COBB COLLABORATIVE

VOTE YOUR VOICE

2026 Georgia Statewide Voter Guide

Every statewide candidate on your November ballot,
plus all three constitutional amendments,
presented side by side.

No endorsements.

GENERAL ELECTION · TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

WITH THANKS

Acknowledgments

Our Funder

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How it came together:

This guide is a project of Cobb Collaborative's Vote Your Voice program. Cobb Collaborative is a nonpartisan organization and does not endorse or oppose any candidate, party, or ballot measure.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide covers the eleven races that appear on every Georgia ballot statewide this November: U.S. Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, three constitutional-officer races, the State School Superintendent, and two Public Service Commission seats, plus all three statewide constitutional amendments. Starting on page 20, it also covers a selection of district races that vary by address: several U.S. House, state Senate, state House, Cobb County Commission, and Cobb County School Board seats. Your ballot may include only some of these, or others not covered here.

Cobb Collaborative does not endorse or oppose any candidate, party, or ballot measure. For every race, each qualified candidate's page has the following:

- Similar format and comparable space
- Short factual background
- Stated priorities - drawn from their campaign website and public statements in neutral language
- Order within each race follows alphabetical order by party name, not a ranking
- Many races do not include a third-party candidate this cycle

Candidates and races can change before Election Day. Always confirm your personal sample ballot at **My Voter Page** (**mvp.sos.ga.gov**).

Questions about this guide?
Contact us at voting@cobbcollaborative.org.

Key Dates & How to Vote

Key Dates

Registration deadline: October 5, 2026
Register or update your address by this date.

Advance voting: October 13–30, 2026
In person, at your county's advance voting sites.

Absentee ballots: Aug 17–Oct 23, 2026
Window to request a mail ballot.

Election Day: November 3, 2026
Polls open 7am–7pm at your assigned precinct.

How to Vote

Step 1: Register or check your registration
Confirm you're registered, or register by Oct 5, at **mvp.sos.ga.gov.**

Step 2: Make Your Plan to Vote
Advance, absentee ballot, or on Election Day, Nov 3.

Step 3: Look up your personal sample ballot
See exactly what's on your ballot, including local races and ballot issues that this guide may not cover.

Step 4: Bring accepted photo ID
Georgia requires ID to vote in person, during advance voting, or on Election Day. See the full list of accepted ID types at **sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-voter-identification-requirements.**

Check your registration & sample ballot → mvp.sos.ga.gov

More from Vote Your Voice at cobbcollaborative.org/vote-your-voice

STATE EXECUTIVE · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Governor

Georgia's chief executive: enforces state law, proposes and administers the state budget, appoints officials and judicial vacancies, can veto legislation, and commands the Georgia National Guard.

Note: Gov. Brian Kemp is term-limited.



Keisha Lance Bottoms

Democratic Party

Background: Mayor of Atlanta, 2018–2022; earlier on Atlanta City Council. Later Senior Advisor to President Biden for Public Engagement.

Current Occupation: Attorney

Priorities:

- Expanding Medicaid and stabilizing rural hospitals
- Housing affordability: faster permitting,
- down-payment assistance
- Fully funding K-12 schools and early literacy

Source: keishaforgovernor.com



Rick Jackson

Republican Party

Background: Georgia health care-industry businessman who spent part of his childhood in foster care; no prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Healthcare industry businessman.

Priorities:

- Freezing property tax assessments; cutting state income tax
- Efficiency audits of state programs
- Work or job-training requirements for public assistance

Source: rickjackson.com

STATE EXECUTIVE · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Lieutenant Governor

Elected separately from the governor. Presides over the State Senate (assigning bills to committees, appointing chairs) and serves as acting governor when needed.

Open seat: Lt. Gov. Burt Jones ran for governor. He lost the GOP primary.



Josh McLaurin

Democratic Party

Background: State Senator for District 14 (Sandy Springs) since 2023; earlier in the State House. Yale law degree; former airline attorney.

Current Occupation: State Senator, GA District 14.

Priorities:

- Directing revenue to child care and housing over corporate tax breaks
- Supporting workers' right to organize
- Expanding Medicaid and support for rural hospitals

Source: joshmclaurin.com



Greg Dolezal

Republican Party

Background: State Senator for District 27 (Forsyth/Cumming) since 2019; chairs the Transportation Committee. Co-founded a software company.

Current Occupation: State Senator, GA District 27.

Priorities:

- Reducing and eventually eliminating the state
- income tax
- Eliminating school property taxes for seniors
- Expanding school choice for parents

Source: gregdolezal.com

STATE EXECUTIVE · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Attorney General

Georgia's chief legal officer: represents the state in court, advises the governor and agencies, defends state laws, and enforces consumer-protection and antitrust law.

Incumbent Chris Carr did not seek reelection, running for governor. He lost the GOP primary.



Tanya Miller

Democratic Party

Background: State Representative, District 62; chairs the House Democratic Caucus. Former assistant U.S. attorney and homicide prosecutor.

Current Occupation: State Representative, GA District 62

Priorities:

- Targeting violent criminal networks and trafficking
- Prioritizing crimes against children and domestic violence
- Investigating price gouging and utility rate increases

Source: tanyaforgeorgia.com



Brian Strickland

Republican Party

Background: State Senator, District 42 (previously District 17), since 2018; chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. Practicing attorney; former floor leader for Govs. Deal and Kemp.

