

2026 RACE PROFILE: GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE

In September 2025, Incumbent Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger (R) [announced](#) that he would be running for governor. As a result, the Secretary of State seat is open. As of February 2026, there were four Republican candidates: Tim Fleming, Kelvin King, Gabriel Sterling, and Vernon Jones. Georgia's general election will be held on November 3, 2026. The primary is May 19, 2026, and a primary runoff is June 16, 2026.

Key findings are below:

Republican Candidate Tim Fleming

State Rep. Tim Fleming will likely face opposition from the left due to his advocacy for harmful election policies. Democratic challengers may seek to tie Fleming to Gov. Brian Kemp and President Donald Trump, whom he supports. Tension could arise between Fleming and Republican rival Kelvin King, whose wife serves on the Georgia State Election Board. Fleming expressed frustrations with the Georgia Election Board, saying "we've seen grandstanding, bombastic rhetoric and public disputes that have done little to serve voters and have at times undermined the confidence in the system itself." Additionally, conservatives may criticize Fleming for his committee's recommendation to allow QR codes to remain on ballots, which critics such as King contend are a security risk.

Summary: Tim Fleming was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2022. Prior to his election, Fleming served as chief of staff for Republican Gov. Brian Kemp for two years. He held roles as deputy elections director, chief of staff, and deputy secretary of state while Kemp was secretary of state. In 2025, Fleming chaired a House committee tasked with proposing changes to election laws. Fleming served one term as the District 5 representative on the Newton County Board of Commissioners.

Voting Rights: In 2025, Fleming introduced controversial legislation that would have prohibited Georgia from sharing voter information with third-party groups like the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), limited voters' ability to drop off absentee ballots on the final weekend before Election Day and expanded poll-watching areas, among other provisions. He was a vocal proponent of hand-marked paper ballots, a key demand from activists skeptical of Georgia's voting machines. Fleming's campaign website listed "deport any illegals attempting to vote in Georgia" and "make it impossible for the Left to cheat in our elections" as "first priorities." He has also said he would fight to protect and strengthen voter ID laws. Last year, Fleming chaired a House committee tasked with proposing changes to election laws. Fleming said he had no intention of revisiting the 2020 election during the committee's first meeting. In 2026, the committee recommended that the state use hand-marked paper ballots during the general election but said QR codes should be allowed to remain on ballots.

Philosophy: Fleming's campaign sought to brand him as a "proven conservative" with an established record of fighting for election integrity. His campaign website described him as "a proven conservative, small business owner, and a champion for election integrity with a strong record of fighting for Georgia." The website highlighted his time as Chief of Staff to Gov. Kemp, Deputy Secretary of State, and State Representative. It claimed he "took on Stacey Abrams' election schemes, cracked down on voter fraud, and streamlined professional licensing." Fleming is a Trump supporter.

Republican Candidate Kelvin King

Opponents of Air Force veteran and business owner Kelvin King could call into question his wife Janelle King's role on the Georgia State Election Board and whether she has used her position to help his campaign. Further tensions could arise between Rep. Tim Fleming's House elections committee and the Georgia State Election Board, leading to a battle between Fleming and King over election rules. Democratic challengers could highlight King's support for Trump and his election denialism, along with King's plan to implement harmful election policies, if elected.

Summary: Kelvin King is an air force veteran and business owner. He operates Osprey Management, a firm focused on commercial construction projects. In 2022, King finished second to last in a six-way Republican primary for U.S. Senate. King's wife, Janelle, serves on the Georgia State Election Board. Though there is no state law requiring her to step down or recuse herself from election cases involving the secretary of state, King has said "if the public desires that Janelle not serve on the State Elections Board while I'm serving as secretary of state, then she'll step down." The Atlanta Journal-Constitution called into question whether Janelle's position gave political benefit to her husband, highlighting her criticism of the secretary of state's office as it relates to King's rival, Gabriel Sterling. Conservative radio host Martha Zoller said Janelle King should stop criticizing the secretary of state's office from her position on the State Election Board. King rejected allegations she has a conflict of interest in criticizing the secretary of state's office while her husband is running for that office. Trump praised Janelle King as a "pit bull" at a 2024 rally. Additionally, she was named as a witness in the FBI's investigation that led to a raid of the Fulton County election office in 2026.

Voting Rights: According to the Times-Georgian, King and his wife "have expressed support for President Donald Trump and claims of voter fraud leading to Joe Biden's victory in 2020." King claimed that while his wife has been on the State Election Board, the Secretary of State and Georgia Attorney General's office have intentionally "slow-walked" cases of election irregularities. His plans for the secretary of state's office mirror those demanded by election deniers. King claimed Georgia's voting machines were insecure and has said he plans to review the office's contract with Dominion Voting Systems. King said he would support paper ballots only, eliminating ballot-marking devices and any technology involved in the process that creates alleged irregularities. King believes purging voter rolls would ensure that deceased individuals' names come off the rolls and would bar non-citizens from voting. He vowed to withdraw Georgia from the Electronic Registration Information Center. King also supported voter ID and called for eliminating automatic voter registration and ballot drop boxes.

Philosophy: King touts his business experience and military service. In his campaign announcement, he claimed his candidacy was "rooted in service, business experience, and a commitment to truth." He highlighted his years "serving this country through service and leadership, from working as an Air Force contracting officer to building a successful construction company that serves the public sector." King promised that he was "not here to play politics," but rather "to build bridges, restore trust and secure elections that are fair, efficient, and transparent for every Georgian."

Republican Candidate Gabriel Sterling

Former Georgia Secretary of State Chief Operating Officer Gabriel Sterling has already faced criticism from Republican rivals Vernon Jones and Kelvin King, who accused him of "demonizing" Trump and insulting Republican voters who questioned the state's elections. Allegations of being "anti-Trump" will likely continue during the primary as the field battles for the portion of the GOP base who still believe

unfounded claims of election fraud. Republican rivals will also likely aim to tie Sterling to Brad Raffensperger's tenure and their grievances with the 2020 election, considering Sterling oversaw the implementation of the state's voting machine system. Democratic challengers may attempt to link Sterling to conservative activists who have fixated on Georgia's voter rolls and his role in the secretary of state's office when Georgia conducted one of the largest voter registration purges in state history in 2025. Democratic opponents could tie Sterling to many other harmful election policies implemented under Raffensperger.

Summary: Gabriel Sterling spent over six years at the secretary of state's office, where he oversaw the implementation of the state's voting machine system ahead of the 2020 election. He served as the chief operating officer for the secretary of state's office until he resigned in 2025. Despite being a lifelong Republican, Sterling became the target of conservatives who distrust Georgia's election equipment. He has been described as a "leading defender of the state's voting system" and a "close ally" of Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. Sterling made national headlines by defending the results of the 2020 election and urging Trump to speak out against threats made against election workers. Sterling previously served as a Sandy Springs city councilman from 2011 to 2017. He lost a race for Fulton County Commission in 2017.

Voting Rights: Sterling made national headline defending the results of the 2020 election. He dismissed claims of election fraud as "insanities, fever dreams [and] made-up Internet cabal." In 2022, Sterling and Secretary Raffensperger testified before the U.S. House's January 6 Select Committee. Ahead of the FBI raid in Fulton County in 2026, Robb Pitts, Fulton County commission chair, said he received a phone call warning him that Sterling and others were at risk of imminent arrest by federal agents. Sterling was working for the Georgia Secretary of State's office in 2025 when it conducted one of the largest voter registration purges in state history. At the time, Sterling preempted any criticism from left-leaning groups, arguing that they were "extremely sure these people aren't here" and "for somebody to say we're getting rid of voters is almost silly on its face because of how simple it is to register." As Secretary, Sterling said he would "uphold the Constitution, defend the right of citizens to vote, and oppose a federal takeover" of elections. Sterling also said if elected, he would ensure that only U.S. citizens voted in elections. Sterling has said, "Georgia elections are the safest in the nation and I will fight everyday to keep it that way."

Philosophy: Sterling's campaign says he seeks to build on his legacy of defending Georgia's elections while branding himself a conservative Republican. When asked about his plans to campaign for office, Sterling said "Georgia elections are the safest in the nation and I will fight every day to keep it that way." He signed a response to an inquiry about his campaign as a "conservative Republican."

Republican Candidate Vernon Jones

Former state Rep. Vernon Jones could face criticism from fellow Republicans as an opportunist, having only switched political parties in 2020 and becoming a perennial candidate over the years. However, Jones could find himself an ally in Donald Trump, who endorsed Jones' failed congressional campaign in 2022. A Democratic opponent could highlight Jones' support for Trump and his far-right agenda, especially his election denial claims. Additionally, a Democratic challenger would likely highlight his long history of problematic behavior toward women, including accusations of rape, intimidation, and harassment in his personal and professional lives. Opponents on both sides could highlight his tenure in public offices, which have been described as "controversial" and "turbulent" due to the aforementioned allegations and a reverse racial discrimination lawsuit against DeKalb County while he was chief executive.

Summary: Vernon Jones is a former Democrat turned Republican who served several terms in the Georgia House of Representatives and as DeKalb County CEO. Jones served in the House from 1993 to 2001 and again from 2017 to 2021. Jones served as DeKalb County's chief executive from 2001 to 2009, overseeing rapid economic development. He also ran unsuccessful campaigns for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and DeKalb County sheriff. In 2008, Jones launched a failed campaign for U.S. Senate, attempting to tie himself to Barack Obama. In 2010, he unsuccessfully challenged incumbent Rep. Hank Johnson. In 2014, he ran an unsuccessful campaign for DeKalb County sheriff. In 2020, Jones declined to seek reelection to the House and became a vocal supporter of Donald Trump. In 2022, he ran for governor before dropping out to seek an open seat in the U.S. House. He lost in the primary, despite being endorsed by Trump. Jones allegedly dropped out to run for Congress to allow Trump's gubernatorial pick, David Perdue, to beat Brian Kemp.

Voting Rights: In his campaign for secretary of state, Jones has vowed to use paper ballots, strengthen voter ID, and limit mail-in ballots. He was a vocal supporter of Trump's claims that the 2020 election was "rigged." Jones reportedly built his 2022 gubernatorial campaign around Trump's falsehoods that Georgia's election was stolen, promising an audit of the 2020 presidential election. In 2025, he stopped short of saying the 2020 election was stolen, but said "there were too many prominent irregularities not to question the elections."

