



2026 Special Session

Georgia Elections Are at a Crossroad: What Counties Need to know

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Major Election Administration Decisions Loom Ahead of July 1st Deadline

Georgia counties are facing significant uncertainty in election administration as the state approaches a **July 1, 2026, legal deadline** created by SB 189 (2024), which prohibits the tabulation of ballots using “human unreadable text” — namely, the QR codes currently used by Georgia’s Dominion/Liberty Vote voting system to count ballots. Georgia’s current scanners tally votes based on these QR codes rather than the human-readable text printed on ballots, meaning the state’s existing election system will no longer clearly comply with state law after July 1 unless action is taken.

Governor Calls Special Session to Begin on June 17

Governor Brian Kemp has called the General Assembly into a **special session beginning June 17** to address this issue before the deadline, providing lawmakers with a narrow window to determine how elections will be administered for the remainder of 2026—including the November General Election. According to the [Governor’s proclamation](#), election administration and redistricting of state-level districts will be considered. This special session is expected to determine whether the state:

- Delays the SB 189 implementation deadline;
- Establishes a temporary transition plan;
- Moves counties to hand-marked paper ballots or emergency backup ballot procedures; or
- Provides another statewide election administration solution.

Key Takeaway: Counties Need to Prepare for Operational Changes

If no legislative solution is adopted, counties may be forced to rely on existing emergency ballot procedures under State Election Board rules. Operational considerations may include printing large quantities of pre-printed paper ballots, hiring/training additional poll workers, adjusting check-in and ballot accountability procedures, managing expanded ballot security and transport requirements, and preparing for potential delays in election night reporting and certification, to name a few.

Counties should closely monitor the June 17 special session and be prepared for rapid changes to election administration. While state leaders are expected to address the immediate legal conflict, local election officials may have limited implementation time before upcoming elections.

ACCG will report on what actions are taken following the 2026 special session and how it impacts county election administration. Please speak with your county’s election officials to better understand the implications of this pending issue.