Current Occupation: State Senator, GA District 42

Priorities:

- Combating violent crime, gangs, and trafficking
- Protecting seniors from scams and fraud
- Improving access to mental health services

Source: stricklandforgeorgia.com

STATE EXECUTIVE · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Secretary of State

Georgia's chief elections official: oversees voter registration, election administration, and certification in all 159 counties. Also regulates corporations, licenses professions, and oversees securities and charities.

Incumbent Brad Raffensperger did not seek reelection, running for governor instead. He lost the GOP primary.



Penny Brown Reynolds

Democratic Party

Background: Former Fulton County Superior Court judge; former executive counsel to Gov. Roy Barnes. Later a senior civil-rights role at USDA.

Current Occupation: Attorney; full-time candidate

Priorities:

- Protecting voting rights; restoring trust in elections
- Simplifying small-business formation
- Safeguarding seniors from fraud

Source: pennyforgeorgia.com



Tim Fleming

Republican Party

Background: State Representative, District 114, since 2023; formerly Chief of Staff to Gov. Kemp. Earlier Deputy Secretary of State.

Current Occupation: State Representative, GA District 114.

Priorities:

- Election security, accessibility, and transparency
- Protecting voter ID requirements
- Streamlining professional licensing approvals

Source: flemingforga.com

STATE EXECUTIVE · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Labor Commissioner

Leads the Georgia Department of Labor: unemployment insurance, the statewide Career Center network, vocational rehabilitation, and labor-market statistics.



Nikki Porcher

Democratic Party

Background: Air Force veteran and former GA public-school teacher. Founded Buy From A Black Woman, a small-business support nonprofit.

Current Occupation: Founder, Buy From A Black Woman

Priorities:

- Worker support: fair pay and safe workplaces
- Small-business job creation via Career Center partnerships
- Expanding access to affordable childcare

Source: voteporcher4ga.com



Bárbara Rivera Holmes (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Appointed by Gov. Kemp in 2025, now seeking a full term; first Latina to hold GA statewide office. Former journalist, Board of Regents member, and President/CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce.

Current Occupation: Georgia Labor Commissioner

Priorities:

- Workforce/skills-training partnerships in tech and healthcare
- Modernizing unemployment-insurance systems
- Reducing unemployment-benefit backlogs

Source: barbaraforga.com

STATE EXECUTIVE · FOUR-YEAR TERM

State School Superintendent

Elected head of the Georgia Department of Education: enforces state education law, recommends policy, and administers the state K-12 budget.



Lydia Powell

Democratic Party

Background: 26 years in education, including 11 in school leadership across DeKalb, Clayton, Fayette, and Henry counties. Currently assistant principal at Hampton High School in Henry County Schools.

Current Occupation: Assistant Principal, Henry County Schools

Priorities:

- Transparent leadership and responsible use of resources
- Expanding state-funded prekindergarten and early literacy
- Rural school recruitment incentives and funding

Source: drlydiapowell.com



Richard Woods (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Superintendent since 2015, seeking a fourth term. 14 years as a classroom teacher over a 32-year career in education.

Current Occupation: State School Superintendent

Priorities:

- School safety and mental-health funding
- Literacy coaches in struggling elementary schools
- Teacher pay increases

Source: woodsforsuper.com

Public Service Commissioner, District 3

The PSC is a five-member elected body regulating Georgia's investor-owned electric, gas, and telecom utilities, including rates Georgia Power may charge. Commissioners represent a district but are elected statewide, so every Georgia voter votes in this race.

District 3 covers Clayton, DeKalb, and Fulton, not Cobb.



Peter Hubbard (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Won a 2025 special election after founding the Georgia Center for Energy Solutions. Background in solar and utility consulting.

Current Occupation: Georgia Public Service Commissioner, District 3

Priorities:

- Keeping utility bills affordable; opposing rate increases
- Expanding renewable energy and battery storage
- Transparency: independent audit of utility profit margins

Source: peterforgeorgia.com



Fitz Johnson

Republican Party

Background: Army veteran (retired major); served on the PSC 2021-2025 by appointment before losing the 2025 special election.

Current Occupation: Business owner

Priorities:

- Preventing further residential power-bill increases
- Continued development of domestic energy production
- Structuring data-center contracts so big users fund their own costs

Source: friendsforfitz.com

STATE EXECUTIVE · SIX-YEAR TERM

Public Service Commissioner, District 5

Same statewide-elected utility-regulation seat as District 3, for a different district: one that runs from the Tennessee border to the LaGrange area and does include Cobb County.

Open seat: incumbent Tricia Pridemore ran for U.S. House District 11 but lost in the primary; she has since resigned from the PSC.



Shelia Edwards

Democratic Party

Background: Cobb County resident with 35+ years' experience, including early NASA Space Shuttle Program work and GA House Democratic Caucus service.

Current Occupation: Publisher, SPOTLIGHT South Cobb News

Priorities:

- Opposing continual utility rate hikes
- Consumer protection from excessive utility charges
- Ensuring data centers pay a proportionate share of costs

Source: shelia4psc.com



Josh Tolbert

Republican Party

Background: Licensed professional engineer with a doctorate in mechanical engineering; career as a power-plant engineer.

Current Occupation: Founder and Engineering Consultant, Atlanta Experts

Priorities:

- Bringing technical/engineering expertise to Commission decisions
- Rigorous justification required for rate increases
- Plain-language summaries of Commission decisions

Source: teamtolbert.com

STATE EXECUTIVE · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Commissioner of Agriculture

Leads the Georgia Department of Agriculture: food-safety inspections, animal-health monitoring, pesticide regulation, and accuracy checks on gas pumps and commercial scales.