Philosophy: Jones touted his alliance with Donald Trump, saying he'll stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with President Trump in the fight for election integrity." Jones claims that his loyalty "is to the people of Georgia and to President Trump's America First movement." In the past, Jones has referred to himself as the "Black Donald Trump." He has called for the prosecution of Democrats and defended Trump and his allies when they were charged with crimes.

Tim Fleming (R)

BIO

Fleming was a former top aide to Gov. Brian Kemp. “The first Republican to enter the secretary of state's race was state Rep. Tim Fleming, a former top aide to Gov. Brian Kemp and a Trump supporter. He filed paperwork for his run two weeks before the first meeting of a House committee tasked with proposing changes to election laws, which he chairs. It's given the Covington Republican a platform to voice his thoughts and concerns on elections. Fleming made it clear he had no intention of revisiting the 2020 election during the committee's first meeting in July. He said the committee's purpose is to ‘take a comprehensive, nonpartisan, data-driven look at how elections are conducted across the state of Georgia.’ Since the inaugural meeting, Fleming and other committee members have traveled the state listening to election experts, officials, party leaders, activists and others.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]

- **Fleming served as chief of staff for Republican Gov. Brian Kemp for two years.** “Before his election to the state House in 2022, Fleming served as Kemp’s chief of staff for two years. When Kemp was secretary of state, Fleming held roles as deputy elections director, chief of staff and deputy secretary of state.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]
- **Fleming held roles as deputy elections director, chief of staff, and deputy secretary of state while Kemp was secretary of state.** “Before his election to the state House in 2022, Fleming served as Kemp’s chief of staff for two years. When Kemp was secretary of state, Fleming held roles as deputy elections director, chief of staff and deputy secretary of state.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]

2022: Fleming was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives. “Republican state Rep. Tim Fleming, a former top aide to Gov. Brian Kemp, is planning to run for Georgia secretary of state, kicking off the race to become the state’s top elections official. Fleming is the first candidate seeking the elections job in Georgia’s swing state battleground. The secretary of state is responsible for ensuring accuracy, protecting voters and certifying results, along with business registration and licensing for dozens of professions. [...] Before his election to the state House in 2022, Fleming served as Kemp’s chief of staff for two years. When Kemp was secretary of state, Fleming held roles as deputy elections director, chief of staff and deputy secretary of state.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]

- **Fleming was chairman of a House study committee on election procedures.** “Fleming, a 42-year-old small-business owner from Covington, is the chairman of a House study committee that plans to evaluate Georgia’s voting equipment, voter registration policies and the State Election Board.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]

Fleming was a small-business owner from Covington. “Fleming, a 42-year-old small-business owner from Covington, is the chairman of a House study committee that plans to evaluate Georgia’s voting equipment, voter registration policies and the State Election Board.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]

Fleming served one term as the District 5 representative on the Newton County Board of Commissioners. “Fleming also served one term as the District 5 representative on the Newton County Board of Commissioners.” [Newton Citizen, [7/7/25](#)]

SOS CAMPAIGN

Fleming’s campaign described him as “a proven conservative, small business owner, and a champion for election integrity with a strong record of fighting for Georgia.” “Tim Fleming is a proven conservative, small business owner, and a champion for election integrity with a strong record of fighting for Georgia. As former Chief of Staff to Gov. Kemp and Deputy Secretary of State under then Sec. Kemp, Tim took on Stacey Abrams’ election schemes, cracked down on voter fraud, and streamlined professional licensing. Now serving in the State House, he continues to lead efforts to secure our elections and cut red tape. As Secretary of State, Tim will keep fighting to protect our elections, simplify licensing, and defend Georgia values.” [flemingfor.ga.com, accessed [3/4/26](#)]

Fleming’s campaign claimed “As former Chief of Staff to Gov. Kemp and Deputy Secretary of State under then Sec. Kemp, Tim took on Stacey Abrams’ election schemes, cracked down on voter fraud, and streamlined professional licensing.” “Tim Fleming is a proven conservative, small business owner, and a champion for election integrity with a strong record of fighting for Georgia. As former Chief of Staff to Gov. Kemp and Deputy Secretary of State under then Sec. Kemp, Tim took on Stacey Abrams’ election schemes, cracked down on voter fraud, and streamlined professional licensing. Now serving in the State House, he continues to lead efforts to secure our elections and cut red tape. As Secretary of State, Tim will keep fighting to protect our elections, simplify licensing, and defend Georgia values.” [flemingfor.ga.com, accessed [3/4/26](#)]

2026: Fleming said as Secretary, he would not allow the Left to cheat... “I’ll take them on just as I did against the Obama Justice Department and Stacey Abrams’ voter fraud schemes when I was Deputy Secretary of State.” In a February 2026 Facebook post, Fleming wrote, “Typical liberals. They want you to show photo ID to enter their events but not to vote. As your next Secretary of State, I won’t allow the left to cheat. I’ll take them on just as I did against the Obama Justice Department and Stacey Abrams’ voter fraud schemes when I was Deputy Secretary of State. There will be no tolerance for the lefts’ hypocrisy.” [Facebook, posted, [2/8/26](#)]

PHILOSOPHY

Fleming is a Trump supporter. “As a supporter of President Donald Trump, Fleming is positioning himself as a conservative candidate to replace outgoing Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who refused the president’s request to ‘find’ votes after the 2020 election.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]

- **2025: Fleming met with “Team Trump” at the White House, where Georgia’s secretary of state race was discussed.** “Met with Team Trump today at the White House to talk about 2026 and the future of Georgia. I appreciate their time and interest in discussing the race for Secretary of State. Big things ahead!” [Facebook, posted [7/7/25](#)]
- **2025: Fleming attended Trump’s inaugural ball.** In January 2025, Fleming posted photos from Trump’s inaugural ball and wrote, “We had a great time celebrating President Trump at the Liberty Ball on Monday night”. [Facebook, posted [1/22/25](#)]

September 2025: Fleming called the murder of Charlie Kirk “heartbreaking” and said there was “absolutely no place in America for political violence”. In a September 2025 Facebook post, Fleming wrote, “Today, September 10, 2025, we lost Charlie Kirk—shot and killed while speaking at Utah Valley

University. This is heartbreaking. There is absolutely no place in America for political violence—period. Lacey and I send our deepest condolences and prayers to his wife, Erika, their children, and the entire Turning Point family as they face unimaginable grief. May we honor Charlie’s memory by rejecting violence, elevating civil discourse, and holding ourselves to the highest standards of decency and humanity. Romans 12:21 — ‘Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.’” [Facebook, posted [9/10/25](#)]

Fleming’s campaign claimed “Now serving in the State House, he continues to lead efforts to secure our elections and cut red tape.” “Tim Fleming is a proven conservative, small business owner, and a champion for election integrity with a strong record of fighting for Georgia. As former Chief of Staff to Gov. Kemp and Deputy Secretary of State under then Sec. Kemp, Tim took on Stacey Abrams’ election schemes, cracked down on voter fraud, and streamlined professional licensing. Now serving in the State House, he continues to lead efforts to secure our elections and cut red tape. As Secretary of State, Tim will keep fighting to protect our elections, simplify licensing, and defend Georgia values.” [flemingfor.ga.com, accessed [3/4/26](#)]

ELECTIONS & VOTING

2020 Election

2026: Fleming shared Fox News article about the FBI’s raid on Fulton County’s elections office and stated, “I trust federal law enforcement to let the facts lead their investigation.” In a January 2026 Facebook post, Fleming highlighted a [Fox News](#) article about the FBI’s raid on Fulton County’s elections center and he wrote, “When I was Georgia’s Deputy Secretary of State, Trump won and Fulton County never counted votes without law enforcement present. The right to vote must be protected at all costs. I trust federal law enforcement to let the facts lead their investigation. Ultimately, every American citizen deserves fair, accurate, and secure elections.” [Facebook, posted, [1/28/26](#)]

Absentee Ballots

2025: Fleming sponsored an elections overhaul bill that sought to ban absentee ballot drop-off the weekend before Election Day. “Fleming sponsored an elections overhaul bill this year that sought to withdraw Georgia from a voter registration accuracy organization and ban absentee ballot drop-off the weekend before Election Day.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]

House Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Election Procedures

May 2025: Fleming was named chairman of the House Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Election Procedures. “In May Fleming was named chairman of the House Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Election Procedures, which was tasked with studying and evaluating Georgia’s election laws, policies and procedures.” [Newton Citizen, 7/7/25]

- **The committee was tasked with proposing changes to election laws.** “The first Republican to enter the secretary of state’s race was state Rep. Tim Fleming, a former top aide to Gov. Brian Kemp and a Trump supporter. He filed paperwork for his run two weeks before the first meeting of a House committee tasked with proposing changes to election laws, which he chairs. It’s given the Covington Republican a platform to voice his thoughts and concerns on elections. Fleming made it clear he had no intention of revisiting the 2020 election during the committee’s first

meeting in July. He said the committee's purpose is to ‘take a comprehensive, nonpartisan, data-driven look at how elections are conducted across the state of Georgia.’ Since the inaugural meeting, Fleming and other committee members have traveled the state listening to election experts, officials, party leaders, activists and others.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]

- **Fleming said he had no intention of revisiting the 2020 election during the committee’s first meeting.** “The first Republican to enter the secretary of state's race was state Rep. Tim Fleming, a former top aide to Gov. Brian Kemp and a Trump supporter. He filed paperwork for his run two weeks before the first meeting of a House committee tasked with proposing changes to election laws, which he chairs. It's given the Covington Republican a platform to voice his thoughts and concerns on elections. Fleming made it clear he had no intention of revisiting the 2020 election during the committee's first meeting in July. He said the committee's purpose is to ‘take a comprehensive, nonpartisan, data-driven look at how elections are conducted across the state of Georgia.’ Since the inaugural meeting, Fleming and other committee members have traveled the state listening to election experts, officials, party leaders, activists and others.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]
- **Fleming said the committee’s purpose was to “take a comprehensive, nonpartisan, data-driven look at how elections are conducted across the state of Georgia.”** “The first Republican to enter the secretary of state's race was state Rep. Tim Fleming, a former top aide to Gov. Brian Kemp and a Trump supporter. He filed paperwork for his run two weeks before the first meeting of a House committee tasked with proposing changes to election laws, which he chairs. It's given the Covington Republican a platform to voice his thoughts and concerns on elections. Fleming made it clear he had no intention of revisiting the 2020 election during the committee's first meeting in July. He said the committee's purpose is to ‘take a comprehensive, nonpartisan, data-driven look at how elections are conducted across the state of Georgia.’ Since the inaugural meeting, Fleming and other committee members have traveled the state listening to election experts, officials, party leaders, activists and others.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]
- **Fleming expressed frustrations with the Georgia Election Board, saying “We've seen grandstanding, bombastic rhetoric and public disputes that have done little to serve voters and have at times undermined the confidence in the system itself.”** “At a meeting in August, he expressed frustrations with the State Election Board. ‘We've seen grandstanding, bombastic rhetoric and public disputes that have done little to serve voters and have at times undermined the confidence in the system itself,’ Fleming said.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]

