



GEORGIA**SHIFT**



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SENT VIA EMAIL

June 3, 2024

Dear Members of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the replacement of a member of the Cherokee County Board of Elections. Specifically, we urge the Board of Commissioners to maintain the longstanding bipartisan nature of the Board of Elections and resist pressures from partisan interests to alter its makeup.

Bipartisanship on a body like the Board of Elections is fundamental for creating fair and transparent election procedures and Cherokee County has traditionally maintained a bipartisan board. Boards of Elections nationwide are designed to incorporate representation from both major political parties and that reflect the communities they serve, thereby enhancing accountability, transparency, and public confidence in the electoral system. This bipartisan model helps counteract the undue influence of political interest, fostering a decision-making environment that prioritizes the best interests of all voters, regardless of their party affiliations.

The mission of the Cherokee County Board of Elections as stated on its website is to:

- Conduct our elections in a secure manner with integrity and kindness.
- Conduct our elections in accordance with the Federal Election Code, Georgia Election Code, and State Election Board Rules.
- Provide information to the citizens of Cherokee County on election and voter registration-related issues.
- Encourage voter participation.

Efforts to politicize or influence the Board's composition undermines its ability to fulfill this mission. By maintaining bipartisanship, the Board can effectively serve as a protector of election integrity, reinforcing voter trust and safeguarding all citizens' rights to engage in free and fair elections.

We trust that you, as the Board of Commissioners, will act in the interest of your constituents and uphold the ethics set out by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia to “continue to make honesty the keystone of our efforts, by being always mindful of our oath of office, and by practicing honesty and impartiality in all our actions.” We collectively urge the Board of Commissioners to uphold the bipartisan legacy of the Cherokee County Board of Elections. With the 2024 presidential election on the horizon, it is imperative to reaffirm the commitment to bipartisanship, fairness, and transparency and to prevent undue bias in the electoral process.

We appreciate your attention to this issue. We trust that you will carefully consider our concerns and take necessary steps to preserve the integrity of the electoral process in Cherokee County.

In Service and Community,

Common Cause Georgia

Equality Foundation of Georgia

Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda

Protect the Vote GA

Georgia Shift

ACLU of Georgia

Georgia Muslim Voter Project