Katherine Juhan-Arnold

Democratic Party

Background: Snellville resident; founded Baby Katie's Pharm & Kitchen, connecting Georgia farmers with markets. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: President, Baby Katie's Pharm & Kitchen

Priorities:

- Consumer protection: gas pump accuracy, food safety
- Market access and rising input costs for farmers
- Farm-to-school programs and regional food hubs

Source: katherineforgeorgia.com



Tyler Harper (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Seventh-generation South Georgia farmer; State Senate District 7 for a decade before election as Commissioner in 2022.

Current Occupation: Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture

Priorities:

- Expanding the Georgia Grown program
- Trade deals favoring Georgia farmers
- Enhancing food safety and security programs

Source: tylerharperga.com

STATE EXECUTIVE · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Insurance & Safety Fire Commissioner

Regulates Georgia's insurance industry (rates, licensing, consumer complaints) while also serving as State Fire Marshal over fire-safety codes and arson/fraud investigations.



Keisha Waites

Democratic Party

Background: Three terms in the Georgia House; later Atlanta City Council (2022-2024).

Current Occupation: DHS/FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs

Priorities:

- Reviewing and challenging unjustified rate hikes
- A task force to protect seniors from insurance scams
- Faster fire/safety response in underserved areas

Source: keishawaites.org



John King (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Appointed 2019, elected 2022, becoming the first Hispanic statewide official in GA history. Former Atlanta officer and Doraville Police Chief.

Current Occupation: Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner

Priorities:

- Office recovered $100M+ for GA families from insurers
- Tort-reform efforts aimed at lowering premiums
- Arson and insurance-fraud enforcement

Source: votejohnking.com

FEDERAL· STATE EXECUTIVE · SIX-YEAR TERM

U.S. Senate

Represents Georgia in the U.S. Senate: writes and votes on federal legislation, confirms presidential nominees to the courts and cabinet, ratifies treaties, and can vote on impeachment.



Jon Ossoff (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Georgia's senior U.S. Senator since January 2021. Previously an investigative journalist and documentary producer.

Current Occupation: U.S. Senator from Georgia

Priorities:

- Government ethics reform: banning corporate PAC money and stock trading by Congress
- Capping insulin costs; expanding Medicaid and maternal health access
- Protecting Social Security and Medicare

Source: electjon.com



Mike Collins

Republican Party

Background: U.S. Representative for Georgia's 10th District since 2023. Founded and ran a trucking company before Congress.

Current Occupation: U.S. Representative, Georgia's 10th District

Priorities:

- Immigration enforcement: cites his role passing the Laken Riley Act
- Reducing federal regulation on business
- Support for law enforcement and public safety

Source: mikecollinsga.com

What's on the Ballot

Beyond electing candidates, Georgia voters statewide will decide three constitutional amendments this November. A "yes" or "no" vote on each is entirely separate from any candidate choice on the same ballot.

Amendments need majority approval to take effect and apply statewide, not just to Cobb County. The next three pages cover each one in plain language: what it would change, and a few of the arguments made for and against it.

Cobb Collaborative does not recommend a "yes" or "no" vote on any amendment. The exact legal ballot language may differ slightly in wording from the plain-language summaries here.

On this ballot:

Amendment 1: Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund
Amendment 2: Farmland & Timberland Tax Exemption
Amendment 3: Nonpartisan Probate Judges

Read the full legal ballot language → sos.ga.gov

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURE

Amendment 1

Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund

Creates a dedicated state fund the Legislature can use to upgrade Georgia's 911 systems, enabling text, photo, and video messages to dispatchers and replacing technology largely unchanged since 1968.

What it does

- Lets the Legislature create a dedicated fund for 911 system upgrades
- Enables texting, photos, and video to 911 dispatchers statewide
- Modernizes emergency-call technology unchanged since 1968
- Does not itself raise the current $1.50 monthly cell-phone 911 fee
- Supporters say it modernizes outdated 911 technology
- No organized opposition; it passed unanimously

How it got here: like all Georgia constitutional amendments, this measure passed both chambers of the General Assembly by a two-thirds vote before qualifying for the statewide ballot.

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURE

Amendment 2

Farmland & Timberland Tax Exemption

Raises the acreage cap on Georgia's conservation-use property tax break for qualifying farmland and timberland from 2,000 to 4,000 acres per owner.

What it does

- Raises the conservation-use acreage cap from 2,000 to 4,000 acres
- Qualifying farmland stays taxed at 40% of its value, as under current law
- Supporters say it helps preserve family farms and timberland
- Critics say it could reduce local property-tax revenue

How it got here: like all Georgia constitutional amendments, this measure passed both chambers of the General Assembly by a two-thirds vote before qualifying for the statewide ballot.

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURE

Amendment 3

Nonpartisan Probate Judges

Removes party labels from probate judge elections statewide, making Georgia's probate bench (the last set of judicial elections still run by party) nonpartisan like every other judicial race in the state.

What it does

- Requires probate judges to run without party labels
- Makes all Georgia judicial elections nonpartisan
- Probate judges handle wills, estates, and guardianships
- Probate judges also issue marriage and weapons licenses
- Supporters say it aligns probate judges with Georgia's other courts
- Passed with bipartisan support (94% of Republicans, 85% of Democrats)

How it got here: like all Georgia constitutional amendments, this measure passed both chambers of the General Assembly by a two-thirds vote before qualifying for the statewide ballot.