2026: Fleming’s committee recommended that the state use hand-marked paper ballots during the general election but said QR codes should be allowed to remain on ballots, which critics contend are a security risk because only the counting machines can read them. “After six lengthy hearings around the state last year, a special legislative committee studying the elections process has recommended incremental changes to Georgia's voting system. The study committee chaired by Rep. Tim Fleming, R-Covington, who is running for Georgia secretary of state, recommended Monday, Feb. 2, that the state use hand-marked paper ballots during the general elections in November. But there is a twist: the recommendation by the Republican-led panel says QR codes should be allowed to remain on ballots, which critics contend are a security risk because only the counting machines, not voters themselves, can read them.” [Catoosa Walker News, 2/4/26]

Paper Ballots

Fleming was a vocal proponent of hand-marked paper ballots, a key demand from activists skeptical of Georgia's voting machines. "Fleming heads a committee studying Georgia's election system and is another vocal proponent of hand-marked paper ballots, a key demand from activists skeptical of the state's voting machines." [Associated Press, 10/15/25]

Fleming called for a test of hand-marked ballots ahead of the 2026 midterms. "Georgia Reps. Tim Fleming and Victor Anderson are asking for a test of hand-marked ballots ahead of the 2026 midterms. The two sent a letter to Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger on Tuesday, asking him to implement the test during the Nov. 4 Public Service Commission election and Dec. 5 runoff for local elections." [Newnan Times-Herald, 9/4/25]

Voter ID

Fleming said he would "keep fighting to protect and strengthen voter ID laws". In a February 2026 Facebook post, Fleming wrote, "Warning: If common sense offends you, stop reading. I had to show ID tonight just to enter the hospital to see my dad (he's okay). If ID is required for everyday life, it should be required to vote. I'll keep fighting to protect and strengthen voter ID laws — just like I always have." [Facebook, posted, [2/6/26](#)]

Voter Fraud

Fleming's campaign website lists "deport any illegals attempting to vote in Georgia" as a priority. "Tim's Georgia First Priorities Strengthen election integrity by ensuring elections are secure, accessible, fair, and trusted Protect conservative values Get Georgians licensed faster Cut red tape holding small businesses back Champion voter ID and election transparency Deport any illegals attempting to vote in Georgia Make it impossible for the Left to cheat in our elections" [flemingfor.ga.com, accessed [3/4/26](#)]

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Voter Rolls

2025: Fleming sponsored an elections overhaul bill that sought to withdraw Georgia from a voter registration accuracy organization. "Fleming sponsored an elections overhaul bill this year that sought

to withdraw Georgia from a voter registration accuracy organization and ban absentee ballot drop-off the weekend before Election Day.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]

2025: Fleming introduced a controversial election bill that would prohibit Georgia from sharing voter information with third-party groups like the Electronic Registration Information Center, limit voters' ability to drop off absentee ballots on the final weekend before Election Day and expand poll-watching areas, among other provisions. “Earlier this year, Fleming also introduced a controversial election bill that would prohibit Georgia from sharing voter information with third-party groups like the Electronic Registration Information Center, limit voters' ability to drop off absentee ballots on the final weekend before Election Day and expand poll-watching areas, among other provisions. The bill successfully passed through both chambers, but failed to gain final passage before the Legislature adjourned.” [Georgia Recorder, 7/3/25]

Ballot Proofing

2023: Fleming passed House Bill 1207, a bill initially aimed at revising ballot proofing procedures for local superintendents that was later amended by the Senate. “Fleming has helped shape election policy in his brief time in the General Assembly. During his first term in the Legislature, he successfully passed House Bill 1207, a bill initially aimed at revising ballot proofing procedures for local superintendents. However, it was later amended to include language from Senate Bill 221, a controversial elections bill that failed to pass during the 2023 legislative session. Among other changes, the legislation required all election workers to be U.S. citizens, outlined protections for poll watchers and eliminated the requirement for polling places to maintain a ratio of one voting machine for every 250 voters. The governor signed HB 1207 into law in May 2024.” [Georgia Recorder, 7/3/25]

Kelvin King (R)

BIO

Career History

King was an Air Force veteran. “King is an Air Force veteran and business owner. His Atlanta-based firm, osprey Management, focuses on commercial construction projects. His wife, Janelle King, serves on the Georgia State Election Board.” [White County News, 2/26/26]

King own’s Osprey Management, a firm focused on commercial construction projects. “King is an Air Force veteran and business owner. His Atlanta-based firm, osprey Management, focuses on commercial construction projects. His wife, Janelle King, serves on the Georgia State Election Board.” [White County News, 2/26/26]

2022: King finished second to last in a six-way Republican primary for U.S. Senate. “A contractor and Air Force veteran based in Sandy Springs, King also serves as the chair of Let's Win for America Action, a political action committee that raises funds for conservative candidates. He last ran for office in 2022, finishing second to last in a six-way Republican U.S. Senate primary. The winner, Herschel Walker, lost in a runoff election to Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock.” [Georgia Recorder, 7/24/25]

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Family

King’s wife, Janelle, was a member of the Georgia State Elections Board that saw some key actions overturned by the state Supreme Court. “King's wife, Janelle King, is a member of the State Elections Board that saw some key actions overturned by the state Supreme Court.” [Associated Press, 10/15/25]

- **Though there is no state law requiring Janelle King to step down or recuse herself from election cases involving the secretary of state, King has said “If the public desires that Janelle not serve on the State Elections Board while I'm serving as secretary of state, then she'll step down.”** “‘If the public desires that Janelle not serve on the State Elections Board while I'm serving as secretary of state, then she'll step down,’ he said. There is no state law requiring Janelle King to step down or recuse herself from election cases involving the secretary of state while her husband runs for the state's top election official.” [Daily Gazette, 10/17/25]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution: “Together, Kelvin and Janelle King are a married couple using their platforms to criticize the secretary of state’s office — and, by extension, a likely rival in the Republican primary: Gabriel Sterling ...” “He’s a candidate running to oversee Georgia elections. She’s a State Election Board member and media personality who appears on Fox News. Together, Kelvin and Janelle King are a married couple using their platforms to criticize the secretary of state’s

office — and, by extension, a likely rival in the Republican primary: Gabriel Sterling, a leading voice in defense of Georgia’s voting system. Their alliance raises the question: Does Janelle King’s government position give a political benefit to her husband? She slammed the secretary of state’s office during a State Election Board meeting Wednesday, accusing it of “gross neglect” in a case involving a March 2024 special election in the city of Oakwood.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/3/25]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Kelvin and Janelle King’s “alliance raises the question: Does Janelle King’s government position give a political benefit to her husband?” “He’s a candidate running to oversee Georgia elections. She’s a State Election Board member and media personality who appears on Fox News. Together, Kelvin and Janelle King are a married couple using their platforms to criticize the secretary of state’s office — and, by extension, a likely rival in the Republican primary: Gabriel Sterling, a leading voice in defense of Georgia’s voting system. Their alliance raises the question: Does Janelle King’s government position give a political benefit to her husband? She slammed the secretary of state’s office during a State Election Board meeting Wednesday, accusing it of ‘gross neglect’ in a case involving a March 2024 special election in the city of Oakwood.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/3/25]

Conservative radio host Martha Zoller said Janelle King should stop criticizing the secretary of state’s office from her position on the State Election Board. “But Martha Zoller, a conservative radio host, said King should stop criticizing the secretary of state’s office from her position on the State Election Board. ‘There’s a difference between what the law says and what would be good or bad,’ said Zoller, who recently interviewed the Kings on her show. ‘It’s a challenge of having two people with similar careers. I don’t think she should take swipes at the secretary of state.’” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/3/25]

Janelle King rejected allegations she has a conflict of interest in criticizing the secretary of state’s office while her husband is running for that office. “Board member Janelle King rejected allegations she has a conflict of interest in criticizing the secretary of state’s office while her husband, Kelvin King, is running for that office.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/30/25]

Janelle King was a media personality who appeared on Fox News. “He’s a candidate running to oversee Georgia elections. She’s a State Election Board member and media personality who appears on Fox News. Together, Kelvin and Janelle King are a married couple using their platforms to criticize the secretary of state’s office — and, by extension, a likely rival in the Republican primary: Gabriel Sterling, a leading voice in defense of Georgia’s voting system.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/3/25]

Trump praised Janelle King as a “pit bull” at a 2024 rally. “Other witnesses include two Trump-aligned members of the Georgia state election board whom Trump publicly praised as ‘pit bulls’ at a 2024 rally. Those two members are Janice Johnston and Janelle King, who is married to Kelvin King, a current candidate for Georgia secretary of state.” [Guardian, 2/10/26]

2026: Janelle King was named as a witness in the FBI’s investigation that led to a raid of the Fulton County election office. “The FBI’s rationale behind raiding the Fulton county election office in Georgia last month was based on debunked claims from election deniers and came after a referral from a White House lawyer who tried to overturn the 2020 election, a search warrant affidavit unsealed on Tuesday reveals. The warrant offers the first insight for the basis for the FBI’s 28 January raid on the Fulton county election office. FBI officials seized nearly 700 boxes of election materials in the raid. The FBI’s investigation ‘originated’ from a referral sent by Kurt Olsen, an attorney who sought to overturn the 2020 election and contacted justice department officials to urge them to file a motion at the US

supreme court to nullify the election. Olsen began working at the White House last year to investigate election integrity problems. The FBI's witnesses in the investigation include a cadre of conservative activists who have been hounding state officials with claims of wrongdoing in Fulton county for years. Many of their claims have been investigated by state officials and debunked. Other witnesses include two Trump-aligned members of the Georgia state election board whom Trump publicly praised as 'pit bulls' at a 2024 rally. Those two members are Janice Johnston and Janelle King, who is married to Kelvin King, a current candidate for Georgia secretary of state." [Guardian, 2/10/26]

