Georgia Voters Cautiously Confident Ahead of 2026 Midterms

DATE: Friday, February 6, 2026
TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Alexander Tarascio, Principal & Pollster, Cygnal
RE: Survey of n600 Likely 2026 Midterm Voters in Georgia

Executive Summary

Georgia voters enter the 2026 election cycle with **cautious but growing confidence** in how elections are run. Trust in the state's election administration has meaningfully risen since 2020, and most voters believe the result of the 2026 elections will be legitimate. What used to be predominantly Republican anxiety has widened: **voters in both parties now worry over vulnerabilities** such as election officials cutting corners, or external intervention from the federal government or courts. SB 202 reforms are broadly viewed as making Georgia elections more secure, though the Fulton County raid sharply divides voters. And with narrow margins across congressional, statewide, and Senate matchups, even modest swings in voter confidence or doubt could affect election outcomes. Taken together, these findings point to an electorate that's increasingly confidence in its systems, but deeply wary of disruptions.

Mail-in voting draws mixed opinions; hand-market ballots are opposed.

- Voters are **divided in their opinions about mail-in voting** as 50% believe it opens the door for fraud vs. 41% who believe it is convenient and secure.
- **Opinions are split along partisan lines** as 84% of Republicans believe it is fraud-prone compared to 79% of Democrats who say it's convenient and secure. Independents are divided.
    - Messaging about paper ballots & audits, photo ID checks, and drop-box controls consistently move voters toward more confidence in mail-in voting.
- **Replacing machines** with hand-marked ballots **draws more opposition** (49%) **than support** (26%). Republican voters are moderately supportive (38 support, 28 oppose) while Democrats provide the strongest opposition.

Positive momentum in election perception and voter confidence.

- Trust in **Georgia's election administration shows improvement from 2020 to 2024** as only 17% believe the 2024 election had widespread fraud or process errors that altered results (down from 37% for 2020).
- Voters expect 2026 to be better than 2020, but worse than 2024 – 26% anticipate widespread fraud or process errors.
    - Republicans, Democrats, and Independents each share **similar feelings about widespread fraud in 2024** (~16%), and all share at least **+5% increased expectation** of results-altering errors or fraud in **2026 compared to 2024.**
- Regardless of any misgivings voters have about elections and their administration, **73% are likely to accept the results** of **national elections** and **77% for the U.S. Senate race**.
- **70% of voters are confident** that Georgia's voting and ballot tabulation process will accurately cast and count votes in 2026.

Trust is rising, but voters still feel uneasy heading in 2026

- Compared to other states, a slim plurality of voters believe Georgia does **about the same job** (40%) **ensuring ballots are accurately cast and counted**. 13% more believe **Georgia does a better job** (32%) **than a worse job** (19%).

Cygnal is an award-winning international polling, public opinion, and predictive analytics firm that pioneered multi-mode polling, text-to-web collection, and emotive analysis. Cygnal is ranked as the most accurate firm, and clients rely on Cygnal's ability to create intelligence for action. Its team members have worked in 50 states and 17 countries on more than 3,000 corporate, public affairs, and political campaigns.

- There is still much room for improvement regarding trust in the administration of elections: voters believe the administration of elections in Georgia is getting **either less trustworthy** (33%) or **staying the same** (32%). Just 22% believe it is getting more trustworthy.
- The **people who administer elections and count ballots** (+12 trust) are much more trusted than the **Georgia State Election Board** (-6 trust), which is largely trusted by just Democrats.

Election concerns cross party lines

- The top two election threats are **election officials not following laws or procedures** (43%) and **non-citizens voting** (42%; driven by Republicans). **Deployment of troops or federal agents near** polling stations (37% overall) is the top concern for Democrats (61%).
- **Court decisions changing rules** close to the election came in narrowly behind (37%) as a threat **Republicans and Democrats are both worried about**.
    - Taken together, these results show that **Georgia voters,** regardless of party, want stable, predictable election rules that don't change on the eve of an election.

SB 202 reforms have increased confidence in elections.

- **A plurality** of voters believe **SB 202 reforms made elections more secure** (37%) with 24% makes no difference and only 21% saying less secure.
    - Reforms are **largely seen in a positive light** as Republicans stand at +30 more secure, Independents at +11, and Democrats +4 more secure (31% no difference).
- 85% say their **in-person voting experience was either excellent** (52%) or **good** (33%), and this opinion is held across partisan and ideological splits.

Fulton County raid is very polarizing with mixed impact.

- The **Fulton County raid polarizes and depresses confidence among Democrat-leaning blocs** while **boosting it among Republican-leaning blocs**.
    - **Pluralities call the FBI search *very* inappropriate** (40%) vs. 30% ***very* appropriate**, driven across partisan splits.
    - Net effect on confidence splits: **44% say it makes them less confident** (27% much less) while **33% say more confident** (16% much more) - with *much* less concentrated among Harris/Democrats, urban, college-educated voters and *much* more among Trump/Republican, rural voters, and non-college voters.

The 2026 political environment is highly competitive.

- **The generic 2026 ballot environment is highly polarized and competitive.** The generic congressional ballot stands at **D+4** (48 D, 44 R).
- The **generic ballot for governor stands at D+2** with swing voters and Independents showing more support for a Republican governor than a Republican member of Congress.
- The **generic ballot for secretary of state is tied 44 – 44**.
- **U.S. Senate**: **Jon Ossoff edges the unnamed Republican** (47 – 45), with clear partisan/racial/geo splits (Ossoff is stronger in Metro ATL, Black voters, college-educated voters, while the Republican is stronger in rural, White voters, non-college voters).

Methodology: This probabilistic survey was conducted January 29 – February 1, 2026, with 600 likely general election voters. It has a margin of error of ±4.00%. Known registered voters were interviewed via live phones and SMS. This survey was weighted to a likely general election voter universe.