



Prepared Remarks
Andrea Young
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Georgia Legislative Black Caucus Press Conference
to Rally Around Opposition of HB 531

Good Afternoon,

I am Andrea Young, the Executive Director of the ACLU of Georgia

The ACLU of Georgia is a nonpartisan organization committed to making access to the ballot **easy** for **every** Georgia citizen

In October, Secretary of State lauded Georgia's election rules as the [gold standard](#) – with no excuse absentee voting, 16 days of early voting, and automatic voter registration. This statement is still on every press release.

In November, through an extraordinary civic effort across all 159 counties, five million Georgians cast ballots, and 4.5 million were able to vote again in January – all in the middle of a deadly pandemic.

Yet in this legislative session, we have seen a tsunami of bills to make voting more difficult especially more difficult for our essential workers, our working mothers, our senior citizens, our students, and people of color.

We have seen

- bills that say you need a permission slip from the government to vote by mail,
- bills that say you need a chaperone to vote by mail
- bills that deny counties the resources to protect poll workers and keep lines short, and
- bills that deny voters a glass of water from a neighbor.

This is heartless and heartbreaking.

Dr. King Exhorted us to stay hopeful in his speech in Montgomery for voting rights – “How long will it take? How long? Not long because no lie can live forever.”

That was almost 56 years ago.

The lie that Georgia’s voting system needs more “security” is being perpetuated by people who know better.

“Security” is the new code word for voter suppression.

5 million voters

Two recounts and one audit confirmed the results in Georgia were accurate.

HB 531 must be defeated.