SOS CAMPAIGN

King said starting a business is challenging and called for the process to obtain a license to be streamlined. "King also said that starting a business is challenging, and therefore the process for obtaining a license should be streamlined. He said he had received numerous calls from prospective business owners who have had difficulty navigating the Secretary of State office's current licensing process." [White County News, 2/26/26]

King emphasized the need to restore voter confidence in Georgia, citing concerns often raised by right-wing election activists about the security of voting machines and accuracy of the state's voter rolls. "In an op-ed announcing his candidacy, King emphasized the need to restore voter confidence in Georgia, citing concerns often raised by right-wing election activists about the security of voting machines and accuracy of the state's voter rolls. He also promised to fire government employees who 'attack political candidates or supporters' though he did not include any specific examples of government employee misconduct." [Georgia Recorder, 7/24/25]

King promised to fire government employees who 'attack political candidates or supporters' though he did not include any specific examples of government employee misconduct. "In an op-ed announcing his candidacy, King emphasized the need to restore voter confidence in Georgia, citing concerns often raised by right-wing election activists about the security of voting machines and accuracy of the state's voter rolls. He also promised to fire government employees who 'attack political candidates or supporters' though he did not include any specific examples of government employee misconduct." [Georgia Recorder, 7/24/25]

- **King accused unnamed government employees of "unprofessional conduct, with press conferences aimed at attacking the president and concerned citizens," seemingly in reference to opponent Gabriel Sterling.** "Kelvin King, who lost the Republican primary for U.S. Senate to Herschel Walker in 2022, opened his campaign by taking a shot at Sterling. He wrote in James Magazine that he would fire state employees who 'attack political candidates or supporters of either party.' He also accused unnamed government employees of 'unprofessional conduct, with press conferences aimed at attacking the president and concerned citizens.' The statements were a reference to Sterling's most famous moment, when he stood at the steps of the Georgia Capitol and called on President Donald Trump to speak against threats to election workers in the aftermath of the 2020 election." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/3/25]

PHILOSOPHY

King claimed his candidacy was "rooted in service, business experience, and a commitment to truth." "'A Kelvin King candidacy is rooted in service, business experience, and a commitment to truth,' he wrote. 'I'm not here to play politics. I'm here to build bridges, restore trust and secure elections that are fair, efficient, and transparent for every Georgian.'" [Georgia Recorder, 7/24/25]

- **King: “I’m not here to play politics. I’m here to build bridges, restore trust and secure elections that are fair, efficient, and transparent for every Georgian.”** “‘A Kelvin King candidacy is rooted in service, business experience, and a commitment to truth,’ he wrote. ‘I’m not here to play politics. I’m here to build bridges, restore trust and secure elections that are fair, efficient, and transparent for every Georgian.’” [Georgia Recorder, 7/24/25]
- **King: “I’ve spent my life serving this country through service and leadership, from working as an Air Force contracting officer to building a successful construction company that serves the public sector.”** “‘I’ve spent my life serving this country through service and leadership, from working as an Air Force contracting officer to building a successful construction company that serves the public sector,’ King wrote. ‘I am ready to do the work for Georgia, for America, for our future.’” [Reporter Newspapers & Atlanta Intown, 7/23/25]

ELECTIONS & VOTING

In 2022, King said he “adamantly” opposed “any attempted federal elections takeover.” On his 2022 campaign website, King stated: “Kelvin believes by requiring ALL voters, absentee and in person, to provide valid I.D. and eliminating ‘absentee drop boxes’ we can create a more secure process. Kelvin also believes that the Constitution explicitly gives states the power to conduct their own elections. That is why he will adamantly oppose any attempted federal elections takeover.” [Kelvin King for Georgia, Archived [11/10/22](#)]

- **2026: King supported GA Senate resolution calling on Secretary Raffensperger to comply with the DOJ’s request for voter data.** In a January 2026 Facebook post, King wrote, “I support SR 563 and stand with our GA Senators in calling on Brad Raffensperger to fully comply with the DOJ. If our voter rolls are truly ‘the cleanest in the nation,’ now is the time to prove it—through transparency and action, not rhetoric. I urge members of the House to do the same.” [Facebook, posted [1/22/26](#)]

Election Denial

Times-Georgian: King and his wife “have expressed support for President Donald Trump and claims of voter fraud leading to Joe Biden’s victory in 2020.” “King, and his wife have expressed support for President Donald Trump and claims of voter fraud leading to Joe Biden’s victory in 2020.” [Times-Georgian, 12/10/25]

2025: King claimed he doesn’t dispute that Biden won in 2020. “King said he doesn’t dispute that Biden won in 2020. ‘He won,’ King said of Biden. ‘He signed his paper. He said his oath of office.’” [Capital B Atlanta, [10/6/25](#)]

Dominion Voting Systems

King said he plans to review the contract the Secretary of State’s office has with Dominion Voting Systems. “To do this, he plans to review the contract the Secretary of State’s office has with Dominion Voting Systems. He also explained how the system technology currently works, adding that he believes in hand marked paper ballots. ‘The scanner doesn’t read the text,’ King said. ‘It only reads the QR code.’” [White County News, 2/26/26]

King claimed Georgia's voting machines were insecure. "King asserted in statement Tuesday, Feb. 3, that the current voting machines are insecure. Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has defended the system's integrity. Dominion Voting Systems, the company that makes the machines, won hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements with media outlets, including Fox News, over false claims that the machines led to a rigged 2020 election." [Catoosa Walker News, 2/4/26]

Election Integrity

King claimed that while his wife has been on the State Election Board, the Secretary of State and Georgia Attorney General's office have intentionally "slow-walked" cases of election irregularities. "King also claimed that while his wife has been on the State Election Board, the Secretary of State and Georgia Attorney General's office have intentionally 'slow-walked' cases of election irregularities." [Times-Georgian, 12/10/25]

Paper Ballots

King said he believes in hand marked paper ballots, claiming "the scanner doesn't read the text. It only reads the QR code." "To do this, he plans to review the contract the Secretary of State's office has with Dominion Voting Systems. He also explained how the system technology currently works, adding that he believes in hand marked paper ballots. 'The scanner doesn't read the text,' King said. 'It only reads the QR code.'" [White County News, 2/26/26]

King said he would support paper ballots only, eliminating ballot-marking devices and any technology involved in the process that creates alleged irregularities. "King claimed current ballots cannot be validated due to the process of ballot-marking devices and the paper that is printed for a voter to turn in. King said he would support paper ballots only, eliminating ballot-marking devices and any technology involved in the process that creates alleged irregularities." [Times-Georgian, 12/10/25]

Augusta Chronicle: King "vowed to support the hand counting of ballots." "Sterling will be competing in the Republican primary next year against Kelvin King, who vowed to support the hand counting of ballots. Georgia voters currently enter their choice by touchscreen and receive a printout of the result." [The Augusta Chronicle, [9/4/25](#)]

Voter Registration

King called for eliminating automatic voter registration. "King wants to increase voter list maintenance work to ensure only qualified voters are on the rolls in Georgia. He also wants to change the law that allows Georgians to automatically register to vote when they get or renew their driver's license. The Center for Election Innovation and Research credited that policy with increasing Georgia's active voter registration rate by 20 percentage points between 2016 and 2020. A representative from CEIR told Capital B Atlanta that King's view that ending automatic voter registration will lead to more accurate voter rolls 'does not align' with its research." [Capital B Atlanta, [10/6/25](#)]

Voter Rolls

King said voter rolls should be maintained on a year-round basis by giving voters the ability to verify their registration status online or through the SOS office before demand letters are sent out. "King said voter rolls should be maintained on a year-round basis by giving voters the ability to verify

their registration status online or to contact the Secretary of State's office before demand letters are sent out. He said purging voter rolls would ensure that deceased individuals' names come off the rolls and would bar non-citizens from voting. King said he also doesn't trust third party entities with voter data. He plans to withdraw Georgia from the Electronic Registration Information Center, according to his campaign website. 'We should establish direct relationships with the Secretary of State in each state to cross-check voter data and ensure our voter rolls are as accurate as possible,' King states. 'This approach will save taxpayers money and provide a straightforward, up-to-date process for maintaining clean voter rolls.'" [White County News, 2/26/26]

King: "I will work to bring in new leadership to clean up Georgia's voter rolls." In an op-ed, King wrote, "Additionally, I will work to bring in new leadership to clean up Georgia's voter rolls. Outdated methods still leave voter rolls containing illegal registrations, including commercial addresses, P.O. Boxes, and other wrongful data. Residency violations must be fixed, and the prosecution of double-voting must be enforced. This devalues the votes of legal citizens, so maintaining accurate voter rolls is a year-round priority– not just something to check before an election." [James Magazine Online, [7/22/25](#)]

King said purging voter rolls would ensure that deceased individuals' names come off the rolls and would bar non-citizens from voting. "King said voter rolls should be maintained on a year-round basis by giving voters the ability to verify their registration status online or to contact the Secretary of State's office before demand letters are sent out. He said purging voter rolls would ensure that deceased individuals' names come off the rolls and would bar non-citizens from voting. King said he also doesn't trust third party entities with voter data. He plans to withdraw Georgia from the Electronic Registration Information Center, according to his campaign website. 'We should establish direct relationships with the Secretary of State in each state to cross-check voter data and ensure our voter rolls are as accurate as possible,' King states. 'This approach will save taxpayers money and provide a straightforward, up-to-date process for maintaining clean voter rolls.'" [White County News, 2/26/26]

Capital B Atlanta: King "argued that failing to stop undocumented immigrants and other ineligible voters from casting ballots in elections dilutes the power of lawful voters". "King said state election officials removing an estimated 480,000 'inactive' voters on the rolls this summer proves his concerns about potential voter fraud are valid. He argued that failing to stop undocumented immigrants and other ineligible voters from casting ballots in elections dilutes the power of lawful voters, including those who are Black. 'It disenfranchises a qualified voter if unqualified voters are on the rolls,' King told Capital B Atlanta during a recent phone interview." [Capital B Atlanta, [10/6/25](#)]

