

CRAIG L. SCHWALL - ATLANTA DISTRICT CIRCUIT JUDGE - SUPERIOR COURT SEAT 2 DISTRICT (R)

Key findings include:

- **Schwall ran opposed for several years.** Schwall was first appointed in 2005 and reelected multiple times without opposition. [[Ballotopedia](#), accessed 3/18/2026]
- **Lack of policy depth.** Schwall's campaign website does not provide policy action or depth [[Schwall for All](#), accessed 3/19/2026].
- **Schwall is a member of the Federalist Society, a group that heavily supported Donald Trump's presidency.** The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is an American conservative and libertarian legal organization that advocates for a textualist and originalist interpretation of the United States Constitution [[Federalist Society](#), accessed 3/18/2026] [[Fulton Superior Court GA](#), accessed 3/20/2026]
- **Schwall ruled in favor that a short line railroad company can use eminent domain to seize land to build a spur line to serve private businesses in one of the state's poorest, predominantly Black counties.** 15 property owners who have been fighting for two years to keep their land plan to appeal .[[Atlanta Black Star](#), 2/13/2025]
- **A bill was inspired by Schwall's opinion towards gangs and guns.** Sen. Brandon Beach, R-Alpharetta, has introduced Senate Bill 7, known as the "3G" bill or the "Gangs, Guns, Gone" bill. It would impose a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence for anyone who uses a gun while committing or attempting to commit a violent felony, whether the weapon was discharged or not. The 10 years would precede whatever other sentence might be imposed by the courts. Sen. Beach said the idea for "Gangs, Gun, Gone" concept was inspired by longtime, no-nonsense Fulton County Superior Court Judge Craig Schwall who takes a dim view of gangs with guns and wants them gone. [Times-Courier, 2/1/2023].

The Atlanta Judicial Circuit (Fulton County) is one of the largest and most politically significant jurisdictions in Georgia, encompassing the city of Atlanta and surrounding areas. Fulton County is heavily Democratic, racially diverse (with a large Black population), and a focal point of state and national political conflicts—particularly around elections, criminal justice, and high-profile prosecutions such as the Trump election interference case. The Superior Court handles major felony criminal cases, civil disputes, and constitutional questions, making judges influential actors in both local governance and politically salient litigation [[Ballotopedia](#), accessed 3/18/2026].

Judicial elections in Georgia are formally nonpartisan, but in practice they are shaped by partisan-aligned networks, endorsements, and coalitions. Judges serve four-year terms and often run unopposed, especially incumbents, which can limit voter scrutiny and reinforce incumbency

advantages. Recent cycles in Fulton County have seen increased political attention to judicial races, including efforts by local political figures to challenge incumbents viewed as insufficiently aligned with particular ideological or prosecutorial agendas [[James Magazine](#), 3/3/2026].

BACKGROUND

Craig Laurence Schwall is a long-serving Fulton County Superior Court judge, first appointed in 2005 by Republican Governor Sonny Perdue and subsequently re-elected multiple times, often without opposition. His current term runs through 2026 [[Ballotopedia](#), accessed 3/18/2026] Prior to joining the Superior Court, Schwall served as a State Court judge (2003–2005) and Magistrate Court judge (1996–2003) in Fulton County, reflecting a career largely rooted in the local judiciary [[Fulton Superior Court GA](#), accessed 3/18/2026]. Schwall earned a B.A. in political science from Auburn University and a J.D. from Emory University School of Law. Before his judicial career, he worked in private legal practice and also taught criminal justice as an adjunct professor at Georgia State University. His professional affiliations include mainstream legal organizations such as the American Bar Association and the State Bar of Georgia, as well as the Federalist Society. [[Fulton Superior Court GA](#), accessed 3/18/2026].

