



**GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF
VOTER REGISTRARS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS (GAVREO)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01

AUGUST 30, 2021

SETTING THE DATE OF THE GENERAL PRIMARY

BY MAJORITY VOTE, THE GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF VOTER REGISTRARS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS (GAVREO) HEREBY RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING:

WHEREAS, the 159 counties of Georgia, through their Board(s) of Elections and Registration or Probate Judge and Chief Registrar, have the responsibility and authority to maintain the electors list and administer federal, state and local elections in the state of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the release of detailed data from the 2020 Decennial Census has been delayed from the original timeline, due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly requires the detailed Census data to begin reapportionment in a 2021 special session that is currently unscheduled; and that the special session will focus on federal and state offices and the reapportionment of local offices will likely not be addressed until the regular legislative session beginning in January 2022; and

WHEREAS, these delays will give the counties inadequate time to make complicated redistricting changes before the commencement of candidate qualifying on March 7, 2022; and that after the 2010 Census, the qualifying period in 2012 commenced on May 23, 2012, providing more than two additional months for redistricting efforts, and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly in 2014 through the passage of HB 310 moved the general primary date from the “third week of July” to the “twenty-fourth week prior to the November election” and the period between the primary and the primary runoff from 21 days to nine weeks, in order to accommodate UOCAVA voters receiving their runoff ballot; however, the motivation for the 2014 adjustment was nullified in the 2020 legislative session by changes that establish a ranked-choice primary runoff ballot for UOCAVA voters and provide for a 28-day period between all elections or primaries and their required runoffs, and

WHEREAS, election administrators in this Association attest that the late May general primary date has been very challenging since 2014, because schools are still in session and graduations or assemblies are being conducted in large public spaces that are desirable as polling places.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Georgia Association of Voter Registrars and Election Officials that we hereby implore the General Assembly in its 2021 special session, to revise O.C.G.A. §21-2-150 to set the date of the general primary for the “Tuesday of the nineteenth week prior to the November election” and make this change effective for the 2022 general primary and all subsequent general primaries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the effect of this change would set the next general primary, and the concurrent nonpartisan election, for June 28, 2022; and that any required runoff will be held 28 days later, on July 26, 2022; and that candidates will qualify beginning on April 11, 2022, which is the Monday of the eleventh week prior to the new primary date. This change would provide additional time for redistricting in 2022 and allow for both the general primary and runoff to be conducted when schools are not in session for 2022 and future years.

ADOPTED by the GAVREO membership on this 30th day of August 2021.

APPROVED:

Executive Board:

_____ Deidre Holden, Paulding County; Co-President

_____ Charlotte Sosebee, Athens-Clarke County; Co-President

_____ Dorothy Glisson, Screven County; President-Elect

_____ Mandi. B. Smith, Forsyth County; Vice-President

_____ Shauna Dozier, Clayton County; Treasurer

_____ Travis Doss, Richmond County; Secretary

