

American Confidence in Elections ACE Act

Opening Remarks

Good afternoon, I would like to thank the Committee on House Administration for this invitation.

I value public service and was honored to serve two terms as a member of the Fulton County Board of Elections from 2019 to 2023.

Fulton County is the largest county in the state of Georgia, it has the population roughly the size of eight states. It covers 70 miles from end to end, across 15 cities, including the city of Atlanta. I say all of this to highlight the complexities encountered in managing efficient elections. The 2020 election presented unique and elevated challenges to the County's well-documented history of issues administering elections. The election had to be managed through a global pandemic. Law makers responded by introducing new processes designed to make voting accessible during the public health crises, including expanding absentee by mail, introducing drop boxes, and extending in-person voting. All of this was on top of the implementation of new voting machines. Additionally, Fulton county was at the center of growing change in the political climate, beginning in 2016, elevating in 2018, and peaking in 2020. Each of these variables exacerbated the unique complexities of managing elections in Fulton County.

The 2020 election highlighted the vulnerabilities and underlying problems that have existed in elections for years in many states across the country.

Fast forwarding to 2023, the Fulton County Board of Elections worked with internal partners to examine internal lessons learned and developed recommendations from 2020 to make improvements. The Department also received reports based on hundreds of hours of observation documented from Carter Jones, an election strategist and the Carter Center to make further adjustments to increase election administration performance. Lastly, the passing of SB 202 helped to improve the processing of absentee applications and absentee by mail ballot to ensure more timely processing and verification. Fulton County BRE under solid new leadership, increased staff, guidance from an engaged Board of registration and elections were able to incorporate recommendations and make significant improvements to modernize elections, develop standard operating procedures for every election function, provide more contextualized poll worker training, and maintain compliance with State Election Board.

For Fulton to uphold the mission - to ensure that the registration and elections process is efficient and effectively provided to all eligible citizens, state officials will need to continuously provide tools to modernize elections and remove outdated policies and/or burdensome policies. American voters expect voting

officials to ensure that every eligible citizen can vote and make sure that their vote is not weakened due to errors, inconsistencies, and inefficient systems. I am honored to participate in today's hearing and hope that my experience, and observations can be used to support the work of the US House of Representatives.