Politically, Schwall runs in nonpartisan judicial elections and has historically faced little organized opposition, winning re-election in 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022 without challengers. His current re-election campaign appears relatively low-profile and incumbent-driven, with a basic campaign website and fundraising apparatus but limited evidence of a large-scale political operation.

Schwall has donated \$3,950 in Federal Contributions from 1993 to 2002 [[FEC](#), accessed 3/18/2026]. Schwall donated to former Republican Congressman John Linder who opposed abortion rights and voted in favor of the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policies during the 1990’s. Schwall also donated in total of \$54,343.63 at the state level to Georgia candidates [Record Search, accessed 3/24/2026] [[Peach File Ethics](#), accessed 3/24/2026]. His most notable donations are to Judge Scott McAfee, who oversaw Donald Trump's Georgia election interference case [Legal News, 5/3/2024].

TABLE: Schwall’s Federal Donations

Committee Name	Contributor Name	Contributor Employer	Contribution Date	Amount
LINDER FOR CONGRESS	SCHWALL, CRAIG L	SCHWALL AND SCHWALL	1993-11-01 0:00:00	250
LINDER FOR CONGRESS	SCHWALL, CRAIG L	SCHWALL AND SCHWALL	1994-06-24 0:00:00	250
GEORGIA REPUBLICANS	SCHWALL, CRAIG L	SCHWALL & SCHWALL	1994-09-21 0:00:00	200
COVERDELL GOOD GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE;THE	SCHWALL, CRAIG	SCHWALL & SCHWALL	1994-01-07 0:00:00	500
COVERDELL GOOD GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE;THE	SCHWALL, CRAIG	SCHWALL & SCHWALL	1994-01-10 0:00:00	500

LINDER FOR CONGRESS	SCHWALL, CRAIG	SCHWALL AND SCHWALL	1995-10-03 0:00:00	250
COVERDELL GOOD GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE;THE	SCHWALL, CRAIG	SCHWALL & SCHWALL	1996-02-08 0:00:00	250
GEORGIANS FOR ISAKSON	SCHWALL, CRAIG	ATTORNEY	1999-01-30 0:00:00	250
BOB IRVIN SENATE COMMITTEE INC	SCHWALL, CRAIG		2002-08-14 0:00:00	250
CHAMBLISS FOR SENATE	SCHWALL, CRAIG	FULTON CO	2002-04-26 0:00:00	250
CHAMBLISS FOR SENATE	SCHWALL, CRAIG	FULTON CO	2002-08-27 0:00:00	250
GEORGIANS FOR ISAKSON	MR. CRAIG L. SCHWALL	SELF EMPLOYED/ATTORNEY	2002-08-19 0:00:00	250
GEORGIANS FOR ISAKSON	MR. CRAIG L. SCHWALL	SELF EMPLOYED/ATTORNEY	2002-09-19 0:00:00	500

TABLE: Schwall GA State Contributions

Candidate First Name	Candidate Last Name	Contributor Name	Transaction Date	Transaction Amount
Catherine	Henson	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2024-08-30	\$1,000.00
Deborah	Silcox	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2024-08-23	\$1,000.00
Mary	Oliver	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2024-04-24	\$3,300.00
Jeffrey	Davis	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2024-03-19	\$8,400.00
Scott	McAfee	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2024-03-14	\$2,300.00
Rachel	Krause	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2024-03-13	\$3,300.00
Scott	McAfee	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2023-06-07	\$1,000.00
Brian	Kemp	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-08-30	\$1,000.00
Esther	Panitch	Keep Judge Schwall	2022-07-11	\$1,000.00
Bruce	Thompson	Keep Judge Schwall Campaign	2022-06-27	\$1,000.00
Christopher	Carr	Keep Judge Schwall	2022-06-24	\$7,600.00
William	Whitesell	Schwalls, John	2022-05-01	\$250.00
Kay	Kirkpatrick	Keep Judge Schwall Campaign	2022-04-28	\$1,000.00
Brian	Kemp	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-04-26	\$2,000.00
Christopher	Carr	Keep Judge Schwall	2022-04-22	\$2,000.00