King vowed to withdraw Georgia from the Electronic Registration Information Center. "King said voter rolls should be maintained on a year-round basis by giving voters the ability to verify their registration status online or to contact the Secretary of State's office before demand letters are sent out. He said purging voter rolls would ensure that deceased individuals' names come off the rolls and would bar non-citizens from voting. King said he also doesn't trust third party entities with voter data. He plans to withdraw Georgia from the Electronic Registration Information Center, according to his campaign website. 'We should establish direct relationships with the Secretary of State in each state to cross-check voter data and ensure our voter rolls are as accurate as possible,' King states. 'This approach will save taxpayers money and provide a straightforward, up-to-date process for maintaining clean voter rolls.'" [White County News, 2/26/26]

- **King said Georgia "should establish direct relationships with the Secretary of State in each state to cross-check voter data and ensure our voter rolls are as accurate as possible," to**

save taxpayer money and provide a straightforward process. “King said voter rolls should be maintained on a year-round basis by giving voters the ability to verify their registration status online or to contact the Secretary of State’s office before demand letters are sent out. He said purging voter rolls would ensure that deceased individuals’ names come off the rolls and would bar non-citizens from voting. King said he also doesn’t trust third party entities with voter data. He plans to withdraw Georgia from the Electronic Registration Information Center, according to his campaign website. ‘We should establish direct relationships with the Secretary of State in each state to cross-check voter data and ensure our voter rolls are as accurate as possible,’ King states. ‘This approach will save taxpayers money and provide a straightforward, up-to-date process for maintaining clean voter rolls.’” [White County News, 2/26/26]

Voter ID

In 2022, King called for all voters to show voter ID. On his 2022 campaign website, King stated: “Kelvin believes by requiring ALL voters, absentee and in person, to provide valid I.D. and eliminating ‘absentee drop boxes’ we can create a more secure process. Kelvin also believes that the Constitution explicitly gives states the power to conduct their own elections. That is why he will adamantly oppose any attempted federal elections takeover.” [Kelvin King for Georgia, Archived [11/10/22](#)]

2026: King criticized GA Senate Democrats for opposing a proposed voter ID Constitutional amendment. In a March 2026 X post, King wrote, “Time and time again, we see Democrat leaders and legislators undermine and vilify ‘common sense legislation’ that is vital for safeguarding our right to free and fair elections.” King’s statement was a response to GA Senate Democrats’ opposition to a bill for a voter ID Constitutional amendment. [X, @kelvinking4ga, [3/6/26](#)]

Absentee Voting

In 2022, King called for eliminating absentee ballot drop boxes. On his 2022 campaign website, King stated: “Kelvin believes by requiring ALL voters, absentee and in person, to provide valid I.D. and eliminating ‘absentee drop boxes’ we can create a more secure process. Kelvin also believes that the Constitution explicitly gives states the power to conduct their own elections. That is why he will adamantly oppose any attempted federal elections takeover.” [Kelvin King for Georgia, Archived [11/10/22](#)]

Gabriel Sterling (R)

BIO

Career History

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Sterling was one of Brad Raffensperger's former election officials and "a leading defender of the state's voting system." "Sterling entered the race saying he will fight to keep the state's elections the 'safest in the nation.' He's one of Raffensperger's former election officials and a leading defender of the state's voting system." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]

Sterling served as the Georgia Secretary of State Chief Operating Officer. "Former Georgia Secretary of State Chief Operating Officer Gabriel Sterling is launching a bid to become the state's top elections official. Stanley Dunlap/Georgia Recorder (file photo) The Georgia secretary of state's former chief operating officer, who soared to national prominence in the aftermath of the 2020 election, is launching a bid to become the state's next top elections official. Gabriel Sterling, a Republican who has been one of the most prominent supporters of Georgia's Dominion Voting Systems machines, spent over six years at the secretary of state's office, where he oversaw the implementation of the state's \$104 million voting machine system ahead of the 2020 election." [Georgia Recorder, 9/4/25]

- **Sterling spent over six years at the secretary of state's office, where he oversaw the implementation of the state's \$104 million voting machine system ahead of the 2020 election.** "Former Georgia Secretary of State Chief Operating Officer Gabriel Sterling is launching a bid to become the state's top elections official. Stanley Dunlap/Georgia Recorder (file photo) The Georgia secretary of state's former chief operating officer, who soared to national prominence in the aftermath of the 2020 election, is launching a bid to become the state's next top elections official. Gabriel Sterling, a Republican who has been one of the most prominent supporters of Georgia's Dominion Voting Systems machines, spent over six years at the secretary of state's office, where he oversaw the implementation of the state's \$104 million voting machine system ahead of the 2020 election." [Georgia Recorder, 9/4/25]
- **Sterling was the chief operating officer for the secretary of state's office until he resigned in 2025.** "Sterling, who was chief operating officer for the secretary of state's office until he resigned this summer, is a lifelong Republican but became the target of conservatives who distrust Georgia's election equipment." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 9/6/25]
- **WSB-TV: Sterling said his roles with the Secretary of State's Office helped his name become well-known.** "Sterling served on the Sandy Springs City Council for seven years, but he says his high-ranking roles with the Secretary of State's Office during the 2020 election helped his name become well-known." [WSB-TV, [2/18/26](#)]

Sterling was a lifelong Republican but became the target of conservatives who distrust Georgia's election equipment. "Sterling, who was chief operating officer for the secretary of state's office until he resigned this summer, is a lifelong Republican but became the target of conservatives who distrust Georgia's election equipment." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 9/6/25]

Sterling served as a Sandy Springs city councilman from 2011 to 2017. “Sterling previously served as a Sandy Springs city councilman from 2011 to 2017. He lost a race for Fulton County Commission that year.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 9/6/25]

Sterling lost a race for Fulton County Commission in 2017. “Sterling previously served as a Sandy Springs city councilman from 2011 to 2017. He lost a race for Fulton County Commission that year.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 9/6/25]

SOS CAMPAIGN

Sterling announced his secretary of state campaign, saying he will fight to keep the state’s elections the “safest in the nation.” “Sterling entered the race saying he will fight to keep the state's elections the ‘safest in the nation.’ He’s one of Raffensperger's former election officials and a leading defender of the state's voting system.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]

Sterling said as secretary, he would “uphold the Constitution, defend the right of citizens to vote, and oppose a federal takeover, regardless of party”. In a February 2026 X post, Sterling wrote, “If you want a Secretary of State that will follow the law, uphold the Constitution, defend the right of citizens to vote, and oppose a federal takeover, regardless of party, I’m your candidate. Please consider donating to defend our elections TODAY...” [X, @GabrielSterling, [2/3/26](#)]

2026: Sterling said he was the only SOS candidate that “fought Stacey Abrams/Fair Fight in court and won.” In February 2026, Sterling posted on X: “Only one candidate for Georgia Secretary of State has fought Stacey Abrams/Fair Fight in court and won. And that’s me. Others are a lot of talk. I’m about the work of keeping Georgia the best and most secure state to vote in America.” [X, @GabrielSterling, [2/6/26](#)]

Opposition

2025: Republican rivals criticized Sterling and questioned the state’s elections. “The lifelong Republican is a close ally of Raffensperger's, who drew the ire of many in the party after he refused Trump's demands to ‘find’ enough votes to reverse the 2020 election results. The outcome of the 2020 election in Georgia was the subject of three vote counts and multiple investigations. But many Trump supporters continue to make unproven allegations of fraud. Getting enough support from that portion of the GOP base will be a tall order for Sterling. Those voters may be drawn to his Republican rivals, who are using their campaigns to criticize Sterling and question the state's elections.” [Daily Gazette, 10/17/25]

- **Vernon Jones accused Sterling of “demonizing” Trump and voters who question the state's elections.** “King isn't the only candidate who's leaning into criticizing Sterling. Days after launching his campaign, Vernon Jones accused Sterling of ‘demonizing’ Trump and voters who question the state's elections.” [Daily Gazette, 10/17/25]
- **Kelvin King accused Sterling of insulting Republican voters and equating elections activists from both parties as equally problematic.** “So far, Kelvin King has made Sterling a frequent target of criticism. At his campaign kickoff event last week, he accused Sterling of insulting Republican voters and equating election activists from both parties as equally problematic.” [Daily Gazette, 10/17/25]

PHILOSOPHY

When asked about his plans to campaign for office, Sterling said “Georgia elections are the safest in the nation and I will fight everyday to keep it that way.” “A former lieutenant of Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger is now running for the top job. Gabriel Sterling filed paperwork to raise money for the Republican nomination Tuesday and indicated Thursday that he will, indeed, campaign for the office. ‘Georgia elections are the safest in the nation and I will fight everyday to keep it that way,’ Sterling said in a text message responding to a query about his plans. Sterling signed his message as a ‘conservative Republican.’” [The Augusta Chronicle, [9/4/25](#)]

Sterling signed a response to an inquiry about his campaign as a “conservative Republican.” “A former lieutenant of Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger is now running for the top job. Gabriel Sterling filed paperwork to raise money for the Republican nomination Tuesday and indicated Thursday that he will, indeed, campaign for the office. ‘Georgia elections are the safest in the nation and I will fight everyday to keep it that way,’ Sterling said in a text message responding to a query about his plans. Sterling signed his message as a ‘conservative Republican.’” [The Augusta Chronicle, [9/4/25](#)]

Sterling said his 2020 defense of the election results gained him some supports but also tarnished his reputation with some of Trump’s strongest supporters and led to death threats. “He is running as a Republican and says that his public statements defending the integrity of the 2020 election gained him some supporters, but also tarnished his reputation with some of President Donald Trump’s strongest supporters. ‘When I go around the state of Georgia, I have many, many more people thank me for the work that we have done than ever say anything disparaging about it,’ he said. Sterling says he’s received death threats, had to increase security at his home, and was the victim of a swatting incident. ‘You go into the Twitterverse, it’s still pretty bad out there, but a lot of that’s Russian bots, so we kind of roll with it,’ he said.” [WSB-TV, [2/18/26](#)]

2026: Sterling said Trump’s online post comparing President Obama and Michelle Obama to apes was “vile and racist and should be taken down immediately.” In February 2026, in response to Trump’s offensive post comparing President Obama and Michelle Obama to apes, Sterling wrote, “I agree with Senator Scott. That social media post was vile and racist and should be taken down immediately.” Senator Tim Scott posted, “Praying it was fake because it’s the most racist thing I’ve seen out of this White House. The President should remove it.” [X, @GabrielSterling, [2/6/26](#)]

