

January 23, 2024

Chairman Max Burns
Senate Committee on Ethics
327-A CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Chairman Burns and members of the Senate Ethics Committee,

We are writing to express our support for SB 355, sponsored by Senator Randy Robertson, which would prohibit ranked-choice voting in Georgia elections.

Since the 2020 election, Georgia has been at the forefront of strong, vital election integrity reforms. From banning Zuckerbucks to requiring voter ID, Georgia's efforts have been the gold standard for states looking to protect voters from fraud and restore trust in the democratic process.

Banning ranked-choice voting is the next step in maintaining that high standard.

Whether it is labeled "instant runoff" or another alternative voting system, everywhere that ranked-choice voting has been tried, it's been an unmitigated and un-American disaster with delayed election results, ballots thrown in the trash, voters' voices silenced, losers winning, and winners losing. Here's a sample:

- **Maine**: In 2018, Rep. Bruce Poliquin had 46 percent of the vote on the initial ballot, ahead of his challenger's 45 percent. Because no one received above 50 percent, the secretary of state tossed more than 8,200 ballots and the Democrat, Jared Golden, won the congressional seat with an artificial majority.
- **Alaska**: In the 2022 special election, 60 percent of Alaskans wanted a Republican. 11,000 ballots were trashed because voters only voted for the other Republican. The Democrat won by slightly more than 5,000 votes.
- **Alameda County, California**: Nearly two months after a school board election, a third party ran a recount of the vote and found that the third-place candidate was the correct winner. The Board of Supervisors directed a recount of all elections using ranked-choice voting.
- **New York City**: In the 2021 Democratic mayoral primary, it took 15 days to declare a winner and more than 140,000 ballots were thrown in the trash.

It's no coincidence that the most vocal supporters of ranked-choice voting come from the Left. This complicated election method isn't about finding "moderate" or "consensus" candidates, eliminating the need for runoff elections, or allowing voters to have more options at the ballot box. It's about turning simple elections into a game that can be won—by Democrats.

Across the country, leftist activists are pushing for ranked-choice voting. Last year, 74 bills were introduced around the country in favor of ranked-choice voting. Ninety-two percent had *only* Democrat supporters. On the other side, 17 bills were introduced to ban ranked-choice voting, and all but one were Republican bills.

Five states so far—Tennessee, Florida, South Dakota, Montana, and Idaho—have made the prudent choice to ban ranked-choice voting.

After the post-2020 election integrity reforms were implemented, Georgia experienced record voter registration and turnout in the 2022 midterms. It's a testament to the hard work of the General Assembly to hear voters' concerns and act accordingly. Allowing ranked-choice voting to gain a foothold in Georgia would roll back all of the state's efforts these past three years.

As [Lt. Governor Jones said](#), "ranked-choice voting is designed to cause confusion and fatigue among voters...Georgians deserve to have the utmost faith in their elections, and those pushing ranked-choice voting are only hindering that faith." The best course of action to protect Georgia elections and protect the hard-won trust of Georgia voters is to pass SB 355 and close the door on ranked-choice voting for good.

Sincerely,

Tarren Bragdon
Chief Executive Officer
Opportunity Solutions Project

Gina Swoboda
Executive Director
Voter Reference Foundation

Doug Truax
President
Restoration of America

Trent England
Co-chairman, Stop Ranked-Choice Voting Coalition
Executive Director, Save Our States

Lori Roman
Chairman and CEO
American Constitutional Rights Union Action Fund

Carol Davis
Chairman
Illinois Conservative Union

Julie Adams
Field Director
Tea Party Patriots Action

Lisa L. Dixon
Executive Director
Center for Election Confidence

Honorable Kenneth J. Blackwell
Chairman, Center for Election Integrity
America First Policy Institute

Ashley Hayek
Executive Director
America First Works

Honorable Doug Collins
Chair
America First Policy Institute — Georgia

Lynn Taylor
Chairman
Election Integrity Network Action

Lynn Taylor
President
Virginia Institute Action

Bob Carlstrom
President
AMAC Action

Jenny Beth Martin
Honorary Chairman
Tea Party Patriots Action

Phil Izon
Director
Ranked Choice Education Association