Christopher	Carr	Keep Judge Schwall	2022-04-19	\$1,000.00
Tanya	Miller	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-04-18	\$1,000.00
Deborah	Silcox	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-04-01	\$2,000.00
Liz	Hausmann	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-03-29	\$3,000.00
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Paige	Whitaker	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-03-28	\$3,000.00
Robert	Leonard	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-03-28	\$1,000.00
Richard	Hamil	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-03-28	\$1,000.00
Verda	Colvin	Schwall, Craig Laurence	2022-03-28	\$1,000.00

Candidate Last Name	Candidate First Name	Campaign Committee	Contributor Name	Transaction Date	Transaction Amount
Carr	Christopher	Carr for Georgia, Inc.	Keep Judge Schwall	01/09/2026	\$1,000.00
Miller	Tanya	Tanya For Georgia, Inc.	Keep Judge Schwall Campaign	11/18/2025	\$1,000.00
Georgians First Leadership Committee, Inc.			Schwall, Claire	04/29/2025	\$37.48
Georgians First Leadership Committee, Inc.			Schwall, Claire	04/13/2025	\$52.05
Georgians First Leadership Committee, Inc.			Schwall, Claire	03/18/2025	\$52.05
Georgians First Leadership Committee, Inc.			Schwall, Claire	02/13/2025	\$52.05

ON THE ISSUES

NO FINDINGS OF NOTE FOR FIRST ROUND VET

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

Controversial Rulings

Schwall ruled in favor that a short line railroad company can use eminent domain to seize land to build a spur line to serve private businesses in one of the state's poorest, predominantly Black counties. 15 property owners who have been fighting for two years to keep their land plan to appeal. The decision drew criticism from advocates and property-rights

groups, who argued the taking primarily benefited private companies and disproportionately impacted a family with deep historical ties to the land. The case has been appealed, indicating ongoing legal and political sensitivity. [[Atlanta Black Star](#), 2/13/2025]

Affiliation with Federalist Society

Schwall is a member of the Federalist Society, a group that heavily supported Donald Trump's presidency. The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is an American conservative and libertarian legal organization that advocates for a textualist and originalist interpretation of the United States Constitution [[Federalist Society](#), accessed 3/18/2026][[Fulton Superior Court GA](#), accessed 3/20/2026]. The Federalist Society was influential in the Trump administration, hand-selecting Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and recruiting a slate of conservative judges to fill vacancies throughout the federal judiciary. In May 2018, the Federalist Society hosted a phone call entitled "examining the legality of the Mueller Investigation", where one of the featured speakers argued that Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election was unconstitutional [[Politico](#), accessed 3/18/2026].

Affiliation with Trump

Schwall donated to Judge McAfee who oversaw Donald Trump's Georgia election interference case. Judge McAfee received financial support from a handful of his peers on the bench, with Fulton County Superior Court Judges McBurney and Craig Schwall, along with DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Brian Lake [Legal News, 5/3/2024]. Schwall donated \$3,300 to McAfee [[Peach File Ethics](#), accessed 3/24/2026]

Guns

A bill named "Gangs, Guns, Gone" was inspired by Schwall. Sen. Brandon Beach, R-Alpharetta, has introduced Senate Bill 7, known as the "3G" bill or the "Gangs, Guns, Gone" bill. It would impose a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence for anyone who uses a gun while committing or attempting to commit a violent felony, whether the weapon was discharged or not. The 10 years would precede whatever other sentence might be imposed by the courts. Sen. Beach said the idea for "Gangs, Gun, Gone" concept was inspired by longtime, no-nonsense Fulton County Superior Court Judge Craig Schwall who takes a dim view of gangs with guns and wants them gone. [Times-Courier, 2/1/2023].

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Campaign Website](#)

[Campaign Facebook](#)

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