ELECTIONS & VOTING

2026: Sterling said he would fight any effort to nationalize elections. “Gabriel Sterling, a Republican candidate for secretary of state in Georgia, posted text from Article 1 of the Constitution on Tuesday afternoon, saying he will fight any efforts to nationalize elections. ‘As your Secretary of State, I will always fight for Georgia. There should never be a Federal takeover of our elections. I will never allow this, regardless of the party of the Administration in power,’ he [wrote on X](#).” [NBC News, [2/3/26](#)]

Sterling said election security in Georgia is as strong as anywhere else in the United States. “[Sterling] says election security in Georgia is as strong as anywhere else in the United States. ‘We are constantly improving. We are constantly evaluating. The threat environment changes every week, every month, every year,’ he said. ‘We have foreign actors, we have domestic actors, who are doing things to try to undermine the system, both at a psychological level, but also attack it at a fundamental cyber level, which we always have to be prepared for.’” [WSB-TV, [2/18/26](#)]

2020 Election

Sterling made national headlines by defending the results of the 2020 election. “Gabriel Sterling made national headlines by defending the results of the 2020 election. Now, he's running in a primary against Republican rivals who've turned his defense into a campaign talking point.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]

- **Sterling famously urged Trump to speak out against threats made against election workers after the 2020 election.** “Sterling also famously urged President Donald Trump to speak out against threats made against election workers after the 2020 election.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]
- **Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Sterling “is a close ally of Raffensperger's, who drew the ire of many in the party after he refused Trump's demands to ‘find’ enough votes to reverse the 2020 election results.”** “The lifelong Republican is a close ally of Raffensperger's, who drew the ire of many in the party after he refused Trump's demands to ‘find’ enough votes to reverse the 2020 election results.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]
- **AP: Sterling made a name for himself “defending Georgia’s presidential election results in 2020 after Trump called Raffensperger and asked him to ‘find’ votes to overturn Democratic President Joe Biden’s win in the state.”** “One of Raffensperger’s former top officials, Republican Gabriel Sterling, is also running to replace him. Both made names for themselves defending Georgia’s presidential election results in 2020 after Trump called Raffensperger and asked him to ‘find’ votes to overturn Democratic President Joe Biden’s win in the state.” [Associated Press, 10/15/25]

2022: Sterling testified before the January 6th House Select Committee. “The wheels of justice might move at a glacial pace, but the nation finally heard from Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger on Tuesday regarding the ‘perfect’ phone call where Donald Trump tried to gaslight him into ‘finding 11,780 votes.’ Joined by Georgia’s top election official, Chief Operating Officer Gabriel Sterling, Raffensperger’s testimony before the January 6th House Select Committee was a meticulous walk through the 67-minute-long phone call where Trump repeated his claims that he had won, while Raffensperger reiterated that he had not. Trump knew he had lost Georgia, both men testified, yet continued to push his claims of fraud both there as well as in Arizona.” [The Hill Reporter, [6/21/22](#) (Archived)]

Sterling dismissed claims of fraud during the 2020 election as “insanities, fever dreams [and] made-up Internet cabal.” “Raffensperger defended the accuracy of the results and dismissed claims of fraud. Sterling, who was the agency's chief operating officer, backed up his boss, blasting such allegations, as ‘insanities, fever dreams [and] made-up Internet cabal.’” [The Augusta Chronicle, [9/4/25](#)]

2026: Ahead of the FBI raid in Fulton County, Robb Pitts, Fulton County commission chair, said he received a phone call warning him that he, Brad Raffensperger, and Gabriel Sterling were at risk of imminent arrest by federal agents. “The Fulton county commission chair, Robb Pitts, said at a press conference this morning that he received a phone call last Monday – two days before the FBI served a criminal warrant to seize 2020 election documents – to warn that he, Georgia’s secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, former Raffensperger deputy Gabriel Sterling and others in the state were at risk of imminent arrest by federal agents.” [Guardian, 2/4/26]

Georgia Recorder: Sterling “oversaw the implementation of the state’s \$104 million voting machine system ahead of the 2020 election.” “Gabriel Sterling, a Republican who has been one of the most prominent supporters of Georgia’s Dominion Voting Systems machines, spent over six years at the secretary of state’s office, where he oversaw the implementation of the state’s \$104 million voting machine system ahead of the 2020 election.” [Georgia Recorder, [9/4/25](#)]

Voter Rolls

After Georgia began one of the largest voter registration purges in state history in 2025, Sterling said he was nearly 100% confident those being canceled from voter registration had moved away and are no longer eligible to vote from the address. “Georgia began one of the largest voter registration purges in the state's history on Thursday, and almost half a million inactive voters will be removed. Voter cancellations occur every odd year in Georgia as part of an effort to tidy up voter rolls ahead of the following year's elections. Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's office began the process on Thursday, mailing letters to 478,000 voters, giving them a final warning before the cancellation. Those who receive the letters have 40 days to respond or contact local election offices. Gabriel Sterling, chief operating officer of Raffensperger's office, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he's nearly 100% confident those being canceled from voter registration have moved away and are no longer eligible to vote from the address. He also preempted any criticism from left-wing groups. ‘We are extremely sure these people aren't here,’ Sterling said. ‘For somebody to say we're getting rid of voters is almost silly on its face because of how simple it is to register.’ He boasted that Georgia's voter rolls would be ‘the most accurate list in the country’ after the cancellation.” [Denver Gazette, 7/10/25]

- **Sterling said “we are extremely sure these people aren’t here,” and argued “for somebody to say we're getting rid of voters is almost silly on its face because of how simple it is to register.”** “Georgia began one of the largest voter registration purges in the state's history on Thursday, and almost half a million inactive voters will be removed. Voter cancellations occur every odd year in Georgia as part of an effort to tidy up voter rolls ahead of the following year's elections. Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's office began the process on Thursday, mailing letters to 478,000 voters, giving them a final warning before the cancellation. Those who receive the letters have 40 days to respond or contact local election offices. Gabriel Sterling, chief operating officer of Raffensperger's office, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he's nearly 100% confident those being canceled from voter registration have moved away and are no longer eligible to vote from the address. He also preempted any criticism from left-wing groups. ‘We are extremely sure these people aren't here,’ Sterling said. ‘For somebody to say we're getting rid of voters is almost silly on its face because of how simple it is to register.’ He boasted that Georgia's voter rolls would be ‘the most accurate list in the country’ after the cancellation.” [Denver Gazette, 7/10/25]
- **The removals were met with outrage from left-wing leaders, including American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia Executive Director Andrea Young.** “The removals were met with outrage from left-wing leaders, including American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia Executive Director Andrea Young.” [Denver Gazette, 7/10/25]

Proof of Citizenship

2026: Sterling said he would ensure only American Citizens could vote... “I have fought and defeated Stacey Abrams and her liberal allies in court when they tried to take away our Citizenship Verification.” In February 2026, Sterling posted on X: “Citizenship has to mean

something. I have fought and defeated Stacey Abrams and her liberal allies in court when they tried to take away our Citizenship Verification. I'm running for Secretary of State and I need your vote to assure that American Elections are for American Citizens only.” [X, @GabrielSterling, [2/27/26](#)]

Vernon Jones (R)

BIO

Career History

Jones was a former Democrat turned Republican who served several terms in the Georgia House of Representatives and DeKalb County CEO. “Vernon Jones, a former Democrat turned Republican who served several terms in the state House and DeKalb County CEO, is running for secretary of state. Jones made the announcement Monday morning on X, where he said he is running ‘because elections and business both depend on trust.’ ‘I’ll protect your vote, cut red tape for small businesses, and bring accountability back to government,’ Jones said.” [Decaturish.com, 10/13/25]

- **Jones served in the state House from 1993 to 2001 and again from 2017 to 2021.** “Jones served in the state House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001 and again from 2017 to 2021. He was also DeKalb CEO from 2001 to 2009. Jones began his political career as a Democrat but switched to the Republican Party in 2021 after endorsing Donald Trump for re-election and speaking at the 2020 Republican National Convention. He has also made unsuccessful runs for the U.S. Senate and House, and DeKalb County sheriff. Most recently, Jones lost to Mike Collins in 2022 in the Republican 10th congressional district primary. Jones had been endorsed by Trump, who was out of the White House at the time. Collins is now running for U.S. Senate, seeking to have a chance to square off against Democratic incumbent Jon Ossoff in next year's midterms.” [Decaturish.com, 10/13/25]
- **2020: Jones declined to seek reelection to the state House.** “He declined to seek reelection to the state House in 2020.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

2022: Jones ran for governor then dropped out to seek an open seat in the U.S. House. “He has tried to return to elected office since leaving the state House, first by running for governor and then dropping out to seek an open seat in the U.S. House in 2022.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

- **2022: Jones lost to Mike Collins in the Republican 10th congressional district primary, despite being endorsed by Trump.** “Jones served in the state House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001 and again from 2017 to 2021. He was also DeKalb CEO from 2001 to 2009. Jones began his political career as a Democrat but switched to the Republican Party in 2021 after endorsing Donald Trump for re-election and speaking at the 2020 Republican National Convention. He has also made unsuccessful runs for the U.S. Senate and House, and DeKalb County sheriff. Most recently, Jones lost to Mike Collins in 2022 in the Republican 10th congressional district primary. Jones had been endorsed by Trump, who was out of the White House at the time. Collins is now running for U.S. Senate, seeking to have a chance to square off against Democratic incumbent Jon Ossoff in next year's midterms.” [Decaturish.com, 10/13/25]

Jones made unsuccessful runs for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and DeKalb County sheriff. “Jones served in the state House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001 and again from 2017 to 2021. He was also DeKalb CEO from 2001 to 2009. Jones began his political career as a Democrat but switched to the Republican Party in 2021 after endorsing Donald Trump for re-election and speaking at the 2020 Republican National Convention. He has also made unsuccessful runs for the U.S. Senate and House, and DeKalb County sheriff. Most recently, Jones lost to Mike Collins in 2022 in the Republican 10th

congressional district primary. Jones had been endorsed by Trump, who was out of the White House at the time. Collins is now running for U.S. Senate, seeking to have a chance to square off against Democratic incumbent Jon Ossoff in next year's midterms.” [Decaturish.com, 10/13/25]

