



# GEORGIA DEMOCRATS

## DPG TOOLKIT: TELL THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO VOTE AGAINST HB 397

The Senate passed an omnibus voting and election bill on Wednesday, April 2nd. The bill now moves on to the House of Representatives where the entire body will vote to agree or disagree with the updated bill. **We need you to contact your State Rep and tell them to OPPOSE or to DISAGREE with HB 397.**

This bill has numerous policies that are bad for voters and county elections offices. Below are some of the most concerning provisions:

- It would remove Georgia from ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center, which is a secure, state of the art, and efficient system for sharing data.
- It prevents counties from allowing voters to hand-deliver absentee ballots the weekend before Election Day, which is an obvious GOP voter suppression tactic.
- It grants the SEB greater authority and codifies the rules they illegally tried to pass last fall that would add confusion and greatly burden election staff.
- It also allows municipalities to opt out providing Saturday voting so long as there isn't a statewide or countywide election at the same time.

We need you to add your voices to this conversation today!

## CALL OR EMAIL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Call or email your State Representative urging them **to oppose or to disagree with HB 397!**

We provide a template below but if you want help writing your comments and personalizing them, we are here to help – email [voterprotection@georgiademocrat.org](mailto:voterprotection@georgiademocrat.org).

**Find your State Representative and their contact information here:**

<https://pluralpolicy.com/find-your-legislator/>

## NOTES FOR COMMENTS

- **Make your message original and unique.** Take a look at the [background](#) info on the bill and the [expanded talking points](#) below!
- **Include your name and where you live in Georgia.**
- **Include that you are opposing “HB 397.”**
- **The strongest messages are personal.** If you can, speak to your personal experience and desire to see laws that make voting easier for Georgians.

## SAMPLE EMAIL / CALL SCRIPT

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m your constituent in [COUNTY/CITY]. I’m calling/writing to urge you to OPPOSE H.B. 397.

The changes this bill proposes – including pulling Georgia out of a non-partisan voter accuracy organization, preventing voters from hand delivering absentee ballots the weekend before Election Day, and making it more difficult for elections officials to do their work– will hurt the security and fairness of our elections.

Polling shows 98% of Republicans believe the 2024 election was conducted with integrity. Why are all of these policies necessary now?

[Insert statements about why voting and elections are so important to you]

This bill is based on lies and conspiracy theories about non-existent fraud, and it will undermine future elections. I urge you to protect the integrity of our elections and reject this bill.

## BACKGROUND

Republicans advanced two voter suppression omnibus bills on March 27th. HB 397 passed out of the Senate Ethics Committee and SB 175 passed out of the House Governmental Affairs Committee. Both bills had many identical provisions, but there are some key differences between the two. We are focusing our advocacy on the worse of the two bills, HB 397, as it contains all the harmful provisions of SB 175 plus more of its own. See below for a comparison and DPG’s position on the proposals in these bills.

<b>Policy Summary</b>	<b>SENATE In HB 397?</b>	<b>HOUSE In SB 175?</b>	<b>DPG Position</b>
Prohibits Georgia membership in ERIC, but does permit entry into multistate compacts. Implementation not until 2027.	<b>Yes</b> Sections 1, 7, 8, 15	<b>Yes</b> Sections 1, 3.1, 4, 9	Oppose, but timeline is more reasonable
Attaches SEB to the State Accounting Office (SEB is currently attached to the SOS).	<b>Yes</b> Section 2	<b>Yes</b> Section 2	Oppose
Provides procedure for replacing SEB members when Legislature is out of session.	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b> Section 2	Support
Requires the SEB to maintain custody of investigative reports and communications.	<b>Yes</b> Section 3	<b>No</b>	Oppose
Ensures that SEB Rules adopted within 60 days of an election are not effective until 30 days after that election.	<b>Yes</b> Section 4	<b>Yes</b> Section 2.1	Supported a 90 day window
Adds provisions relating to qualification of independent candidates for President.	<b>Yes</b> Section 5	<b>No</b>	No position
Requires SEB to submit report on improving voter registration by December 31, 2025.	<b>Yes</b> Section 6	<b>Yes</b> Section 3	Oppose
Requires county boards of registrars and election superintendents to make lists of electors available at no cost.	<b>Yes</b> Section 6	<b>Yes</b> Section 3	Oppose

<b>Policy Summary</b>	<b>SENATE In HB 397?</b>	<b>HOUSE In SB 175?</b>	<b>DPG Position</b>
<b>Eliminates hand delivery of absentee ballots on the weekend before the election (Monday and Election Day hand delivery still allowed).</b>	<b>Yes</b> Section 9	<b>Yes</b> Section 5	Oppose
<b>Requires Drop Box Video Surveillance 24/7.</b>	<b>Yes</b> Section 9	<b>No</b>	Oppose
<b>Allows municipalities to opt out of Saturday voting by calling a meeting of municipal governing authority, unless the election coincides with a state or county election.</b>	<b>Yes</b> Section 10	<b>Yes</b> Section 6	Oppose
<b>Adds locations where poll watchers can be present in the tabulating center.</b>	<b>Yes</b> Section 11	<b>No</b>	Oppose
<b>Requires same day posting of partial election results on county website.</b>	<b>Yes</b> Section 12	<b>No</b>	Oppose
<b>Changes timing of statewide special elections.</b>	<b>Yes</b> Section 13	<b>Yes</b> Section 7	Support
<b>Extends time between call of special primary and election to 60 days; extends time between call of special general election and election to 45 days. Also removes September special in odd numbered years and March special in even years if it's a question.</b>	<b>Yes</b> Section 14	<b>Yes</b> Section 8	Support

## EXPANDED TALKING POINTS

- Pulling Georgia out of ERIC – which is non-partisan and used by 24 states to share info about voters moving out of state – will make it harder to maintain accurate voting rolls, something that Republicans and Democrats alike agree is important.
- Preventing voters an opportunity to return ballots the weekend before election day is nothing short of a voter suppression tactic. If this is truly meant to ease burden on smaller counties, why not create an opt-out provision – as the legislature provided in this bill with regard to Saturday voting for municipal elections?
- Finally, this bill adds administrative burden on our county elections offices by requiring electors lists be made available at no cost, increasing the areas where poll watchers can observe in tabulation centers, and requiring same day posting of partial election results on county websites.
- Polling shows 98% of Republicans believe the 2024 election was conducted with integrity. Secretary of State Raffensperger confirmed through an investigation by his office that non-citizen voter registration in Georgia is “effectively non-existent.” A post-election audit of the state’s use of QR codes on ballots concluded, “the QR codes were 100% correct in all cases.” Why are all of these policies necessary now?