COBB COUNTY BALLOT MEASURE

SPLOST Referendum

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

Cobb County voters will decide whether to renew the county's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) - a voter-approved 1% sales tax dedicated to capital projects. If approved on November 3, 2026, the renewed SPLOST would take effect January 1, 2028, immediately after the current SPLOST expires at the end of 2027, and is projected to raise approximately $1.15 billion over six years.

What it does

- Continues the existing 1% sales tax - not a new or additional tax
- Estimated to raise approximately $1.15 billion over six years
- Legally restricted to capital projects; cannot fund day-to-day government operations, services, or salaries
- Revenue is shared with Cobb's six cities: Marietta, Smyrna, Kennesaw, Acworth, Austell, and Mableton

How it got here:
The Cobb County Board of Commissioners approved the project list on April 28, 2026, placing the SPLOST renewal on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

What It Would Fund

SPLOST Referendum, continued

If approved, SPLOST revenue would be divided among capital project categories across the county, including:

- Transportation: roadway resurfacing and intersection improvements
- Public Safety: new fire stations and a Sheriff's Office infirmary
- Infrastructure: water and sewer system upgrades
- Public Services: replacement of the county courthouse
- Technology & 911: E911 system upgrades
- Recreation & Parks: park and greenspace improvements
- Senior Services: senior center upgrades

How to learn more:
The complete SPLOST project list is available at cobbcounty.gov. As with the rest of this guide, Cobb Collaborative takes no position on the SPLOST referendum.

District Races

Beyond the races on every Georgia ballot, most Cobb County voters will also choose a U.S. House member and district-level state and local officials. These races vary by where you live: your address determines which congressional, state Senate, state House, county commission, and school board districts you're in.

The following pages cover the district races within Cobb Collaborative's Vote Your Voice coverage area for this cycle. Your own ballot may include only some of these races, and may include others not covered here.

To see exactly which congressional, state Senate, and state House districts cover your address, use the **Georgia General Assembly's Find Your Legislator tool** (**legis.ga.gov/find-my-legislator**). Always confirm your full personal sample ballot at **My Voter Page** (**mvp.sos.ga.gov**).

Races in this section:

U.S. House · State Senate · State House · Cobb County Commissioner · Cobb County School Board

Look up your personal sample ballot → mvp.sos.ga.gov

U.S. Representative, District 11

Represents Georgia's 11th Congressional District (all of Bartow, Gordon, and Pickens counties, plus parts of Cherokee and Cobb counties) in the U.S. House: writes and votes on federal legislation, helps set federal spending, and can vote on impeachment.

Open seat: Rep. Barry Loudermilk chose not to seek reelection. Two independent candidates also qualified for the general election (see below).



Chris Harden

Democratic Party

Background: Attorney and founder of Harden Law Firm, LLC; earlier worked in juvenile court law. Georgia native who attended Chattanooga State Technical Community College and Georgia State University. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Attorney

Priorities:

- Tax relief for the middle class and small businesses
- Getting corporate money out of politics; more transparency in campaign finance
- Protecting reproductive freedom and expanding healthcare access

Source: electharden.com



Dr. John Cowan

Republican Party

Background: Neurosurgeon in Cartersville; B.S. in physics from Davidson College, M.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Grew up on his family's farm in Bartow County; founder of Cortex Toys and Cortex Holdings. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Neurosurgeon; small business owner

Priorities:

- Healthcare policy that expands patients' voice and choice
- Election security and transparency in casting and counting ballots
- Lower cost of living and tax relief for families

Source: cowanforcongress.com

Also qualified for the general election:

- **Natalie Richoz (Independent)** - registered nurse, now disabled after surviving a brain tumor; priorities include expanding Medicaid and returning federal land to local tribes (richozforcongress.com).
- **Amanda Carter James (Independent)** - raised three children while earning a political science degree; priorities include affordability and mental health support for children (amandajamesforcongress.com).

FEDERAL · TWO-YEAR TERM

U.S. Representative, District 6

Represents Georgia's 6th Congressional District (part of Cobb, Fulton, and surrounding counties) in the U.S. House: writes and votes on federal legislation, helps set federal spending, and can vote on impeachment.

Rep. Lucy McBath, first elected in 2018, is seeking a fourth full term.



Lucy McBath (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: U.S. Representative for Georgia's 6th District since 2019. Earlier a Delta flight attendant and gun-safety advocate with Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action. Serves on the House Judiciary and Education & the Workforce Committees.

Current Occupation: U.S. Representative, Georgia's 6th District

Priorities:

- Expanding the Affordable Care Act and lowering healthcare costs
- Funding infrastructure, transportation, and veterans' services
- Gun-violence prevention and civil rights protections

Source: lucyforcongress.com



Kevin Martin

Republican Party

Background: Smyrna-based political newcomer; certified public accountant with about 30 years of auditing experience. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Accountant/auditor

Priorities:

- Education reform and local control of schools
- Federal budget reform and reducing bureaucracy
- Housing affordability and lowering prescription drug costs

Source: kevinmartinforcongress.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Senator, District 28

Represents Senate District 28 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on Senate committees.

Running unopposed in the general election. No Republican or third-party candidate qualified this cycle.



Donzella James (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Georgia State Senator dating back to 1994, with a break in service from 2003–2009; earlier an Atlanta Public Schools teacher and U.S. Postal Service employee.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Senator, District 28

Priorities:

- Affordable housing and stronger consumer protections for homeowners
- Good jobs and safer communities
- Expanding healthcare access, including autism coverage for children

Source: senatordonzellajames.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Senator, District 32

Represents Senate District 32 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on Senate committees.



