



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 7, 2022

Dear Senate Members,

As session approaches, please note the following important reminders and notifications regarding local redistricting.

Due to the rapidly approaching qualifying date for the 2022 Election cycle, the legislature needs to move quickly to pass local redistricting bills based on the new Census numbers. Local redistricting bills, which go into effect for the 2022 election cycle, need to reach final passage with enough time for local election officials to update their voter registration system. Please familiarize yourself with the process outlined below and prepare to introduce your legislation as quickly as practicable.

To ensure there is adequate planning and organizational time for your local election officials to process the necessary changes, please work diligently to pass all your local redistricting bills out of the Senate by the beginning of February.

In 2019, the local redistricting process was revised to ensure local maps meet state and federal requirements. Local bills that revise or create districts for county commissions, county boards of education, independent boards of education, or municipal governments shall not be considered unless they are drawn by the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office or they are submitted to and certified by the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office prior to adoption by the local government entity. After these maps are drawn or certified, a member must contact the Office of Legislative Counsel to begin the drafting process. Maps approved by counties do not automatically have legislation drafted; a member must request a bill from the Office of Legislative Counsel, which will work with the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office to craft the bill.

Regardless of the map-drawing method used, a legislative sponsor must be selected to have the maps drawn and/or verified by the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office. A member must place a local advertisement in the legal organ. It is recommended that the Office of Legislative Counsel draft the local advertisement and then the member has to place the advertisement in the appropriate legal organ. It is highly recommended to place the local

advertisements as soon as possible with session about to begin, and the Office of Legislative Counsel can draft the local advertisement before the underlying legislation is drafted.

As a final reminder, municipal governments are able to redraw their maps through home rule powers and do not require local legislation; however, a legislator may still elect to redraw municipal lines through the legislative process. It is worth noting that most cities have until next year to do their redistricting, as they have odd-numbered election year cycles. Cities that are changing their form of election or terms, or those with independent school systems, need legislative action to enact new maps.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Gina Wright in the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office at Gina.Wright@legis.ga.gov or Stuart Morelli in the Office of Legislative Counsel at Stuart.Morelli@legis.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Duncan', written over a horizontal line.

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor