



# 2023-24

## Post Session Legislative Summary & Legislative Vision

June 23, 2023

Authored by:

Representative Viola Davis  
Representative Kim Schofield  
Representative Sandra Scott



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## Legislative Vision of Representatives: Viola Davis, Sandra Scott, and Kim Schofield - Aligning with the Atlanta Urban League's 'State of Black Georgia'

Democratic Representatives Viola Davis, Sandra Scott, and Kim Schofield are dedicated to outlining their legislative agenda and vision for 2024. Their motivation stems from the resounding calls for justice and equity in various aspects such as education, economic development, voting rights, criminal justice reform, gun safety reform, healthcare, and housing.

These Representatives have crafted impactful legislation that can bring positive change to our community. They have also identified crucial legislation that will propel Georgia forward in the years to come. Their unwavering commitment to championing these important laws stems from their understanding of the transformative impact they can have on our community.

Their tireless efforts are focused on making a tangible difference in the lives of the people they represent. They are firmly dedicated to being the voice of their constituents in their respective districts and across the entire state of Georgia. Their aim is to bring about the much-needed changes that their communities desire and deserve.

For further information on the Atlanta Urban League's 'State of Black Georgia' please visit (<https://ulgatl.org/sobg-2023/>)



Rep. Viola Davis



Rep. Kim Schofield



Rep. Sandra Scott

**“Working Together for the Greater Good”**

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# Education

## Elevate Education & Eliminate Disparities

We filed great legislation around education to elevate education and eliminate disparities. We strive to improve the Quality Basic Education Act (QBE) to improve the formula used to fund education and provide services.

**House Bill 3, or the "Support for Students Living in Poverty Act"**, drafted by Representative Sandra Scott will provide additional resources to certain students who may be living in poverty. The fiscal note estimates HB 3 will provide an additional \$300 million dollars for the education of "Students Living in Poverty". Georgia is 1 of 6 states yet to fund "Students Living in Poverty" while the other states provide funding.

"A student's financial status should never hinder his or her educational opportunities," said Rep. Sandra Scott. "House Bill 3 would provide a pathway for schools to receive grant funding that would launch programs that directly serve our low-income students, such as wrap-around learning interventions, additional counselors for mental health care, and even transportation for low-income students to participate in dual enrollment programs. It's time for Georgia to join the majority of states across our country that currently provide this additional funding for low-income students."

**House Bill 3** would examine the program weights and funding requirements under the Quality Basic Education Act to issue grants that benefit students in poverty. Using funds appropriated by the Georgia General Assembly, the State Board of Education (BOE) would issue grant funding to local units of administration for programming geared towards these students in need. Under HB 3, students in poverty would include students whose family unit is enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and/or the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, students who are experiencing homelessness, students in foster care or migrant students.

For more information on HB3, please click <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63471>

To watch the hearing on HB3 <https://youtu.be/vUiXAQ53dvk>

Opinion: Georgia students living in poverty left behind in Kemp's plan, by Maureen Downey, The Atlanta-Journal Constitution, February 1, 2022.

<https://www.ajc.com/education/get-schooled-blog/opinion-georgia-students-living-in-poverty-left-behind-in-kemps-plan/4DLUXUY36FGYPGKYHTNSWFH73I/>

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## Assessing Education Funding and Legislative Priorities

In a thought-provoking piece titled “State of Education Funding (2023): Opportunity is Knocking,” authored by Stephen Owens from the GBPI on January 26, 2023, the current status of education funding is examined. The article can be accessed here: [State of Education Funding \(2023\): Opportunity is Knocking](#)

Representative Viola Davis shares her perspective on the importance of prioritizing underfunded schools in an op-ed titled “Governor, State School Chief must make underfunded schools top priority.” Her article can be found here: OP/ED: [Governor, State School Chief must make underfunded schools top priority](#)

**Senate Bill 233 (SB233)**, known as ‘**The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act**’, is a subject of discussion. It primarily targets schools with a majority of Black students and those with a majority of students living in poverty. The projected cost of SB233, upon full implementation, is conservatively estimated at an additional \$150 million. However, it is important to note that this voucher system would divert public funds from schools that cater to these specific student populations.

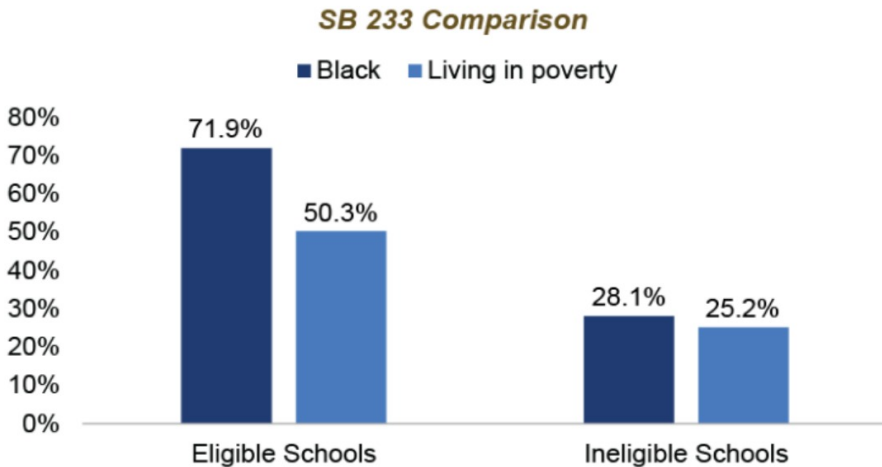
Considering the welfare of Georgia’s children, state lawmakers are urged to reject SB 233. Instead, they should explore alternative legislation such as SB 284 or HB 668, which propose additional funding for students who are most in need. It is worth mentioning that House Bill 3 aligns with this alternative approach.

**Senate Bill 233 (SB233) – ‘The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act’ - Targets Majority Black Schools and Those with Majority Students in Poverty:**

- **Senate Bill 233** is conservatively projected to **cost an additional \$150 million** upon full implementation.
- This voucher would divert public funds from schools serving majority Black students and majority living in poverty.
- State lawmakers concerned about Georgia’s children should reject **SB 233** and consider legislation like **SB 284 or HB 668** which provide additional funding for students who need it most.
- **House Bill 3 included.**



Rep. Doreen Carter, Rep. Kim Schofield, Rep. Viola Davis, and Rep. Sandra Scott



GEORGIA BUDGET & POLICY INSTITUTE  GBPI.org

<https://gbpi.org/bill-analysis-sb-233/>

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## House Bill 712 - Ensuring Adequate Funding for School Transportation

House Bill 712 (HB 712), spearheaded by Rep. Viola Davis, aims to secure full funding for transportation in school districts across Georgia. This legislation seeks to amend Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the O.C.G.A., which pertains to program weights and funding requirements under Quality Basic Education (QBE). Its purpose is to increase funding specially designated for transportation throughout the state of Georgia. For more detailed information on HB 712, please visit: [HB 712 Legislation](#)

### Addressing Transportation Funding Shortcomings in Georgia

Georgia has a recurring issue of inadequately funding pupil transportation, which poses safety concerns and imposes significant financial burdens on local school districts. According to the Georgia Budget and Public Institute (GBPI):

1. With no additional money planned for student transportation, local districts are again left to address the issue with little help, especially troublesome for **rural school districts**.
2. One culprit for the rising transportation costs is the failure to account for the true needs of Georgia's schools. The Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula traditionally funds pay for driver salaries and school bus replacement. Since FY 2011 bus replacement has been financed outside QBE through the sale of bonds.
3. State policymakers shifted the responsibility for paying health insurance costs for non-teaching staff from the state to local school districts.<sup>[3]</sup> This decreased further state education spending, leaving districts to cover the cost.
4. School districts saddled with health insurance and higher transportation costs, once carried by the state, are tapping money once used for other school needs. Rising fuel prices and the need for more drivers as enrollment grows also eat at local budgets. Meanwhile, state lawmakers declined to come up with enough money to replace the state's aging bus fleet.