Michael Hettig

Democratic Party

Background: Woodstock resident and attorney, running for state senate for the first time. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Attorney

Priorities:

- Investing in public education and teacher training
- Lowering everyday costs and supporting Georgia-based businesses
- Expanding affordable healthcare access and supporting rural hospitals

Source: hettigforsenate.com



Kay Kirkpatrick (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Georgia State Senator for District 32; serves on the Senate Appropriations, Veterans, and other committees. A retired orthopaedic surgeon after more than thirty years in practice.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Senator, District 32

Priorities:

- Making healthcare insurance costs more transparent
- Expanding mental health services and patient-centered medical policy
- Protecting programs that support veterans and older adults

Source: senatorkaykirkpatrick.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Senator, District 33

Represents Senate District 33 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on Senate committees.

Running unopposed in the general election. No Republican or third-party candidate qualified this cycle.



Michael "Doc" Rhett (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant with 25+ years of service; doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Georgia; adult education instructor for Cobb County Schools. First elected to the Senate in 2014.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Senator; adult education instructor, Cobb County School District

Priorities:

- Expanding veteran support, including technical-college scholarships and funding for the Cobb VECTR Center
- Improving senior care and nursing-home resident protections
- Public-safety and reentry support for people leaving incarceration

Source: drmichaelrhett.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Senator, District 35

Represents Senate District 35 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on Senate committees.

Running unopposed in the general election. Elected in a December 2025 special election to complete the term of former Senator Jason Esteves.



Jaha Howard (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Pediatric dentist and former Cobb County School Board member; won a December 2025 special election to the state senate.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Senator, District 35; pediatric dentist

Priorities:

- Small-business growth and tax incentives
- Expanding access to quality, affordable healthcare
- Making housing more affordable and reducing energy costs

Source: jahahoward.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Senator, District 37

Represents Senate District 37 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on Senate committees.



Darcy Castro

Democratic Party

Background: Background in public relations, journalism, and nonprofit marketing; former Mrs. Georgia. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Public relations/marketing professional

Priorities:

- Addressing rising housing costs and keeping equity out of the market
- Keeping schools safe and expanding access to affordable college
- Fighting rising insurance premiums and healthcare costs

Source: darcycastro.com



Ed Setzler (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: U.S. Army veteran; State Senator for District 37 since January 2023, after previously serving in the Georgia House. Serves on Senate Judiciary, Health, Education, and Science & Technology committees.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Senator, District 37

Priorities:

- Fully funding the QBE education formula and increasing teacher pay
- Funding traffic relief and maintaining the Peach Pass program
- Supporting law enforcement while protecting the rights of the accused

Source: edsetzler.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Senator, District 56

Represents Senate District 56 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on Senate committees.

8-term incumbent John Albers faces Democrat Patrick Thompson in the general election.



Patrick Thompson

Democratic Party

Background: Clean-energy entrepreneur with ~30 years in technology sales and alliance leadership at firms including IBM and AT&T Mobility; founder of two renewable-energy companies.

Current Occupation: Clean-energy entrepreneur; nonprofit executive director

Priorities:

- Expanding healthcare access and lowering prescription drug costs
- Increasing investment in public education and teacher pay
- Expanding transit options, including light rail

Source: patrickthompsonforga.com



John Albers (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Fourth-generation firefighter and former EMT turned business executive; first elected to the Senate in 2010. Chairs the Senate Public Safety Committee and serves as Vice Chair of Finance.

Current Occupation: Business executive; Georgia State Senator

Priorities:

• Supporting public safety and first responders
• Reducing state income and property taxes
• Anti-trafficking and child-safety legislation

Source: senatoralbers.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 19

Represents House District 19 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

4-term incumbent Joseph Gullett faces Democrat Cynthia Starke-Jones in the general election.



Cynthia Starke-Jones

Democratic Party

Background: Longtime educator with 30+ years in education; master's degree in education; previously served on the Paulding County Board of Education.

Current Occupation: Educator

Priorities:

- Lowering healthcare costs and expanding mobile health access
- Expanding housing affordability programs
- Raising teacher pay and modernizing school funding

Source: electstarkejones.com



Joseph Gullett (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Works in technology; former chair of the Paulding County GOP. First elected in 2018, seeking a fifth term.

Current Occupation: Small business owner; State Representative

Priorities:

- Cutting taxes and reducing wasteful government spending
- Supporting law enforcement and victims' rights legislation
- Expanding school choice and teacher support

Source: electjosephgullett.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 22

Represents House District 22 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

2-term incumbent Jordan Ridley faces Democrat James Shade, a rematch of their 2024 race.



James Shade

Democratic Party

Background: 20+ years in corporate law, retail, and healthcare; holds a law degree; previously ran for this seat in 2024.

Current Occupation: Corporate legal professional

Priorities:

- Addressing housing costs, property taxes, and wages
- Increasing infrastructure and education funding amid district growth
- Pursuing sustainable, equitable development

Source: shadeforga.com



Jordan Ridley (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Cherokee County native with a background in public policy; small business owner. First elected in 2022.

Current Occupation: Small business owner; State Representative

Priorities:

- Cutting income taxes and working toward eliminating property taxes
- Expanding school choice and parental rights
- Strengthening government transparency and public safety

Source: ridleyforhouse.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 34

Represents District 34 in the Georgia House of Representatives: introduces, debates, and votes on state laws, helps set the state budget, and serves on legislative committees.



