u>produces wrong outcomes more often than machines do.</u>)

Democrats also argued within their lawsuit that this isn't a partisan issue, and that Republican state lawmakers — including Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, both Republicans — have expressed concerns about the legality of the rule.

"We agree with Georgia's Republican Attorney General and Secretary of State: This rule is unproductive and unlawful, and we are fighting it," Quentin Fulks, the Harris campaign's principal deputy campaign manager, said in a statement. "Democrats are stepping in to ensure that Georgia voters can cast their ballots knowing that they will be counted in a free and fair election."

The lawsuit also alleges that the State Election Board (SEB) had no authority to pass the rule in the first place. State law requires the SEB to only "carry into effect a law already passed' or otherwise 'administer and effectuate an existing enactment" of the state legislature, the lawsuit says, adding that, "Nothing in the Election Code permits the kind of hand counting contemplated by the Hand Count Rule."

Essentially, the board "engineered a...form of pre-certification hand counting with no statutory basis for doing so," the Democratic groups said.

"To protect the sanctity of the state's laws and to prevent election night chaos, this Court should declare that the Hand Count Rule exceeds SEB's statutory authority," the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit's chances at success are currently unclear. It's likely that a judge will place an injunction on the case, which — pending a judicial hearing and later, a decision — could extend the question (and thus, enforcement of the new rule) beyond the current election season. With five weeks to go until Election Day, multiple changes regarding whether or not the rule is implemented could disrupt or confuse election workers throughout the state.

September's Voter Registration Event

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