These circumstances highlight the pressing need to address transportation funding inadequacies in Georgia's education system. HB 712 serves as a crucial step toward rectifying this issue and ensuring that school districts receive the necessary financial support to provide safe and efficient transportation for students.

## K-12 Transportation Cost Rises, State Funding Does Not

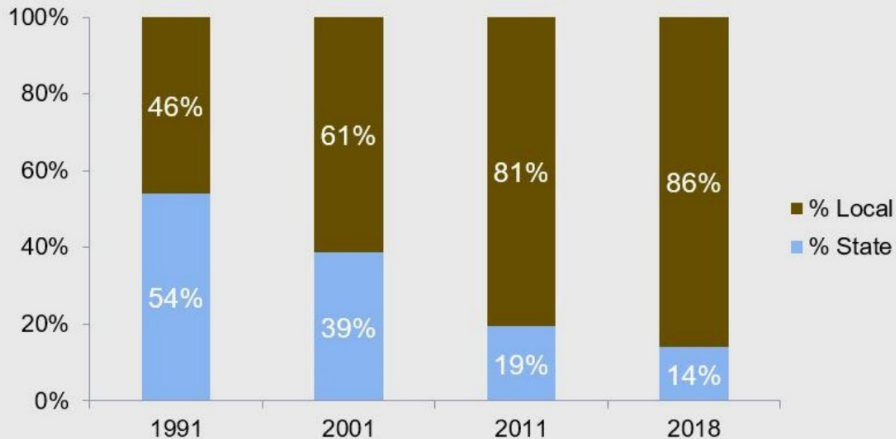


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<https://gbpi.org/georgia-lawmakers-should-renew-their-commitment-to-student-transportation/>

<https://stateaffairs.com/georgia/education/georgia-school-bus-driver-shortages-aging-buses-pt1/>

### State Covers a Shrinking Share of Student Busing Costs



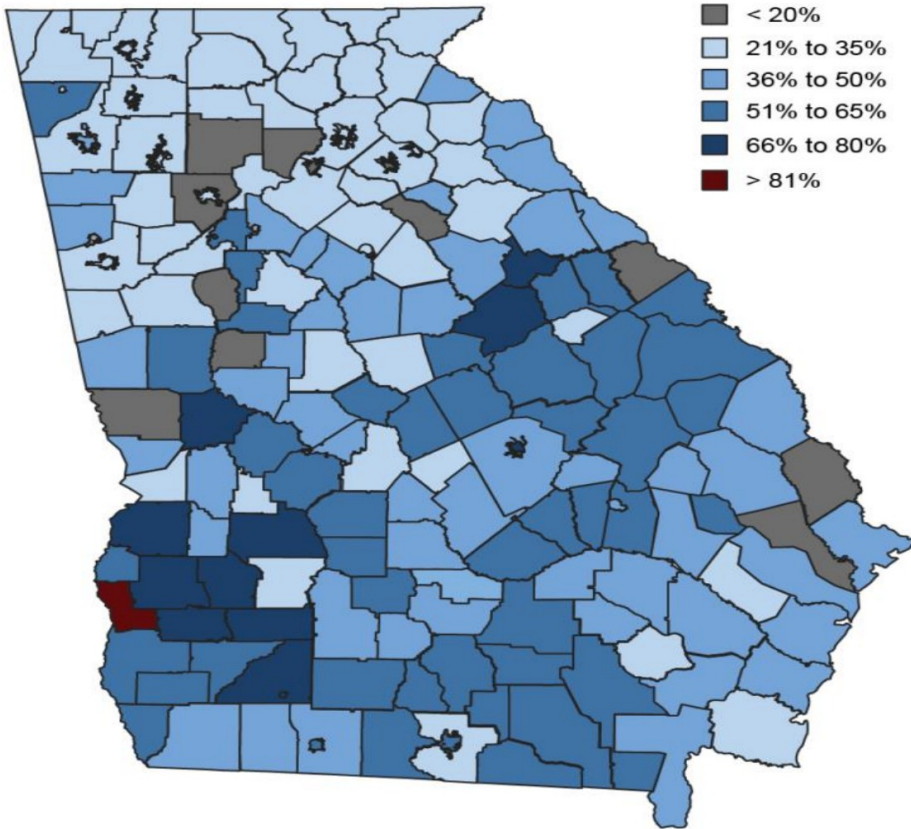
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Source: *Final Report of the Senate Study Committee on School Transportation, Nutrition and Support Personnel (2000)*. Georgia State Senate. GBPI analysis of District Expenditure Reports, fiscal years 2001, 2011 and 2018, and State Mid-term Allotment Sheets, fiscal years 2001, 2011 and 2018, Georgia Department of Education.

- Georgia has one of the highest overall rates of child poverty in the nation and simultaneously provides schools with no specific funding to support these children—one of only six such states.<sup>[2]</sup>
- Georgia must join the rest of the nation and create an Opportunity Weight in the school funding formula to specifically address the needs of students living in poverty. This type of funding would help ensure these students are given comparable opportunities to their wealthier peers.
- As of 2020, Georgia had more children (aged 0-17) in poverty than 43 other states.<sup>[3]</sup> According to the most recent Georgia KIDS COUNT Data, 20 percent of children in Georgia live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.<sup>[4]</sup> Black and Brown children are much more likely to live in poverty than their white and Asian American or Pacific Islander (AAPI) neighbors. The map below shows the distribution of students in poverty by school district.



**Percentage of Students Living in Poverty by District**



Source: Governor's Office of Student Achievement. 2020-21 Direct Certification (District Level)

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<https://gbpi.org/state-of-education-funding-2023-opportunity-is-knocking/>

**Renewing the Commitment to Student Transportation in Georgia**

For a comprehensive analysis on the importance of renewing the commitment to student transportation in Georgia, please refer to the article titled, "Georgia Lawmakers Should Renew Their Commitment to Student Transportation," available at [Georgia Lawmakers Should Renew Their Commitment to Student Transportation.](#)

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## Addressing Child Poverty and Funding Disparities

Child poverty remains a pressing concern in Georgia, with one of the highest rates in the nation. Surprisingly, the state provides no specific funding to support these children, making it one of only six states lacking such provisions.

To address this issue and ensure equitable opportunities for students living in poverty, Georgia should align with the rest of the nation and incorporate an Opportunity Weight into the school funding formula. This targeted funding approach would cater to the unique needs of students facing economic hardship, enabling them to access comparable opportunities to their wealthier peers.

As of 2020, Georgia had a larger population of children (aged 0-17) living in poverty compared to 43 other states. According to recent data from Georgia KIDS COUNT, 20 percent of children in the state reside in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. It is important to note that children from Black and Brown communities are disproportionately affected by poverty compared to their white and Asian American or Pacific Islander (AAPI) counterparts. The distribution of students in poverty, by school district, can be visualized through the provided map.

These statistics emphasize the urgency of addressing child poverty and funding disparities in Georgia, advocating for proactive measures that ensure every student has an equal opportunity to thrive.



**Representative Imani Barnes**



**Representative Imani Barnes at the Capitol**

## **House Bill 510 - Ensuring Healthy Start for Georgia Students**

**House Bill 510 (HB 510)**, introduced by Rep. Imani Barnes, aims to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students enrolled in Georgia public schools. Additionally, the bill promotes the utilization of locally sourced Georgia-grown food in school cafeterias. This legislation proposes amendments to Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the O.C.G.A., which focuses on elementary and secondary education. It encompasses provisions for offering breakfast and lunch programs to all public-school students, ensuring no-cost meals for students qualifying under federal and state guidelines for reduced-price meals. The bill also outlines the incorporation of school breakfast programs within the framework of the Quality Basic Education Act. For a more comprehensive understanding of HB 510, please refer to the following link: [HB510 Legislation](#)

An informative news story on Channel 11 provides further insight into the positive impact of this Georgia bill. To learn more, please visit: [News Story on Channel 11](#)

**Update:** Governor Kemp has vetoed the allocation of funds in the budget intended for providing low-cost breakfast and lunch to Georgia students. This veto represents a reduction

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of \$6,333,713 million in state general funds of the Department of Education allocated for student nutrition. More details on this veto and related statements can be found in the HB19-FY 2024 Budget – Line-Item Veto and Disregard Letter and Statements. Please refer to the following link for further information: [HB19-FY 2024 Budget- Line Item Veto and Disregard Letter and Statements](#)

**The first question at hand is: What steps can be taken to minimize resource disparities and promote equitable funding for public education and post-secondary education in Georgia?**

Regarding taxation, the DeKalb County Board of Education, along with Fulton County and Cobb County, is considered tax-rich, classifying them as “donor counties” in terms of education funding. Conversely, Gwinnett County is rated as tax-poor and falls under the category of a “receiver county.”