Titus Nichols

Democratic Party

Background: Small business owner and personal injury attorney; officer in the U.S. Army Reserves and former prosecutor. Originally from Columbus, Ohio; now a Marietta resident. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Attorney; small business owner

Priorities:

- Investing in public and affordable housing
- Expanding free/reduced lunch programs and universal Pre-K
- Expanding partnership between law enforcement and mental health professionals

Source: titus4ga.com



Devan Seabaugh (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Georgia State Representative for District 34 since 2021. EMT paramedic with Grady EMS and vice president with MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Representative, District 34; ambulance company executive

Priorities:

- Tax relief: lowering state income tax, capping property tax increases
- Cracking down on squatting and protecting property rights
- Protecting parental rights and increasing school safety

Source: voteseabaugh.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 35

Represents District 35 in the Georgia House of Representatives: introduces, debates, and votes on state laws, helps set the state budget, and serves on legislative committees.



Lisa Campbell (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Georgia State Representative for District 35 since 2023; business and communications professional.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Representative, District 35

Priorities:

- Expanding access to affordable healthcare and protecting reproductive rights
- Supporting fully funded public schools and fair wages
- Addressing gun violence while advancing environmental sustainability

Source: lisaforga.com



Elvis Casely

Republican Party

Background: Kennesaw resident and business professional with experience in sales and entrepreneurship. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Business professional

Priorities:

- Eliminating property taxes and replacing the revenue with fairer alternatives
- Increasing parental involvement and curriculum transparency in schools
- Tougher penalties for crimes against children

Source: elvisforga.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 36

Represents House District 36 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

4-term incumbent Ginny Ehrhart faces Democrat Luc Noiset in the general election.



Luc Noiset

Democratic Party

Background: Economics professor and Acworth resident; no prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Economics professor

Priorities:

- Expanding healthcare access, including coverage for residents under 19
- Increasing public education funding
- Increasing transparency in the state budget process

Source: mdjonline.com



Ginny Ehrhart (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Author, entrepreneur, and former radio/TV host. First elected in 2018, seeking a fifth term.

Current Occupation: Entrepreneur; State Representative

Priorities:

- Child-protection legislation
- School bus and public safety enforcement
- Election integrity laws

Source: ginnyehrhart.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 37

Represents House District 37 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Running unopposed in the general election. No Republican or third-party candidate qualified this cycle.



Mary Frances Williams (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: 34 years as a public policy consultant and nonprofit advocate for women, children, and families before her 2018 election.

Current Occupation: State Representative; former nonprofit policy advocate

Priorities:

- Expanding access to healthcare
- Adequately and fairly funding public schools
- Protecting the environment and transportation infrastructure

Source: maryfranceswilliams.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 38

Represents House District 38 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Running unopposed in the general election. No Republican or third-party candidate qualified this cycle.



David Wilkerson (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: CPA who began his career at Deloitte & Touche; has represented the Austell/Mableton/Powder Springs area since 2011 and serves as House Democratic Whip.

Current Occupation: State Representative; accountant

Priorities:

- Fully funding K-12 education and expanding college affordability
- Protecting Advanced Placement program funding
- Supporting middle-class families through the Working Families Caucus

Source: wilkersonforgeorgia.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 39

Represents House District 39 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Running unopposed in the general election. No Republican or third-party candidate qualified this cycle.



Terry Cummings (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Retired U.S. Department of Justice attorney with 30+ years in law enforcement and criminal justice; J.D. from Georgetown University. Represents the Kennesaw area since January 2023.

Current Occupation: Attorney (retired federal prosecutor); State Representative

Priorities:

- Expanding healthcare access, including Medicaid expansion
- Protecting reproductive rights and equal-pay protections
- Pursuing criminal-justice reform

Source: terry4ga.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 41

Represents House District 41 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Running unopposed in the general election.



Michael Smith (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Georgia State Representative for District 41 since January 2013; B.S. from Kennesaw State University. Serves on the House Economic Development & Tourism, Interstate Cooperation, Regulated Industries, State Properties, and Transportation committees.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Representative, District 41

Committee Focus:

- Economic development and tourism policy
- Transportation and regulated industries oversight
- Interstate cooperation and state properties

Source: legis.ga.gov, ballotpedia.org

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 42

Represents House District 42 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

First-term incumbent Gabriel Sanchez faces Republican Andre Stafford in the general election.



Gabriel Sanchez (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Born and raised in Cobb County to Colombian immigrant parents; worked as a community organizer before winning election in 2024.

Current Occupation: State Representative

Priorities:

- Expanding access to affordable housing and homeownership
- Lowering healthcare and prescription drug costs
- Strengthening workers' rights and paid parental leave

Source: sanchezforgeorgia.com



Andre Stafford

Republican Party

Background: Smyrna resident who works as a restaurant manager; won the Republican primary unopposed in May 2026.

Current Occupation: Restaurant manager

Priorities:

- Lowering the cost of living
- Improving education
- Addressing housing affordability

Source: andreforga.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 43

Represents House District 43 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Second-term Democratic incumbent Solomon Adesanya is running unopposed in the general election.



Solomon Adesanya (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Second-generation American whose father emigrated from Nigeria in 1970; graduate of Georgia State University. First elected to represent District 43 (Marietta/Smyrna area) in 2022 and re-elected unopposed in 2024.

Current Occupation: Small business owner - owns Kale Me Crazy restaurants in Smyrna and Marietta

Priorities:

- Supporting public education and opposing school voucher programs
- Reproductive freedom and maternal health
- Expanding health care access, including Medicaid expansion

Source: solomonadesanya.org

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 44

Represents House District 44 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Six-term incumbent Don Parsons faces Democrat Danielle Bell in a general-election rematch of their 2024 race.