- **2008: During his unsuccessful bid for U.S. Senate, Jones put Barack Obama’s picture on his campaign literature without permission.** Bill Torpy: “After two turbulent terms as the CEO of DeKalb County, the then-Democrat ran for U.S. Senate in 2008 and tried to ride on the coattails of a popular newcomer named Barack Obama. Team Vern created a flyer with photos of Jones and Obama side-by-side with the heading, ‘Yes We Can!’ Well, the future president caught wind of it and quickly said, ‘No You Don’t!’ Obama told the AJC, ‘I do not endorse him; I have not endorsed him. He put my picture on his literature without asking me.’ Ouch! Not surprisingly, Jones lost the Democratic primary.” [Op-Ed, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/20/25]
- **2010: Jones ran an unsuccessful campaign for Congress against incumbent Hank Johnson.** Bill Torpy: “Two years later, he ran for Congress in his own back yard in DeKalb against incumbent Hank Johnson. He got stomped 2-1.” [Op-Ed, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/20/25]
- **2012: Jones indicated he would return to the Georgia House of Representatives, but backed out of the race.** Bill Torpy: “He raised his hand in 2012 to return to the state House, where he served for most of the 1990s but backed out of the race. Two years later, he ran against DeKalb's uninspiring sheriff, Jeff Mann, saying Mann was a puppet controlled by white power brokers. Vern lost worse this time, 3-1, defeated roundly by voters who knew him well.” [Op-Ed, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/20/25]
- **2014: Jones ran an unsuccessful campaign for DeKalb County sheriff.** Bill Torpy: “He raised his hand in 2012 to return to the state House, where he served for most of the 1990s but backed out of the race. Two years later, he ran against DeKalb's uninspiring sheriff, Jeff Mann, saying Mann was a puppet controlled by white power brokers. Vern lost worse this time, 3-1, defeated roundly by voters who knew him well.” [Op-Ed, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/20/25]
- **Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Bill Torpy said Jones knew he’d lose re-election to the state House in 2020, so he backed out and threw his support to Donald Trump.** Bill Torpy: “Out of other political options and he turned to the state House, again in 2016 and served a couple terms. But by 2020, he rankled his Dem colleagues so much and, knowing he'd lose, he backed out of his run and threw himself in with Donald Trump's re-election.” [Op-Ed, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/20/25]
- **2022: Jones ran for Governor but dropped out to run for Congress to let Trump’s pick, David Perdue, face Brian Kemp in the gubernatorial.** “Jones tried a run in the 2022 Republican primary for Georgia governor but stepped aside to let Trump lackey David Perdue have a (very unsuccessful) go at incumbent Brian Kemp. Instead, Jones ran against Mike Collins, a real conservative, and, despite Trump's blessing, got beat again, 3-1.” [Op-Ed, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/20/25]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Bill Torpy: “You could call [Jones] many things: Political crash test dummy. A churlish Don Quixote. A man once going places who is now a perennial candidate.”
“Vernon Jones, who is now running for secretary of state as a MAGA Man, is a glutton for punishment. That's a given. You could call him many things: Political crash test dummy. A churlish Don Quixote. A

man once going places who is now a perennial candidate. Or a ‘tomato can,’ which in boxing parlance is a once-promising fighter past his prime who takes on matches he's sure to lose.” [Op-Ed, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/20/25]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution: “While serving as DeKalb’s chief executive from 2001 to 2009, Jones’ administration oversaw rapid economic development in the county.” “While serving as DeKalb’s chief executive from 2001 to 2009, Jones’ administration oversaw rapid economic development in the county.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

Relationship With Trump

Jones was a Democrat until switching to the Republican Party in 2021 and endorsing Donald Trump for re-election. “Jones served in the state House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001 and again from 2017 to 2021. He was also DeKalb CEO from 2001 to 2009. Jones began his political career as a Democrat but switched to the Republican Party in 2021 after endorsing Donald Trump for re-election and speaking at the 2020 Republican National Convention. He has also made unsuccessful runs for the U.S. Senate and House, and DeKalb County sheriff. Most recently, Jones lost to Mike Collins in 2022 in the Republican 10th congressional district primary. Jones had been endorsed by Trump, who was out of the White House at the time. Collins is now running for U.S. Senate, seeking to have a chance to square off against Democratic incumbent Jon Ossoff in next year's midterms.” [Decaturish.com, 10/13/25]

Jones spoke at the 2020 Republican National Convention. “Jones served in the state House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001 and again from 2017 to 2021. He was also DeKalb CEO from 2001 to 2009. Jones began his political career as a Democrat but switched to the Republican Party in 2021 after endorsing Donald Trump for re-election and speaking at the 2020 Republican National Convention. He has also made unsuccessful runs for the U.S. Senate and House, and DeKalb County sheriff. Most recently, Jones lost to Mike Collins in 2022 in the Republican 10th congressional district primary. Jones had been endorsed by Trump, who was out of the White House at the time. Collins is now running for U.S. Senate, seeking to have a chance to square off against Democratic incumbent Jon Ossoff in next year's midterms.” [Decaturish.com, 10/13/25]

Criminal History

Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Jones’ “tenure in public offices has been controversial, and he has faced criminal and civil charges for his behavior.” “While serving as DeKalb’s chief executive from 2001 to 2009, Jones’ administration oversaw rapid economic development in the county. His tenure in public offices has been controversial, and he has faced criminal and civil charges for his behavior, including an accusation by a woman who said Jones raped her at his home in 2004. Jones said it was a consensual act and no charges were filed.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

2004: Jones was accused of raping a woman at his home, but he claimed it was consensual, and no charges were filed. “While serving as DeKalb’s chief executive from 2001 to 2009, Jones’ administration oversaw rapid economic development in the county. His tenure in public offices has been controversial, and he has faced criminal and civil charges for his behavior, including an accusation by a woman who said Jones raped her at his home in 2004. Jones said it was a consensual act and no charges were filed.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

- **Jones' accuser said pressing charges would cause her too much emotional distress.** "Jones had just won a second term as DeKalb County's top elected official, chief executive officer. It was years before the #MeToo movement forced a reexamination of how powerful men treat women, and Jones avoided both political ramifications and criminal prosecution when his accuser said pressing charges would cause her too much emotional distress." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
 - **The accuser never recanted her story, but asked the district attorney to drop the case in October 2005.** "As the investigation dragged on, the alleged victim in DeKalb was feeling stressed. She never recanted her story, but in October 2005, 10 months after the alleged assault, she asked the district attorney's office to drop the case." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **The night of the assault, the accuser had seen guns at Jones' house and felt intimidated by Jones' texting with police officers assigned to his security detail.** "She had seen guns at the top of a staircase, she said, and was intimidated by Jones' texting with police officers assigned to his security detail. 'I didn't want any problems,' she told investigators. 'I didn't want any trouble.' Jones eventually coaxed her out of her clothes again, she said, and convinced her to lie in bed with him. Then, she said, he pinned her down and raped her." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **Before detectives took the accuser's statement, DeKalb's police chief alerted Jones to the allegations and the woman's name was leaked to the media.** "Even before detectives took the woman's statement, DeKalb's police chief at the time called Jones to alert him to the allegations. An investigation conducted for the state attorney general's office later described the chief's call to a potential suspect as inappropriate. Soon, the woman's name leaked to the media, and reporters and camera crews came to her door." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **Investigators asked authorities in California to locate a woman who was a "possible prior sexual assault victim involving DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones," but the allegation was never confirmed.** "But at the time, investigators were looking into whether Jones had been implicated in an earlier sexual assault. Public records contain no details about the prior allegation. But documents in the district attorney's files, recently reviewed by the Journal-Constitution, show that investigators asked authorities in Stockton, California, to locate a woman there who was 'a possible prior sexual assault victim involving DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones.' A detective in California went to the woman's house, but she wouldn't come to the door. Twice he went back, then wrote a letter seeking her cooperation. She never responded, records indicate, and DeKalb County investigators never confirmed the allegation." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]

An Atlanta Journal-Constitution review of his record showed Jones had a long history of problematic behavior toward women, repeatedly accused of threatening, intimidating and harassing women in his personal and professional lives. "Like Trump, however, Jones has a long history of problematic behavior toward women, repeatedly accused of threatening, intimidating and harassing women in his personal and professional lives, an examination of his record by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution shows. The Journal-Constitution reviewed civil and criminal complaints filed against Jones and interviewed more than a dozen elected officials, activists and lawyers who have clashed with him. This examination found numerous previously unreported details about Jones' conduct toward women spanning more than three decades." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]

- **1989: A woman accused Jones of threatening her with a gun in her home.** “One woman accused Jones of threatening her with a gun in her home. Another, a DeKalb County commissioner, said he purposely bumped into her after a contentious public meeting. A community activist was so unnerved by an encounter with Jones that she upgraded her home security. [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **Jones was charged with a misdemeanor for pointing a pistol at another, but a judge dismissed the charge and ordered Jones to attend an anger management program.** “The events of June 30, 1989, did not bode well for Jones’ future as a politician. Three years before he was first elected to the Georgia General Assembly, a Doraville woman told police that Jones threatened her with a gun at her home. Jones, then 28, was arrested on a charge of pointing a pistol at another, a misdemeanor, public records show. He posted a \$220 bond and was released from jail the same day. [...] A magistrate judge dismissed the criminal charge but ordered Jones to attend an anger management program called Men Stopping Violence. In its promotional material, the Atlanta-based organization described its mission as helping ‘men change their abusive behavior.’” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **2004: Elaine Boyer, a DeKalb County Commissioner, said Jones purposely bumped into her after a contentious public meeting.** “One woman accused Jones of threatening her with a gun in her home. Another, a DeKalb County commissioner, said he purposely bumped into her after a contentious public meeting. A community activist was so unnerved by an encounter with Jones that she upgraded her home security.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **Boyer declined to press charges, but said she wanted to establish a record of how Jones had “subjected her and other commissioners, as well as their staffs, to ‘verbal abuse’ and ‘derogatory and degrading comments.’”** “In January 2004, Elaine Boyer, then a DeKalb County commissioner, filed a report with the Decatur police saying that after a contentious meeting, Jones ‘deliberately walked into her and made hard shoulder-to-shoulder contact.’ Boyer did not want to press charges. But she told the police she needed to establish a record of how Jones had subjected her and other commissioners, as well as their staffs, to ‘verbal abuse’ and ‘derogatory and degrading comments.’” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **Georgia state Sen. Elena Parent Jones said Jones routinely engaged in “monopolizing, aggressive conversations, physical intimidation and bullying” aimed mostly at female colleagues.** “‘Vernon is a bully,’ said Jan Selman, a longtime arts advocate who has tangled with Jones for more than 20 years. ‘He has issues with women — and he has issues with strong women, particularly.’ As a state legislator the past four years, Jones routinely engaged in ‘monopolizing, aggressive conversations, physical intimidation and bullying’ aimed mostly at female colleagues, said state Sen. Elena Parent, D-Atlanta. Jones dominated meetings of DeKalb’s legislative delegation, Parent said, talking over female lawmakers and leaning his 6-foot-4 frame over his perceived enemies in what she considered a threatening manner. ‘He operated well outside the bounds of normal human behavior,’ Parent said.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **2003: Pauline Holder, a community activist, said Jones came to her house to confront her after she complained in a local television news story about the failure of county officials,**