Representatives Viola Davis, Sandra Scott, and Kim Schofield, along with the collaboration of fellow legislators, have compiled a list of five key points to update the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula. Their aim is to draft legislation that improves the overall QBE formula for the benefit of all students in Georgia. DeKalb County Board of Education Chairman Dijon DaCosta and Board member Dr. Joyce Morley have also contributed to this list, working towards the betterment of education in the state. The list of five key points to update the QBE formula will help improve the formula for **the “Greater Good of All Georgia’s Students.”**

**To have equity in funding, we need to update the QBE formula:**

In order to achieve equitable funding, it is imperative to make necessary updates to the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula, taking into account the following key considerations:

1. **Support Students Living in Poverty (HB3):** A crucial initiative led by Rep. Sandra Scott, in which Rep. Viola Davis proudly serves as a co-sponsor. This legislation has undergone a comprehensive fiscal evaluation, revealing its potential to allocate an additional \$300 million in funding to districts with a high concentration of students living in poverty.
2. **Transportation:** Recognizing the pressing issue of underfunding in transportation for school districts across Georgia, Rep. Viola Davis has authored a bill to address this concern. Rep. Viola Davis lent support to HB712, alongside Leader James Beverly and Chairman Billy Mitchell. Notably, Rep. Sandra Scott, Rep. Kim Schofield, and Rep. Jasmine Clark have also endorsed this legislation.

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3. **Increase Funding for Districts with Immigrants and Refugees:** To provide comprehensive support services for districts with significant populations of immigrants and refugees, it is imperative to augment their funding. Currently, the DeKalb County School System hosts a substantial number of immigrants and refugees, particularly in locations like Clarkston, with over 70% representation. We are in the process of developing legislation to address this critical need.
  4. **Enhance State Funding for Safety and Security:** Recognizing the alarming rise in gun violence and mass shootings, we are actively working on drafting legislation to increase state funding for safety and security measures in schools.
  5. **Regular Updates to Grant Allocation:** In order to ensure fairness in the distribution of Equalization Grants and Sparsity Grants, it is crucial to review and update the list of districts eligible to receive these grants every 2-4 years. Additionally, it is imperative to remove DeKalb County from the list of “donor counties,” as it no longer aligns with the current circumstances and needs of the district.

By addressing these critical areas and updating the QBE formula accordingly, we can strive towards a more equitable and robust education funding system for the benefit of all students in Georgia.

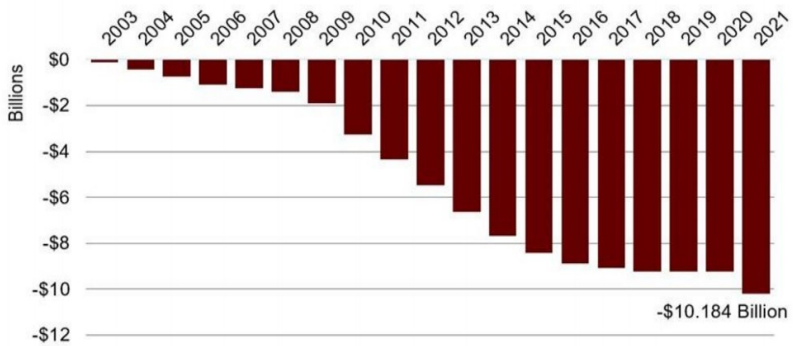


**Representative Viola Davis, Representative Sandra Scott, and Speaker Jon Burns with student pages.**



## COVID-19 GHDC SUBCOMMITTEE – BUDGET PROPOSAL – **DECREASE CORPORATE WELFARE**

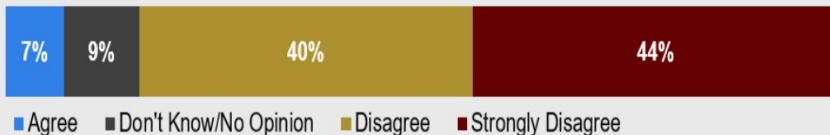
*Years of Underfunding Schools Exact a Toll: Cumulative Shortfall FY 2003-2021*



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Source: Georgia Department of Education. State allotment sheet FY 2003 – 2021.

### *Georgia School Leaders Overwhelmingly Disagree with the Claim That Schools are Overfunded*

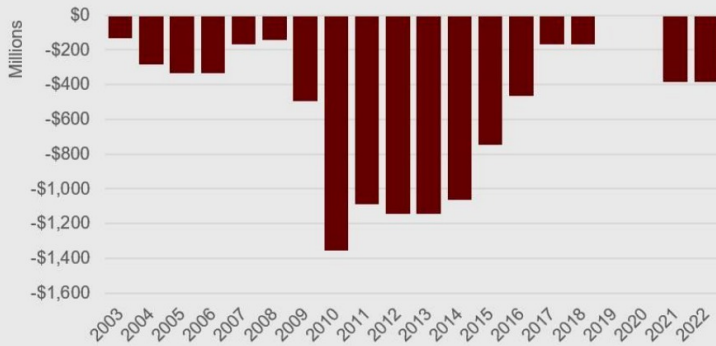


Note: Zero participants answered "Strongly Agree"

Source: Georgia Budget and Policy Institute's 2021 School District Survey.

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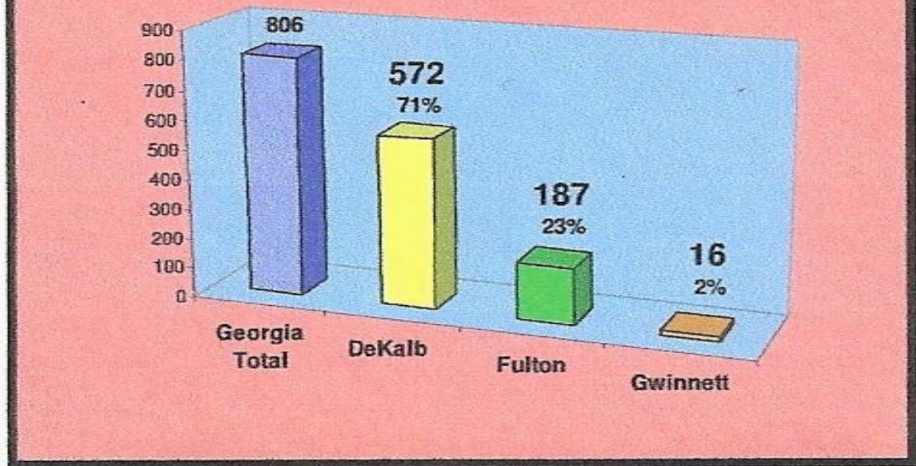
**Two Decades of Underfunding: Cuts to K-12 Education FY 2003 - FY 2022**



Source: Georgia Department of Education. State mid-term allotment sheets FY 2003 – 2021, initial allotment FY 2022.