Danielle Bell

Democratic Party

Background: Grew up on a family farm in Indiana; moved to Georgia in 2015; holds degrees from DePauw University and Case Western Reserve University; running again after a 2024 loss to Parsons.

Current Occupation: Licensed clinical social worker and business/executive coach

Priorities:

- Lowering the cost of living - groceries, gas, utilities, and childcare
- Health care equality and ending surprise medical bills
- Accountable, accessible leadership

Source: danielleforgeorgia.com



Don Parsons (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Represents District 44 (unincorporated north Cobb County) since 2013, and previously represented old District 42 from 1995–2013; served in the U.S. Army Reserve Signal Corps.

Current Occupation: Retired telecom operations manager; business/telecom consultant; chairs the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee

Priorities:

- Utility and insurance reform, including electricity cost transparency
- Tax relief, including income tax cuts and exempting overtime/tips
- Public safety, including fentanyl enforcement

Source: donparsons.org

State Representative, District 45

Represents House District 45 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Fifteen-term incumbent Sharon Cooper faces Democrat Michelle Schreiner in the general election.



Michelle Schreiner

Democratic Party

Background: East Cobb native with a PhD in psychology; former college professor and federal evaluator; now leads research teams at a Fortune 50 company.

Current Occupation: Corporate research and decision-analysis leader

Priorities:

- Strengthening public schools and supporting teachers
- Supporting caregivers and aging residents navigating healthcare
- Safe, stable communities through data-driven, accountable governance

Source: michelleschreinerga.com



Sharon Cooper (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Registered nurse and author who has represented East Cobb in the Georgia House since 1996; chairs the House Public and Community Health Committee.

Current Occupation: State Representative

Priorities:

- Affordability and job creation with accessible wages
- Expanding healthcare access, including mental health services and telehealth
- Education accountability and balanced tax relief

Source: mdjonline.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 46

Represents House District 46 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Seven-term incumbent John Carson faces Democrat Dumont Walker in the general election.



Dumont Walker

Democratic Party

Background: Woodstock resident with nearly two decades in nonprofit and community work; first-time candidate.

Current Occupation: Senior Manager of Strategic Communications

Priorities:

- Attainable, affordable housing with smart development and rent protections
- Affordable healthcare, including strengthening Medicare/Medicaid and lowering drug costs
- Public school investment and teacher pay

Source: friendsofdumont.com



John Carson (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Atlanta native and CPA elected to the House in an October 2011 special election; represents northeast Cobb and southeast Cherokee counties; serves on Georgia Chamber of Commerce and MUST Ministries boards.

Current Occupation: CPA; Managing Director of Sales/CFO, State Tax Incentives Inc.

Priorities:

- Affordability, including property tax reform
- Education, including school choice
- Energy policy and limited government

Source: votejohncarson.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 60

Represents House District 60 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

Democratic incumbent Sheila Jones is running unopposed in the general election.



Sheila Jones (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Spent 34 years at Lockheed Martin, holding multiple leadership roles in the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, including the union's first female trustee; attended Clark College and Georgia State University.

Current Occupation: State Representative

Priorities:

- Worker advocacy, including wages, unemployment benefits, and workers' compensation
- Healthcare access and civil rights
- Constituent services and community programs

Source: sheilajones.org

STATE LEGISLATIVE · TWO-YEAR TERM

State Representative, District 61

Represents House District 61 in the Georgia General Assembly: introduces, debates, and votes on state legislation, helps set the state budget, and serves on House committees.

One-term incumbent Mekyah McQueen faces Republican Damita Bishop in the general election.



Mekyah McQueen (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Georgia State Representative for District 61 since 2024; Spelman College graduate with a degree in mathematics; former high school math teacher.

Current Occupation: Georgia State Representative, District 61

Priorities:

- Well-funded public education
- Expanding Medicaid access
- Protecting voting rights

Source: mcqueenforga.com



Damita Bishop

Republican Party

Background: Cobb County rideshare driver and criminal justice reform advocate; co-founder of Fighting Against Institutionalized Railroading (FAIR), a nonprofit focused on sentencing and reentry reform. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Rideshare driver; advocate

Priorities:

- Sentencing reform and earned-time credits
- Accountability and transparency for the Dept. of Corrections
- Reentry planning and record-sealing reforms

Source: facebook.com/damita.bishop, gps.press

Cobb County Commissioner, District 1

Represents District 1 (West Cobb) on the Cobb County Board of Commissioners: votes on the county budget, land use and zoning decisions, and county services.

Running unopposed in the general election.



Keli Gambrill (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Cobb County Commissioner, District 1; B.A. in Accounting; Certified County Commissioner and ISO 9000 Internal Auditor; longtime West Cobb community and land-use advocate.

Current Occupation: Cobb County Commissioner, District 1

Priorities:

- Protecting neighborhood character amid growth and development
- Public safety and infrastructure/traffic improvements
- Fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars

Source: cobbneedskeli.com

Cobb County Commissioner, District 3

Represents District 3 (Northeast Cobb) on the Cobb County Board of Commissioners: votes on the county budget, land use and zoning decisions, and county services.

Four-term incumbent JoAnn Birrell faces Democrat Kevin Redmon in the general election.