including Jones, to solve flooding problems in her subdivision. “That investigation centered on a run-in between Jones and a community activist, Pauline Holder. She had complained in a local television news story about the failure of county officials, including Jones, to solve flooding problems in her subdivision, Fairway Green, near Lithonia. One evening in June 2003, Holder said, Jones came to her house to confront her about the news story. He arrived in a county-owned car, driven by a plainclothes county police officer, after 8 p.m.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]

- **A prosecutor declined to charge Jones with criminal trespass due to lack of sufficient evidence, but warned Jones to stay away from Holder.** “More than six months later, a prosecutor determined that evidence was not sufficient to charge Jones with criminal trespass. But he warned Jones to stay away from Holder. The encounter rattled Holder. She bought new home security devices, she said, and asked her brother to move in for a few weeks to keep watch over her and her son, who was then 9 years old.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **2009: Jones agreed to an out-of-court settlement with Holder.** “She also filed a lawsuit, charging Jones with trespass and assault. Jones denied Holder’s allegations, saying in an affidavit that she ‘did not appear to be scared or to feel threatened by my presence.’ But in 2009, Jones agreed to an out-of-court settlement. The terms were not made public.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **2020: Stephe Koontz, a transgender city council member, said Jones yelled at her about “LGBTQ folks” hijacking issues and remarked “One day you’re a man, one day you’re a woman. I don’t know what the hell you are.”** “Koontz, the first openly transgender person elected to public office in Georgia, was standing outside the House chamber when she spotted Jones walking past. She called him over and started explaining why she opposed the bill. They had never met, she said, but ‘he clearly knew who I was.’ Within seconds, she said, Jones became ‘louder and louder and louder,’ claiming she wanted to protect murderers and rapists and evoking his ancestors who came to America shackled in slave ships. ‘You LGBTQ folks are trying to hijack our issue to amplify yours,’ she said Jones told her. ‘One day you’re a man, one day you’re a woman. I don’t know what the hell you are.’ Koontz placed her hand on Jones’ forearm, trying to calm him. He recoiled. ‘Don’t touch me,’ she said Jones told her. ‘I’ll have you arrested for assault.’ One lawmaker who witnessed the confrontation and another who was briefed about it shortly afterward confirmed Koontz’s account.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]

2010: A jury awarded \$180,000 in damages in a reverse discrimination case against Vernon Jones and DeKalb County. “A jury awarded more than \$180,000 in damages Thursday in a reverse discrimination case against DeKalb County and its first black chief executive, Vernon Jones. Three white former managers in the county’s Parks and Recreation Department claimed they were victims of an attempt to replace whites with blacks. A fourth former employee, who is black, claimed he suffered retaliation when he refused to ‘dig up dirt’ on his white colleagues. Mr. Jones, who served from 2001 to 2009, is running for Congress. He denied he had discriminated based on race and compared himself to President Obama. According to trial testimony, the county had 33 black and 61 white top managers when Mr. Jones took office and 60 blacks and 57 whites five years later.” [New York Times, [4/2/10](#)]

- **Three white former managers in the county’s Parks and Recreation Department claimed they were victims of an attempt to replace whites with blacks.** “A jury awarded more than

\$180,000 in damages Thursday in a reverse discrimination case against DeKalb County and its first black chief executive, Vernon Jones. Three white former managers in the county's Parks and Recreation Department claimed they were victims of an attempt to replace whites with blacks. A fourth former employee, who is black, claimed he suffered retaliation when he refused to 'dig up dirt' on his white colleagues. Mr. Jones, who served from 2001 to 2009, is running for Congress. He denied he had discriminated based on race and compared himself to President Obama. According to trial testimony, the county had 33 black and 61 white top managers when Mr. Jones took office and 60 blacks and 57 whites five years later." [New York Times, [4/2/10](#)]

- **A fourth former employee, who is black, claimed he suffered retaliation when he refused to 'dig up dirt' on his white colleagues.** "A jury awarded more than \$180,000 in damages Thursday in a reverse discrimination case against DeKalb County and its first black chief executive, Vernon Jones. Three white former managers in the county's Parks and Recreation Department claimed they were victims of an attempt to replace whites with blacks. A fourth former employee, who is black, claimed he suffered retaliation when he refused to 'dig up dirt' on his white colleagues. Mr. Jones, who served from 2001 to 2009, is running for Congress. He denied he had discriminated based on race and compared himself to President Obama. According to trial testimony, the county had 33 black and 61 white top managers when Mr. Jones took office and 60 blacks and 57 whites five years later." [New York Times, [4/2/10](#)]

SOS CAMPAIGN

October 2025: Jones announced his campaign for secretary of state, saying "I'll protect your vote, cut red tape for small businesses, and bring accountability back to government." "Vernon Jones, a former Democrat turned Republican who served several terms in the state House and DeKalb County CEO, is running for secretary of state. Jones made the announcement Monday morning on X, where he said he is running 'because elections and business both depend on trust.' 'I'll protect your vote, cut red tape for small businesses, and bring accountability back to government,' Jones said." [Decaturish.com, 10/13/25]

In a video announcing his campaign, Jones said "Trust in our elections has been shaken. Our elections must be secure. Our ballots must be protected." "'Trust in our elections has been shaken,' Jones said in a video announcing his campaign for secretary of state. He added, 'Our elections must be secure. Our ballots must be protected.'" [Associated Press, 10/15/25]

PHILOSOPHY

Jones touted his alliance with Donald Trump in his campaign announcement, saying he'll stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with President Trump in the fight for election integrity." "Jones touted his alliance with Trump in his Monday announcement, saying that he'll stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with President Trump in the fight for election integrity." Jones said in a press release that he'll "make Georgia the model for American First election integrity" as he campaigns across the state. "I never wavered, and I never will. My loyalty is to the people of Georgia and to President Trump's America First movement," Jones said in a press release." [Georgia Recorder, [10/13/25](#)]

- **Jones: "My loyalty is to the people of Georgia and to President Trump's America First movement."** "Jones touted his alliance with Trump in his Monday announcement, saying that he'll stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with President Trump in the fight for election integrity." Jones

said in a press release that he'll "make Georgia the model for American First election integrity" as he campaigns across the state. "I never wavered, and I never will. My loyalty is to the people of Georgia and to President Trump's America First movement," Jones said in a press release." [Georgia Recorder, [10/13/25](#)]

Jones called himself the "Black Donald Trump." "Jones, who called himself the 'Black Donald Trump,' has called for prosecutions of Democrats and defended Trump and his allies when they were charged with crimes." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

Jones defended Trump and allies when they were charged with crimes and has called for prosecutions of Democrats. "Jones, who called himself the 'Black Donald Trump,' has called for prosecutions of Democrats and defended Trump and his allies when they were charged with crimes." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

ELECTIONS & VOTING

Election Denial

Jones supported Trump's claims that the 2020 election was "rigged." "Jones underwent a political transformation from Democrat to outspoken conservative who supported Trump's claims that the 2020 election was 'rigged.' He declined to seek reelection to the state House in 2020." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

- **2025: Jones stopped short of saying the 2020 election was stolen, but said "there were too many prominent irregularities not to question the elections."** "At a Wednesday news conference, Jones stopped short of saying the election was stolen, but said, 'There were too many prominent irregularities not to question the elections.'" [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [10/17/25](#)]

2021: Jones spoke at the Save America Rally, which preceded the deadly attack by Trump supporters on the U.S. Capitol. "Jones endorsed Trump's re-election bid, spoke at the Republican National Convention, and publicly embraced the falsehood that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from Trump. Jones used a speech at the Save America Rally in Washington on Jan. 6, the event that preceded the deadly attack by Trump supporters on the U.S. Capitol, to announce his party switch." [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]

Jones built his 2022 campaign for governor around Trump's falsehoods that Georgia's election was stolen, promising an audit of the 2020 presidential election. "He built his campaign for governor around Trump's falsehoods that Georgia's election was stolen, with Jones promising an audit of the 2020 presidential election and to replace Georgia's electronic voting system, often calling the election the 'dead cat on the end of the line.'" [Associated Press, [10/16/25](#)]

Election Integrity

Jones said he would "fight for secure elections, defend our values, and make Georgia the model for America First election integrity." "Jones, a former state representative and DeKalb County CEO who crowd-surfed during a Trump rally, said he will 'fight for secure elections, defend our values, and make Georgia the model for America First election integrity.'" [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

- **Jones: “Georgia deserves a Secretary of State who will protect every legal vote and restore trust in our elections.”** “‘Georgia deserves a Secretary of State who will protect every legal vote and restore trust in our elections,’ he said in a statement. ‘I will do everything in my power to secure paper ballots, strengthen voter ID, limit mail-in ballots, and deliver accountability to the people of Georgia.’” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

Voter ID

Jones: “I will do everything in my power to secure paper ballots, strengthen voter ID, limit mail-in ballots, and deliver accountability to the people of Georgia.” “‘Georgia deserves a Secretary of State who will protect every legal vote and restore trust in our elections,’ he said in a statement. ‘I will do everything in my power to secure paper ballots, strengthen voter ID, limit mail-in ballots, and deliver accountability to the people of Georgia.’” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]