GEORGIA BUDGET & POLICY INSTITUTE GBPI.org

**School Aged Refugee Children  
CY 2010**



Graphic from a presentation given in DeKalb County on Refugees & Immigrants

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## Economics:

### Promoting Economic Development in Underserved and Under-resourced Communities

To foster a thriving economy in the state of Georgia, we must prioritize the following measures:

1. **Equity:** We need to ensure that underserved and under-resourced communities have access to the necessary funding and resources to overcome the challenges they face. This includes addressing issues such as banking and credit deserts, limited access to pharmacies and healthcare agencies, and food insecurity and food deserts.
2. **Economic Development:** It is essential to secure funding for the growth and expansion of small and medium-sized local businesses. Implementing a local action plan that encourages shopping locally can significantly support these businesses. Additionally, we should actively promote new business development across all industries.
3. **Education:** It is crucial to fully fund schools throughout Georgia that have been historically underfunded for over two decades. While politicians may boast about meeting the requirements of the outdated and over 30-year-old Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula, they fail to mention that education in Georgia has been underfunded by \$10 billion since 2003. QBE has been fully funded only three times in the past 21 years, while over \$400 million in corporate welfare has been directed outside the state.

To address the issue of food deserts specifically, Representative Sandra Scott has drafted **House Bill 321 (HB321)**, known as the “**Healthy Food Program Development Act.**” This legislation aims to establish a state program that expands access to healthy foods in communities facing food deserts. HB 321 seeks to amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, outlining provisions for the Department of Human Services. The bill includes various benefits, requirements, and the appointment of a grocery ambassador. For further information on this proposed legislation, please refer to the following links:



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- HB 321: [Link to the official legislative document](#)
  - Georgia Virtue article on the bill: [Link to the article](#)

By actively pursuing these initiatives and enacting relevant legislation, we can create an environment that supports economic growth and fosters equal opportunities for all communities across Georgia.



**Visit to the [Georgia Ports Authority](#): Representative Viola Davis, Representative Sandra Scott, Representative Carl Gilliard, and Representative Doreen Carter in front row, Port Authority Governmental Affairs Director Lee Beckman, and Dr. Rickie C. Keys in back row.**



<https://gfre.org/> - Georgians for Resource Equity



At the request of State Representative Carl W. Gilliard (House District 162), a distinguished group of Georgia State Legislators visited Carver State Bank to meet with Carver President Robert E. James. The visiting delegation included State Representatives Sandra G. Scott (House District 76), Doreen Carter (House District 93) and Viola Davis (House District 87). They were accompanied by Dr. Rickie C. Keys, a nationally recognized diversity and inclusion advocate, public health professional, social scientist, and health inequities analyst. [https://www.savannahtribune.com/articles/georgia-leaders-visit-carver-state-bank/?fbclid=IwAR3OKrHZhpNOufMwPw-5\\_QBjWjjG1B9YITsOYhxjBaiUJvc7jpkupXMoWgg](https://www.savannahtribune.com/articles/georgia-leaders-visit-carver-state-bank/?fbclid=IwAR3OKrHZhpNOufMwPw-5_QBjWjjG1B9YITsOYhxjBaiUJvc7jpkupXMoWgg)

<https://gfre.org/> - Georgians for Resource Equity

**It's Here**  
**5th ANNUAL**  
**GEORGIA ECONOMIC**  
**EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT**

**Guest Speaker**  
Dr. Richie Keys

**Guest Panelist**  
Rep. Doreen Carter

**Guest Panelist**  
Rep. Viola Davis

**Guest Panelist**  
Rep. Sandra Scott

**Georgia Rental Assistance Program**  
**Georgia Dream Program**  
**Georgia Port Authority**  
**Georgia Department of Revenue Deputy Director**

**Free Gas Cards to the first 50 Attendees**  
**from the 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Session**  
**Career Opportunities and More**

**SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
**5717 WHITE BLUFF ROAD**  
**SAVANNAH, GA 31405**

**MAY 3, 2022**  
**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**House Bill 433 (HB 433) - “Equity Impact Act”** – introduced by Representative Kim Schofield, aims to amend Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. This legislation proposes the inclusion of equity impact statements for policy areas related to race, socioeconomic, health, and other relevant factors. It mandates that such statements be prepared and attached to all proposed legislation impacting these policy areas. The bill outlines the required content, procedures, surveys, reports, and compliance measures for state departments and agencies. Additionally, it includes legislative findings, declarations, and limitations. For further details, please refer to the official legislative document: [Link to HB 433](#)

Although **HB 433** did not cross over in 2023, it serves as a proof of concept for the potential of racially equitable policy making, as acknowledged by the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (GBPI). By incorporating racial equity impact statements, this legislation has the potential to enhance economic development in underserved and under-resourced areas. To learn more about the impact of legislation during the crossover day in 2023, including modest safety net reforms, tax rebates, and potential budget implications, please refer to the GBPI article: [Link to GBPI Article](#) –

<https://gbpi.org/crossover-day-2023-modest-safety-net-reforms-advance-tax-rebates-and-school-vouchers-create-potential-budget-holes/>

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**House Bill 259 (HB 259)** - introduced by Representative Kim Schofield – proposes an amendment to Part 1 of Article 4 of Chapter 2 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The bill aims to require the publication of the Department of Transportation’s disparity study, along with a summary of the department’s effort to increase minority business participation in department contracts. It provides definitions, addresses related matters, and repeals conflicting law. For more information, please consult the official legislative document: [Link to HB 259](#)

**House Bill 262 - “Georgia Racial Equity in Agriculture Act”** - focuses on agricultural matters and seeks to establish the Office of Equity in Agriculture. This bill proposes amendments to Title 2 of the Officials Code of Georgia Annotated. It outlines the purpose of the Office of Equity in Agriculture, provisions for training, the establishment of the Georgia Farmers Council, and related matters. To review the specific details of HB 262, please refer to the official legislative document: [Link to HB 262](#)



**The Georgia Legislative Black Caucus (GLBC)** is embarking on a **“Black Farmers Tour”** across the Southeast to visit Black family-owned farms and explore ways to enhance their success - <https://www.41nbc.com/georgia-legislative-black-caucus-launches-black-farmers-tour-to-support-farmers-of-color/>

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**Georgia Legislative Black Caucus** renews fight to bring much-needed support for Black farmers by Itoro N. Umontuen, May 17, 2023, with the Atlanta Voice - <https://theatlantavoice.com/georgia-legislative-black-caucus-begins-quest-to-bring-long-needed-support-for-black-farmers/>



## **Interstate Compact Legislation**

Given my background as a former Commissioned Officer in the US Army and my familial connection to veterans, I, along with Rep. Kim Schofield and Rep. Sandra Scott are deeply committed to supporting our soldiers and their families. One area of focus is ensuring smooth transitions for military spouses. Interstate compacts play a crucial role in facilitating these transitions, not only for military spouses but also for individuals moving to Georgia with professional licenses from other states that are part of the compacts.

**House Bill 154 (HB 154) - “Cosmetology Licensure Compact”** – proposes revisions to certain licensing provisions and grants the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers the authority to administer the compact in Georgia. The bill also enables the board to conduct national background checks, establish eligibility conditions, and address other relevant matters. For detailed information on HB 154, please refer to the official legislative document. [Link to HB 154](#)

To gain insights into the hearing on this legislation (HB 154), we invite you to watch the recorded hearing through the following link: [Link to HB 154 Hearing](#)

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**House Bill 152 (HB 152) – “Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact House”** - focuses on education and seeks to adopt the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. The bill provides a short title, outlines the purpose and policy of the compact, and establishes licensure qualifications, requirements, and definitions. It further establishes the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission, specifies its membership and duties, and addresses matters related to its powers, organization, and operations. Oversight, enforcement, and dispute resolution mechanisms are also covered. For a comprehensive understanding of HB 152, please consult the official legislative document: [Link to HB 152](#)

**House Bill 153 (HB 153) – “Interstate Massage Compact”** pertains to massage therapy practice and proposes Georgia's participation in the "Interstate Massage Compact." The bill grants authorization to the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy to administer the compact within the state. It includes definitions, establishes conditions, outlines eligibility requirements, and addresses related matters. For specific details on HB 153, please refer to the official legislative document: [Link to HB 153](#)

By embracing these interstate compacts through the enactment of HB154, HB152, and HB153, we can create a more streamlined and supportive environment for military spouses and individuals relocating to Georgia with professional licenses from other states. These compacts serve to enhance opportunities and remove unnecessary barriers, ensuring a smooth transition and integration into our state’s workforce.