Kevin Redmon

Democratic Party

Background: East Cobb resident for over 20 years with 30 years in business; Oglethorpe University graduate. Led Commissioner Jerica Richardson's community cabinet and opposed the proposed East Cobb cityhood effort. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Business professional

Priorities:

- Smart budgeting and cutting red tape for small businesses
- Competitive pay for police, fire, and 911 personnel; data-driven road-safety fixes
- Two-way communication with residents through town halls and community cabinets

Source: kevinforcobb.com



JoAnn Birrell (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Cobb County Commissioner, District 3, since 2010, now seeking a fifth term; 30-year Cobb County resident; founded the "Keep It in Cobb" committee supporting local businesses.

Current Occupation: Cobb County Commissioner, District 3

Priorities:

- Public safety, including a new Northeast Cobb police precinct
- Fiscal restraint: no millage-rate increase in 16 years
- Completing park, library, and flood-mitigation projects already underway

Source: joanncan26.com

Cobb County School Board, Post 2

Serves on the Cobb County Board of Education: sets district policy, approves the school system budget, and hires/oversees the superintendent.

Running unopposed in the general election.



Becky Sayler (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Cobb County Board of Education member for Post 2 since January 2023; elementary school teacher in Cobb County; B.A. from Emory University, graduate degree from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Current Occupation: Cobb County School Board member; elementary school teacher

Priorities:

- More transparency in district financial decisions
- Expanding PreK and early-literacy support
- Clear, consistent communication with families and staff

Source: beckysayler.com

Cobb County School Board, Post 4

Serves on the Cobb County Board of Education: sets district policy, approves the school system budget, and hires/oversees the superintendent.

Three-term incumbent David Chastain faces Democrat Michael Garza in the general election.



Micheal Garza

Democratic Party

Background: Web development business owner and East Cobb parent; active in school PTAs and the East Cobb County Council of PTAs; member of the Cobb Community Care Coalition. No prior elected office.

Current Occupation: Web development business owner

Priorities:

- Greater board accountability and independence from administration
- Keeping curriculum/library decisions with educators, not committees
- Improving special-education communication and support

Source: eastcobbnews.com, cobbcountycourier.com



David Chastain (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Three-term Cobb County Board of Education member for Post 4, representing the Kell, Lassiter, and Sprayberry high school attendance zones; served as board chair in 2025.

Current Occupation: Cobb County School Board member

Priorities:

- Student academic performance improvements
- Facility upgrades funded through SPLOST
- School safety initiatives

Source: davidforcobb.com

COBB COUNTY SCHOOLS · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Cobb County School Board, Post 6

Serves on the Cobb County Board of Education: sets district policy, approves the school system budget, and hires/oversees the superintendent.

Running unopposed in the general election.



Nichelle Davis (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Former Cobb County educator who taught at Lindley Middle School; now senior manager at Achieve Atlanta, a nonprofit focused on postsecondary readiness. Elected to the Cobb County Board of Education, Post 6, in 2022; seeking a second term.

Current Occupation: Cobb County School Board member; Senior Manager, Achieve Atlanta

Priorities:
• Data-driven decisions focused on academic outcomes, high-quality curriculum, and teacher support
• Strengthened school safety measures and inclusive, secure schools
• Transparency and oversight so taxpayer dollars are maximized for direct classroom impact

Source: nichelle4cobbschools.com

Cobb County Solicitor-General

Serves as Cobb County's chief misdemeanor prosecutor in State Court: investigates crimes, works with victims and witnesses, and prosecutes misdemeanor offenses on behalf of the county.

Incumbent Democrat Makia Metzger is running unopposed in the general election.



Makia Metzger (Incumbent)

Democratic Party

Background: Born in Sierra Leone; naturalized U.S. citizen who has lived in Cobb County for more than 30 years. Holds a B.A. in Political Science from Georgia State University and a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, with 18 years of prosecutorial experience. First elected in 2022 as the county's first African American and first woman Solicitor-General.

Current Occupation: Cobb County Solicitor-General

Priorities:

- A "smart justice" approach that reduces reliance on incarceration for low-level offenses while maintaining accountability
- Modernizing office technology and case processing
- Expanding victim support services and community outreach

Source: metzger4cobbsolicitorgeneral.com

COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT · FOUR-YEAR TERM

Cobb County Surveyor

Performs and certifies official land surveys for Cobb County, including boundary lines and court-ordered surveys, and maintains the county's official record of surveys and plats.

Incumbent Republican Chris Evans is running unopposed in the general election.



Chris Evans (Incumbent)

Republican Party

Background: Marietta resident with a finance degree from the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business; currently serves as Cobb County Surveyor.

Current Occupation: Real estate broker/business owner

Focus:

- Continuing to carry out the office's statutory land-surveying and record-keeping duties
- Background in real estate and property transactions in Cobb County
- No published campaign platform was available at the time of publication

Source: Georgia My Voter Page sample ballot, mvp.sos.ga.gov

Sources & Get Involved

Sources

Candidate backgrounds and priorities in this guide are drawn from campaign websites, Ballotpedia, and Georgia news coverage as of August 2026. Ballot measure summaries are drawn from the official ballot language and legislative text.

Candidates, ballot measures, and race details can still change before Election Day; always confirm your personal sample ballot at **My Voter Page (mvp.sos.ga.gov).**

Get Involved

This guide is a project of Cobb Collaborative's Vote Your Voice program, which helps young people in Cobb County engage with elections. Want to volunteer, host a voter-registration drive, or build a guide like this one for your own community? Reach out at cobbcollaborative.org/vote-your-voice.

This guide is nonpartisan and does not endorse or oppose any candidate, party, or ballot measure.

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