

Preventing Election Subversion Act of 2023

In 2022, state legislators introduced over [150 bills in 27 states](#) that would grant more power to partisan actors to threaten or interfere with election workers or processes. In [seven states](#), including Georgia, these bills were signed into law. So far this year, [78 such bills have been introduced in 20 states](#) and at least 10 are moving through four state legislatures. One law [in Texas](#) would grant broad new powers to the governor and secretary of state to seize control of elections from local officials. This widespread effort places local elections officials at risk of partisan subversion, interference, or control.

In Georgia, a partisan group of lawmakers requested a [full review of Fulton County's](#) (Georgia's largest county and home to Atlanta) election administration that lasted 18 months – but found few significant problems and recommended against a state takeover. This kind of partisan state interference can fuel election denialism and harassment against local election officials. Since the November 2020 elections, these officials have been pressured to overturn the election results and have received death threats in response to their work upholding the integrity of our elections. [Forty-five percent](#) of election workers nationwide say they fear for their colleagues' safety, and over one in ten say they're very or somewhat likely to leave before the 2024 elections.

As these partisan actors have sought to interfere in local elections, they have also enabled [frivolous mass challenges](#) of voters' registration. Ahead of the 2022 elections, mass challenges were filed against [tens of thousands of voters](#), the vast majority of which were rejected. These challenges burden already-overworked election officials and undermine confidence in elections. In one Georgia county, election officials were forced to [divert five to ten staff for six days a week](#) to address the flood of challenges. According to a ProPublica investigation, [just six right-wing activists submitted about 89,000 of 100,000 voter registration challenges](#) since Georgia's mass challenge provision became law in 2021. Only 12% of these challenges were successful.

To address these persistent attempts at election subversion, The *Preventing Election Subversion Act of 2023* would:

- **Limit the arbitrary and unfounded removal of local election officials** by permitting removals only in cases of inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office, with a federal cause of action to enforce this standard;
- **Provide legitimate pathways for local election officials involved in removal proceedings** by allowing a local election official who has responsibility for federal elections and has been subjected to removal proceedings to remove that proceeding to federal district court for redress;
- **Ensure integrity in the registration challenge process** by requiring that any challenges to a voter's eligibility to register to vote or cast a ballot, other than those submitted by an election official, must be supported by personal knowledge with respect to each individual challenged.

This legislation is introduced by U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock, Rules Committee Chairwoman Amy Klobuchar, and Senators Baldwin, Merkley, Fetterman, Welch, Hirono, Wyden, Warner, Durbin, and Feinstein.

The *Preventing Election Subversion Act* is endorsed by Fair Fight Action; American Civil Liberties Union; Black Voters Matter; The King Center; National Domestic Workers Alliance; Care in Action; SPLC Action Fund; End Citizens United//Let America Vote; League of Women Voters; Interfaith Alliance; League of Conservation Voters; Common Cause; People For the American Way; Greenpeace USA; Interfaith Power and Light; Union of Concerned Scientists; ACLU of Georgia; NAACP Georgia State Conference; GA Coalition for the People's Agenda; FaithWorks; Georgia Equality; Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta; GALEO Impact Fund; Georgia Stand Up; We Vote We Win; Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council; GA WAND; Common Cause Georgia; SOWEGA Rising; Represent Georgia; ProGeorgia; Act2Change, Michelle Kang, CEO; Councilman Ron Davis - District 1 City of Mableton, Georgia; and State Representative Derrick Jackson, Georgia House District 68.

The *Preventing Election Subversion Act* is also endorsed by a number of clergy, including: Reverend Lee May; Bishop Reginald Jackson; Reverend Gerald Durley; Rev. Jim Wallis, Center on Faith and Justice; Reverend Jennifer Butler, Founder, Faith in Public Life; Pastor Berlinda A. Hart Love, Sixth Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church; Reverend Victor Demond Tate, Senior Pastor, First Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; Bishop Sonya E. Williams, MTS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, Real Inspirational Ministries, Atlanta; Dr. Michael G. Ephraim, Sr., Bethel AME Church of Albany; Dr. Ruth W. Smith, Archbishop of Light of the World Covenant Fellowship International Co-Founder Light of the World Christian Tabernacle International; Reverend Thomas L. Hart, Co-Pastor, Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church; Reverend Dr. Gregory V. Eason, Sr., Flipper Temple AME Church; Dr. Louis Ferguson, Sr. Pastor, Greater Friendship MBC; Toni Belin Ingram, Presiding Elder, Augusta North District AME Church; Reverend Dr. Lugenia Johnson, Pastor, Mathalama AME Church; Reverend Dr. William E. Flippin, Sr., The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church; Alan Hale Wicker, Presiding Elder (Retired); Rev. Carlton K. Taylor, Sr., Pastor, Jenkins Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev. Dr. Diane Brack Evans, D.Min., Senior Pastor, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Moderator of the PMBA 5th District; Rev. Dr. Brian Tillman, Director of Inclusion and Advocacy Co-Director of Connectional Ministries, North Georgia United Methodist Conference; and Minister Sabrina Murphy.