**Representative Viola Davis and Representative Sandra Scott at a Protest -**  
<https://georgiarecorder.com/2021/03/02/legislation-to-restrict-georgians-voting-access-draws-angry-protests/>

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## Voting Legislation

### Senate Bill 202 (SB 202): Repeal, Revise, Restore

**Senate Bill 202: Repeal the Law, Revise the Legislation, and Restore the Voting Rights of Georgians.**



**Photo Appeared in New York Times – Representatives Schofield, Davis, & Scott**

**Senate Bill 202 (SB 202)** - The U.S. Justice Department announced that it filed a lawsuit against the State of Georgia, the Georgia Secretary of State, and the Georgia State Election Board over the recent voting procedures adopted by Georgia Senate Bill 202, which was signed into law in March 2021. The United States' complaint challenges provisions of Senate Bill 202 under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-lawsuit-against-state-georgia-stop-racially-discriminatory>

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**Election Integrity reported Senate Bill 202:** Makes it Harder for American Citizens to Cast a Ballot, Hyper-Criminalizes Voting, Encourages Vigilante Voter Caging, and Centralizes Power Over Elections in the Hands of Governing Party - <https://www.election-integrity.org/sb-202>

**House Bill 941 (HB 941): Drafted by Representative Donna McLeod in Session 2021-2022** - A BILL to be entitled an Act to comprehensively revise elections and voting by repealing Act No. 9 (Senate Bill No. 202) approved on March 25, 2021 (Ga. L. 2021, p. 14); to amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to revise certain definitions; to amend Chapter 35 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., relating to home rule powers, so as to repeal the delay of reapportionment of municipal corporation election districts when census numbers are delayed; to amend Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions regarding state government, so as to repeal certain limitations on the submission and suspension of emergency rules by the State Election Board; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/61215>

**The Urban League of Greater Atlanta (Atlanta, GA) revealed their first “State of Black Georgia” report.** ULGA Supports HB941 a bill which would completely repeal the state’s voting law Senate Bill 202 — even provisions that authorize ballot drop boxes and mandate a second Saturday of early voting statewide. The legislation would also roll back parts of the law, such as new ID requirements for absentee voting and the ability for the state to replace county election boards. Please review page 110 under Civic Engagement for HB 941- <https://ulgatl.org/wp-content/uploads/SOBG-Report-V8.2-min.pdf>

**House Bill 1096 (HB 1096):** Drafted by Representative Beth Moore in Session 2021-2022 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for drop boxes for use in returning absentee ballots; to provide for locations; to provide for requirements and operation; to provide for ballot collection; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/61489>

**House Bill 77 (HB 77)** - Drafted by Representative Roger Bruce in Session 2021-2022 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 1 of Article 11 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding preparation for and conduct of primaries and elections, so as to provide that the election superintendent of a county may permit any elector of the county to vote in any precinct of the county which



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such elector chooses in a primary, election, or runoff under certain conditions; to provide for certain notices; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58895>

**House Bill 1356 (HB 1356)** - Drafted by Representative Bee Nguyen in Session 2021-2022 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for disqualification of persons to serve as poll watchers under certain circumstances; to provide that poll watchers shall not view or attempt to view how an elector votes or has voted his or her ballot; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/62112>

**House Bill 1612 (HB 1612)** - Drafted by Representative Bee Nguyen in Session 2021-2022 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for an additional form of identification for voting; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63234>

**House Bill 121 (HB 121)** - Drafted by Representative Bee Nguyen in Session 2021-2022 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, to eliminate certain electors list maintenance activities; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58989>

**House Bill 113** - Drafted by Representative Kimberly Alexander in Session 2021-2022 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, to provide for same day registration and voting; to provide for procedures and notices; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58960>

### **Information to Review:**

<https://fairfight.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TOP-50-Reasons-Why-SB202-Is-Harmful-to-Voters.pdf>

<https://www.ajc.com/politics/democrats-seek-repeal-of-georgia-voting-law-including-parts-they-like/ZXZHZE6PS5ECVMDGJA5I2F5T3I/>

**\*Legislation above is from Session 2021-2022.**



**Rep Kim Schofield, Rep Viola Davis, and Rep Sandra Scott - Democratic State Representatives (l-r) Kim Schofield, Viola Davis, and Sandra Scott, speaking to the crowd, join demonstrators and activists during a voting rights protest at Liberty Plaza across from the Georgia State Capitol on Thursday, March 25, 2021.  
Photo by Dean Hesse.**



**Representative Sandra Scott and Representative Viola Davis**



**Representative Kim Schofield, Representative Viola Davis, & Representative Sandra Scott-**

<https://decaturish.com/2021/03/photos-voters-protest-senate-bill-202-georgias-new-voter-suppression-law/>

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## Criminal Justice Reform Legislation



**“I applaud Representative Schofield, Representative Scott, and Representative Davis for taking a stand for the citizens of Georgia. We can’t swear to uphold the law and not hold law enforcement accountable when they operate outside the letter of the law. This State has a police accountability problem. We must be pro-justice and pro-accountability for everyone in this State. These three pieces of legislation are a step towards backing justice and accountability for every resident of Georgia,”** said **Attorney Gerald Griggs, President of the Georgia NAACP.**

“With concerns about the cost of body-worn cameras, we have no doubt that the state can locate the funding for the protection and safety of the public and law enforcement,” said Rep. Viola Davis. “We need to pass common sense legislation to restore and rebuild public trust in law enforcement without a human tragedy being the catalyst in Georgia. Georgians need their lawmakers to put the public first to ensure police officers are preventing and protecting the public from tragedies – not causing tragedies. HB 107 would balance safety and protection for the public and law enforcement.”

**House Bill 113** would require police departments to provide de-escalation training to law enforcement officers. **House Bill 114** would authorize implicit bias training for law enforcement officers. **House Bill 115** would prohibit racial profiling by law enforcement officers and agencies. **House Bill 107** would require law enforcement agencies to provide body cameras to on-duty law enforcement officers. Further, **House Bill 112** would provide

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additional procedures and requirements for law enforcement officers and agencies to ensure “ethical policing” in Georgia and set new standards for policing in Georgia law. It would also authorize local municipalities to create and operate citizen review boards to ensure accountability for ethical police conduct, as well as direct the attorney general to create a form for local agencies to use to record complaints alleging police misconduct and disciplinary actions for such misconduct.

For more information on **HB113**, please click <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63721>

For more information on **HB114**, please click <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63722>

For more information on **HB115**, please click <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63723>

For more information on **HB107**, please click <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63715>

For more information on **HB112**, please click <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63720>



**Attorney Gerald Griggs, President of the Georgia NAACP, Representative Viola Davis (L), Representative Kim Schofield (R), and Representative Sheila Jones**

## Police Accountability & Ethical Policing Press Releases/Legislation



**Body Cameras Can Be a Powerful Tool. But Not All Police Forces Wear Them. The New York Times** - Chief Deputy Whip State Representative Sandra Scott, one of the bill's sponsors, said opposition to the bill stemmed from a desire to shield police forces from accountability. "We still have officers that are doing things they should not be doing," she said. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/19/us/police-body-cameras-atlanta-cop-city.html>

<https://house-press.com/rebs-scott-davis-schofield-to-attend-running-event-to-honor-ahmaud-arbery-push-for-police-accountability/>

<https://house-press.com/rebs-scott-schofield-davis-introduce-police-accountability-legislation-after-death-of-tyre-nichols-to-hold-press-conference-with-georgia-naacp-tomorrow/>

<https://house-press.com/rep-sandra-scott-introduces-criminal-justice-reform-package-to-address-constituents-concerns-2/>

## Civil Forfeiture Reform Legislation

### What civil forfeiture means:

Civil asset forfeiture is a tactic used by law enforcement to seize a person's money, car, or other property—including bank accounts, businesses, houses, and jewelry—based simply on the suspicion that the property was used to commit a crime or connected to criminal activity.

