

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