These three bills are a modest change to the state's civil forfeiture system. Georgia needs a better process that protects low income and innocent people from having their property

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taken, especially those who do not have access or means to obtain legal representation. This legislative package would provide greater transparency and improve the process that everyday Georgians face.

**House Bill 106**, or the Innocent Georgian Process Improvement Act, seeks to create a pathway for an individual to retrieve his or her vehicle that was used in a crime if the vehicle was driven by a defendant without the owner's consent

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63714>

**House Bill 109** would exempt certain types of property from seizure or forfeiture under the Uniform Civil Forfeiture Procedure Act, including property that is subject to a homestead exemption, currency totaling \$541 or less and motor vehicles worth less than \$5,000 in market value. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63717>

**House Bill 110** would require the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government to establish and maintain a tracking system and searchable public website that lists property seized by law enforcement in Georgia; law enforcement agencies would be required to report its civil seizure and forfeiture cases to the public website.

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63718>

**Please watch the hearing on HB110:** <https://www.house.ga.gov/Committees/en-US/CommitteeArchives146.aspx>

**What is an example of civil forfeiture?**

**News Stories Link on Civil Forfeiture:**

<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/atlanta/channel-2-investigation-prompts-proposed-bills-curb-problems-with-property-seizures-by-police/YSAZRC6OOVGA3CC7HU2A56QUYI/>

<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/south-fulton-county/ga-police-legally-seized-cars-without-proving-wrongdoing-court-failed-report-state/6WQ72EK2HFA5DDKM6KPUHQRW4U/>

<https://newschannel9.com/news/local/civil-asset-forfeiture-in-georgia-advocates-and-law-enforcement>

**Civil Forfeiture Press Releases:**

<https://house-press.com/rebs-sandra-scott-viola-davis-kim-schofield-introduce-legislative-package-to-address-civil-forfeiture-process/>

<https://house-press.com/rep-sandra-scott-to-present-legislation-before-two-house-subcommittees-today/>



**Attorney Gerald Griggs, President of the Georgia NAACP, Representative Viola Davis, Representative Kim Schofield, and Representative Sheila Jones**

## **Gun Safety Reform Legislation**

Our hearts and thoughts go out to the victims and families affected by the frequent school shootings and mass shootings that have become all too common. It is a harrowing experience every time we turn on the TV, hoping that we won't witness another tragedy. The fear and uncertainty have taken a toll on students, teachers, and the public at large. We firmly believe that an abundance of guns is not the solution, not just in Georgia, but anywhere. The ability to carry a gun without a permit opens the door for anyone to do so. It is high time for Georgia to enact common sense gun legislation, starting with a vision for a safer future.

The pleas for common sense gun legislation continue to echo throughout Georgia and across the nation. We are simply asking for the most fundamental measures, such as responsible firearm storage, comprehensive background checks, and prohibiting individuals under the age of twenty-one from purchasing assault weapons. Georgia has the opportunity to do the right thing and pass commonsense gun legislation that prioritize public safety.



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[HB224](#): “Crimes and offenses - Reporting of a lost or stolen firearm; provide.” Link to [HB224](#)

[HB366](#): “Courts - Offenses of failure to store a firearm in a secure manner; provide.” Link to [HB366](#)

[HB553](#): “Crimes and offenses - Issuance of certain risk protection orders restricting possession of firearms, ammunition, and weapons carry licenses; provide.” Link to [HB553](#)

[HB554](#): “Crimes and offenses - Furnishing of a semi-automatic assault weapon to a person under the age of 21 years; prohibit.” Link to [HB554](#)

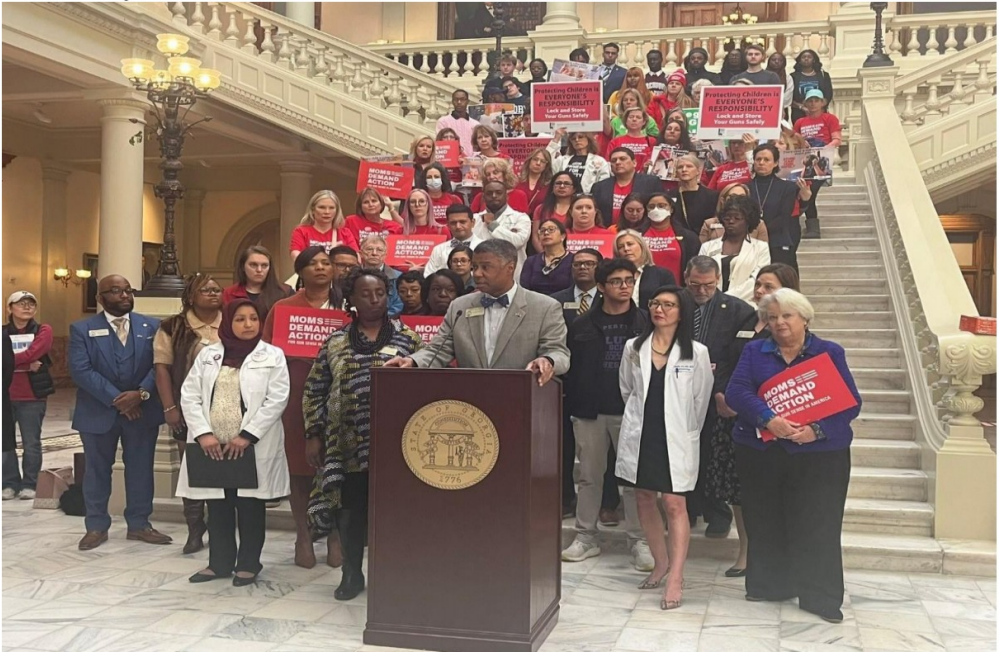
[HB555](#): “Georgia Firearms and Weapons Act; enact.” Link to [HB555](#)

[HR56](#): “House of Representatives - Recognizing gun violence as a major public health problem and a leading cause of premature death.” Link to [HR56](#)

**Representative Viola Davis’s quote:** “We must pass common sense gun safety legislation to rebuild public trust, reduce fear of future mass shootings, and prioritize the safety of our communities,” stated **Rep. Viola Davis**. “Instead of solely relying on an increased police presence, lawmakers should focus on gun safety reform to prevent tragic incidents like mass shootings and homicides. As a veteran who supports the Second Amendment, I firmly believe that we can strike a balance between protecting gun owners’ rights and ensuring public safety by addressing gun violence head-on.”

**Representative Kim Schofield’s quote:** “My heart is grieved by the loss of three nine-year-old children and three staff members who became the newest victims in a mass shooting in Nashville,” said **Rep. Kim Schofield**. “We are 87 days into 2023, and there have been 130 mass shootings. It is a priority that we pass state laws that ensure gun safety, such as universal background checks, safe gun storage and banning AR-15 style rifles. In times like this, tragedy and senseless deaths affect us all.”

## Gun Safety Reform Press Conference



**Representative Sandra Scott's quote:** "My thoughts go out to all of the victims and families of the school shooting in Nashville," said Rep. Scott. "It is hard to fathom that another horrific event happened while the country was still mourning the last shooting. Students and teachers are terrified of going to school and not knowing if they will be the next victims of gun violence. When bringing their kids to school, parents wonder if it will be the last time, they see them alive. It is time for the Georgia General Assembly to protect its citizens and its children by passing gun control legislation. Let's not wait until one of Georgia's schools is the next casualty of a mass shooting."

**"Working Together for the Greater Good"**

## **“Working Together for the Greater Good”**



### **Gun Safety Reform Bills Press Releases:**

1. [Link to Press Release: Democratic Legislators Issue Statements on Midtown Mass Shooting, Urge Gun Safety Reform Legislation](#)
2. [Link to Press Release: Reps Sandra Scott, Kim Schofield, Viola Davis Condemn the Expulsion of Black Tennessee Lawmakers](#)
3. [Link to Press Release: Reps Sandra Scott, Viola Davis, Kim Schofield Issue Statements on Nashville Shooting, Urge Gun Safety Reform Legislation](#)
4. [Link to Press Release: Reps Schofield, Burnough, Scott Issue Statements on Fallen Cobb County Officers, Call for Gun Safety Legislation](#)

### **Gun Safety Reform Legislation and Links:**

**Republican Support for HB 107:** Former State Patrol Commander turned lawmaker Bill Hitchens endorses a new bill sponsored by three metro Atlanta Democratic lawmakers. The bill mandates that every officer in the state wears and activates a body-

worn camera when responding to calls or during any contact with the public. [Link to Source](https://www.atlantaneewsfirst.com/2023/02/02/bill-general-assembly-would-mandate-body-cameras-police-officers-statewide/) - <https://www.atlantaneewsfirst.com/2023/02/02/bill-general-assembly-would-mandate-body-cameras-police-officers-statewide/>



**Gun Safety Reform Press Conference**

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## Healthcare

In order to address the critical issues of infant and maternal mortality, improve mental healthcare and coverage, support struggling hospitals, and safeguard our healthcare workforce, we are committed to extending healthcare coverage to all Georgians through the **Georgia Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act**. Our goal is to ensure that every Georgian has access to quality healthcare. (Courtesy of the Georgia House Democratic Caucus)

According to a report by Consumers for Quality Care, the closure of Southwest Georgia Regional Medical Center in 2020 was one of the nineteen rural hospital closures that occurred, marking the highest number since 2005. Over the past decade, Georgia has witnessed the shutdown of eight rural hospitals, surpassed only by Texas and Tennessee in terms of the number of closures. These closures have had a significant impact on vulnerable communities in Georgia. (Source: <https://consumers4qualitycare.org/rural-hospital-closures-impact-vulnerable-georgia-communities/>)

**House Bill 373 (HB 373)**, introduced by Representative Sheila Jones, aims to amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. This bill designates September 11 of each year as “First Responders Appreciation Day” in Georgia. It acknowledges the invaluable contributions of our first responders and gratitude for their selfless service. Governor Kemp has signed the bill, demonstrating our commitment to recognizing and honoring our dedicated first responders. (Source: HB373 – <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64284>)





**Reproductive Freedom Act Press Conference**



## Reproductive Freedom Act Press Conference

### Reproductive Rights

The Georgia OBGyn Society has identified several significant bills in its 2023 Legislative update (source: <https://gaobgyn.org/advocacy/>):

1. [SR 136](#) by Senator Gloria Butler (D-Stone Mountain) - introduces the Reproductive Freedom Act. This act acknowledges that every individual has the inherent right to reproductive freedom, which should not be unjustly denied, burdened, or infringed upon unless there is a compelling state interest. It also allows for the regulation of abortion care after fetal viability.
2. [HB 75](#) by Rep. Shea Roberts (D-Atlanta)/[SB 15](#) by Senator Sally Harrell (D-Atlanta) creates the Reproductive Freedom Act. This comprehensive bill not only repeals the restrictions imposed by HB 481 but also enshrines fundamental protections for reproductive freedom in Georgia law. It aims to expand access to abortion care for all Georgians.

3. [HB 795](#) by Rep. Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain) creates an “immaculate conception” clause to ensure equal application of penalties. Under this clause, a prospective father of an unborn fetus would face the same penalties as the prospective mother unless it is medically proven that the woman conceived the fetus solely by immaculate conception.
  
4. [HB 796](#) by Rep. Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain) relates to restrictions on the performance of abortion, availability of records, and civil cause of action. It establishes a medical oath protection clause, requiring the Georgia Composite Medical Board to conduct investigations and issue determinations regarding alleged misconduct. These findings would be made available to the appropriate court prior to adjudication.
  
5. [HB 1](#) by Rep. Dar’shun Kendrick 9 (D-Lithonia) – Georgia Pro-Birth Accountability Act which provides for the compensation of a pregnant woman who would terminate a child but cannot be due to the Heartbeat Bill. This legislation aims to provide compensation to pregnant women who would choose to terminate a pregnancy but are unable to do so due to the Heartbeat Bill.

These bills reflect ongoing discussions and efforts to address reproductive rights in Georgia and protect the rights and choices of individuals regarding their reproductive healthcare.



<https://house-press.com/rep-sandra-scott-to-co-host-feminine-hygiene-product-giveaway/>





**AJC Article: “Opinion: The women-led city that just rejected Georgia’s abortion ban”**

**METRO**  
**Murphy**  
*continued from B1*

vidual’s right to choose” and that the Council “has a responsibility to protect its residents from any violation of their human rights.”

“There just wasn’t a hesitation,” Mayor Melanie Hammet said of the Council meeting where the resolution passed. “I had each individual elected member of our group read a section of the resolution aloud to the room so that every woman would have had her voice on it.”

The language itself originally came from the city’s democratic state representative, Viola Davis. In addition to all its local leaders, Pine Lake’s representatives in the Georgia General Assembly are also men: Davis and state Kim Jackson, who is a Democrat.

She describes herself as a “73-year-old lesbian”

Davis called last week’s vote, which was unanimous, “a united front of justice.”

Jean Bordeaux is one of the five Council members who approved the measure.

She describes herself as a “73-year-old lesbian”

should never be a part of law enforcement, and we wanted to make it clear that it will not be so in Pine Lake,” Bordeaux said.

For her part, Davis said she was raised in a family that opposed abortion rights and made it clear

ly with government officials,” she said. “And I think that coming from women in all the powerful positions in Pine Lake spoke volumes.”

Hammet has been in office for seven years, six and a-half of which have

women leaders setting up a government where people with or without families can fully participate.

“As you have a group of women in leadership, some of the impediments fall away,” she said.

Young children, either

tors or women under House Bill 481. Leaders in Atlanta, Athens-Clarke County and the city of South Fulton all moved to adopt similar resolutions over the past two months.

Republican lawmakers have pointed out that, along with criminal prosecutions for doctors who perform illegal abortions, the law also targets doctors’ medical licenses, which are controlled by the state and not affected by local prosecutions.

And in the early days after HB 481 went into effect, as local district attorneys across the state said they would not prosecute cases under the new law, Republicans in the General Assembly indicated they might consider an addition to the law to require locals to enforce it.

But the enthusiasm among Republicans for strengthening or even discussing the restrictive abortion law has drained



The leadership — all women — of the city of Pine Lake essentially decriminalized abortion in their town recently in a unanimous vote. The DeKalb County city has a population of 752 residents, according to the 2020 census. COURTESY

**AJC Article – “Opinion: The women-led city that just rejected Georgia’s abortion ban - <https://www.ajc.com/politics/opinion-the-women-led-city-that-just-rejected-georgias-abortion-ban/64Q4SIM6NJH7XOQUYHWHS7T3TE/>**



**Representative Kim Schofield: Reproductive Freedom Act introduced in Georgia legislature.** By Deidra Dukes and Fox 5 – <https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/georgia-reproductive-freedom-act>

## Mental Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health of our children and families. Recognizing this, we have put forth a series of legislation that will greatly benefit districts across the State of Georgia. It is crucial for Georgia to make investments in expanding mental health facilities, rather than relying on jails to serve as mental health hospitals. Jails are not equipped to effectively treat individuals with mental illness.

**Here are the key pieces of legislation we have authored:**

1. **HB4:** This bill focuses on the creation and maintenance of an electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Its purpose is to ensure better access to psychiatric care. (Source: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63472>)
2. **HB7:** This legislation seeks to establish a school-linked behavioral health grant program under the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental

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Disabilities. The aim is to provide support and resources for addressing mental health needs in schools. (Source: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63475>)

3. **HB8:** This bill proposes that attendance policies in education consider mental and behavioral health. By recognizing these factors, we can better support students' mental well-being and educational success. (Source: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63476>)
4. **HB9:** The objective of this legislation is to create and maintain the Georgia Crisis and Access Line within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. This helpline would serve as a crucial resource for individuals in need of mental health support and assistance. (Source: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63477>)

**In addition to these measures, we have also introduced bills aimed at addressing mental health within the criminal justice system:**

5. **HB232:** This bill requires public disclosure of specific data relating to the health and safety, and conditions of detention of inmates. By increasing transparency, we can work towards improving mental health outcomes within penal institutions. (Source: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63986>)
6. **HB233:** This legislation focuses on providing mental health treatment alternatives to imprisonment within the criminal justice system. It seeks to explore more effective approaches to address mental illness and promote rehabilitation. (Source: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63987>)
7. **HB234:** This bill mandates certain mental illness evaluations for individuals detained in penal institutions. By ensuring proper assessment and treatment, we can better address the mental health needs of incarcerated individuals. (Source: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63988>)



## Housing Legislation

**Under HB 322, by Rep. Sandra G. Scott (D-Rex)** - ad valorem tax bills could still include fees or charges related to delinquent ad valorem property tax collections. Any partial payment provided by a taxpayer to the tax commissioner or local fiscal authority would first be applied to the outstanding balance of ad valorem taxes on real property that are due. Furthermore, prohibited charges would include, but be not limited to, storm water, service fees, solid waste service fees, fees for water and wastewater, as well as any late fees, penalties or interest related to anything other than ad valorem taxes on the property. **HB322** - <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64168>

**HB 303: House Bill 303 (HB 303): by Rep. Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain)** Property; protections for homeowners, condominium owners, and property owners in community associations; provide. **HB 303** is titled, “**Community Association Transparency and Protection Act**” would establish new statutes regarding HOAs, POAs, and others with procedures for liens, foreclosures, fines, late fees, etc.; a significant rewrite of the statutes governing condominium homeowner and property owner associations, among many other things, creates an ombudsman to register all community associations under the Secretary of State. Drafted by Rep Viola Davis and co-sponsors are Leader James Beverly, Deputy Whip Sandra G. Scott, Rep Kim Schofield, Rep Rhonda Taylor, and Chairman Billy Mitchell. **HB303** - <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64141>

**HB 145 by Rep. Regina Lewis-Ward (D-McDonough)** relates to property owners’ associations to provide for certificates of good standing for payment of annual

assessments; requires associations to offer to participate in alternative dispute resolution prior to the effectuation of a lien on a lot for unpaid assessments; provided that such a lien shall be inferior to liens for unpaid medical bills; and provides for alternative dispute resolution policies and requirements therefore. **HB145** -

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63795>

**HB 490** by Rep. Spencer Frye (D-Athens) eliminates a deduction related to depreciation for single-family residential rental property. **HB 490** -

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64591>

**HB 627** by Rep. Rhonda Taylor (D-Conyers) would repeal the state's protection from restrictive local rent control policies. **HB 627** -

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64941>

## History of Town Halls & Meetings on Housing Issues:

Have questions about  
**House Bill 1093**  
better known as  
**Build to Rent**  
**(BRT)**  
or other housing concerns?

*Representative*  
**Viola**  
Davis

*Representative*  
**Rhonda**  
Taylor

Representative Viola Davis and Representative Rhonda Taylor address housing concerns.

Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington, Jr  
presents

# DISTRICT DIALOGUES:

## ADDRESSING HOUSING INSECURITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

### PANELISTS



Commissioner  
Marvin Arrington, Jr.  
District 5



GA Representative  
Rep. Kim Schofield  
District 60



GA Representative  
Rep. Viola Davis  
District 87



Dr. Pamela Roshell  
Fulton County Deputy COO  
Health & Human Services



Betty McGee  
Georgia Department  
of Community Affairs

**THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Streaming Live  
on **FGTV**  
 **YouTube**

For public comment,  
go to:  
[fulton.communication@fultoncountyga.gov](http://fulton.communication@fultoncountyga.gov)

Georgia Department of  
**Community Affairs**



**A CONVERSATION**  
ON HOUSING IN CLAYTON COUNTY

FEATURING



**REPRESENTATIVE  
SANDRA G. SCOTT**



**SENATOR  
GAIL DAVENPORT**



**REPRESENTATIVE  
VIOLA DAVIS**

Clayton County Housing Authority  
Ms. Dinnie Ziegler  
P: 104.362.1200 F: 404.362.0635

Clayton County HUD Office  
Ms. Linda Boswell  
P: 770.477.4523

**SATURDAY AUG. 14, 2021 9:00AM - 11:00AM**

**Will Break Down  
HB980, HB523, AND HB302  
2019 - 2020 Legislative Year**

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Town Hall on PadSplits, Short Term Rentals/Airbnb, Illegal Personal Care Homes, and Boarding/Rooming Houses in Single-Family Residential Neighborhoods

**TO REGISTER:**

**You are invited to the Zoom Town Hall meeting.**  
**When: July 20, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

To register in advance for this meeting:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclc6qrTlqHtxmc0EZ\\_lf0V4mSqy\\_igU0I](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclc6qrTlqHtxmc0EZ_lf0V4mSqy_igU0I)



*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

If you are unable to attend the town hall, please send your comments, concerns, and/or questions to [viola.davis@house.ga.gov](mailto:viola.davis@house.ga.gov).

<https://violadavis.com/>

**Representative Viola Davis**  
Georgia House District 87

**District**  
P.O. Box 830726, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083



The Urban League of Greater Atlanta unveils its State of Black Georgia report at the state Capitol in March 2023 - <https://www.gpb.org/news/2023/03/17/the-state-of-black-georgia-report-tells-tale-of-two-states>







**Representative Kim Schofield**



**Representative Kim Schofield and protesters**



**Representative Sandra Scott and Representative Viola Davis with protesters**

# Housing and Homeownership Hearing



**POSTPONED**  
**NEW DATE COMING SOON**

Public Hearing: The Plight of Housing Instability and Homeownership Impacting Under-resourced Communities (Urban, Suburban, Rural).

*Reps. Scott, Davis, Schofield*

**Date - October 27, 2022**  
**Time - 2:30 pm - 5:00pm**

Location: Room 406 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (18 Capitol Sq. SW) in Atlanta.

To testify: Contact Rep. Davis' Capitol Office at 404-656-0109, email [viola.davis@house.ga.gov](mailto:viola.davis@house.ga.gov), Register online in advance - <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMucu2gqjwrEtwWY2WQfLRBa4u5qp41OVGE>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Representative Kim Schofield, Representative Viola Davis, and Representative Sandra Scott addressed the plight housing instability and homeownership impacting under-served and under-resourced communities (Urban, Suburban, and Rural)**

**\*\*\*Protecting the American Dream of Homeownership\*\*\***

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## Housing Crisis Legislation Press Releases:

<https://house-press.com/democratic-legislators-make-constituents-aware-of-proposed-legislation-to-address-housing-crisis/>

<https://house-press.com/rebs-scott-schofield-davis-to-hold-hearing-on-housing-homeownership/>



Three Legislative Hidden Figures - Representative Sandra Scott, Representative Kim Schofield, and Representative Viola Davis

**“Working Together for the Greater Good”**



Rep. Viola Davis

*Representative Viola Davis represents the citizens of District 87, which includes portions of DeKalb County. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2018 and currently serves on the Defense & Veterans Affairs, Insurance, Interstate Cooperation, Natural Resources & Environment and Urban Affairs committees.*



Rep. Kim Schofield

*Representative Kim Schofield represents the citizens of District 63, which includes portions of Fulton County. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2017 and currently serves as the Secretary of the Urban Affairs Committee. She also serves on the Creative Arts & Entertainment, Health, Interstate Cooperation and Small Business Development committees.*



Rep. Sandra Scott

*Representative Sandra Scott represents the citizens of District 76, which includes portions of Clayton County. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2010 and currently serves as the Minority Caucus Chief Deputy Whip. She also serves on the Banks & Banking, Defense & Veterans Affairs, Human Relations & Aging, Insurance and Reapportionment and Redistricting committees.*