GEORGIA REPUBLICAN PARTY

NOVEMBER 2026 BRIEFING

2026 Georgia Election Analysis

The new balance of power under the Gold Dome, and what it means for Georgia business

Unofficial results as of November 9, 2026



AGENDA

What this briefing covers

The November 3 results, the new balance of power in the General Assembly, and what Georgia's new leaders plan to do in 2027.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Five things to know

Georgia moves from 22 years of one-party control to a divided government in January 2027.

1 **The sweep**

Democrats won every statewide office and the House (92–87, one runoff). Republicans held the Senate, 29–27.

2 **Divided government**

No bill passes without Senate Republicans, and neither party can override a veto (120 House and 38 Senate votes needed).

3 **The agenda**

Cost of living leads the Democratic agenda: tax relief, Medicaid expansion, and pre-K and school funding.

4 **The regulators**

New agency heads plan tougher consumer-protection, insurance-rate and utility-cost oversight.

5 **What to do**

Engage now with the new committee chairs, agency leaders and the PSC before the session opens.

Unofficial as of Nov. 9, 2026. Sources: AP via NBC News; AJC (Nov. 6–9); Georgia Constitution. Detail on the pages that follow.

SECTION

01

The Results at a Glance

Democrats swept the statewide offices and the House; Republicans held the Senate 29–27.



Democrats swept Georgia while Republicans held the Senate by one seat

54.3%
Lance Bottoms wins the open governor's race

8 of 8
Statewide executive offices now held by Democrats

92–87
Democratic House majority, with one runoff

29–27
Republican Senate majority, down from 33–23

Sources: AP via NBC News and MultiState; AJC (Nov. 6–9). Unofficial as of Nov. 9.

Democrats now control the governorship, the House and the PSC

Office / body	Before Nov. 3	After (unofficial)	Shift
Governor	R (Kemp, term-limited)	D (Lance Bottoms)	Flip to D
Lt. Governor	R (Burt Jones)	D (McLaurin)	Flip to D
Other statewide offices (6)	6 R	6 D	All flip to D
Public Service Commission	3 R – 2 D	3 D – 2 R	D majority
State Senate (56)	33 R – 23 D*	29 R – 27 D	D +4; R hold
State House (180)	99 R – 81 D	92 D – 87 R, 1 runoff	D +11; D majority
U.S. Senate	2 D	2 D	No change
U.S. House delegation (14)	9 R – 5 D	9 R – 5 D	No change

*Includes SD 12, vacant after Sen. Freddie Sims (D) resigned. Majorities: 29 Senate, 91 House. Sources: AJC (Nov. 4–6); NBC News; Fox 5 Atlanta. Unofficial as of Nov. 9.

SECTION

02

Federal and Statewide Races

Ossoff re-elected; Democrats won all eight executive offices and a majority on the PSC.



Ossoff won a second term, and the U.S. House delegation is unchanged

U.S. SENATE

Sen. Jon Ossoff (D) defeats Rep. Mike Collins (R)

The AP called the race shortly before 8 p.m. on election night. Ossoff wins a second term.

Ossoff won by about 18 points and carried Republican strongholds Houston and Lowndes counties.

U.S. HOUSE

Georgia delegation stays 9 R – 5 D

No Georgia congressional seat changed party.

Sources: Washington Examiner (AP call); AJC (Nov. 9, margin); NBC News House results.

Democrats won every statewide office

Office	Winner	Defeated	Note
Governor	Keisha Lance Bottoms (D)	Rick Jackson (R)	Open; 54.3%–45.7%
Lt. Governor	Josh McLaurin (D)	Greg Dolezal (R)	Open; 56.0%–44.0%
Attorney General	Tanya Miller (D)	Brian Strickland (R)	Open seat
Secretary of State	Penny Brown Reynolds (D)	Tim Fleming (R)	Open seat
Agriculture	Katherine Juhan-Arnold (D)	Tyler Harper (R)	Incumbent out
Insurance	Keisha Waites (D)	John King (R)	Incumbent out
Labor	Nikki Porcher (D)	Bárbara Rivera Holmes (R)	Incumbent out
School Superintendent	Lydia Powell (D)	Richard Woods (R)	Incumbent out
PSC District 3	Peter Hubbard (D)	Fitz Johnson (R)	D holds, full term
PSC District 5	Shelia Edwards (D)	Joshua Tolbert (R)	Open; flip to D

Sources: MultiState results; vote shares from NBC News/AP. PSC now 3 D –2 R.

SECTION

03

The State Senate

A one-seat Republican majority, with a Democratic lieutenant governor in the chair.



Republicans held the Senate with exactly the 29 seats they need



+4
Democratic pickups

3
Republican incumbents defeated

0
Votes to spare on party-line bills

Sources: AJC; Atlanta News First. “Before” counts the vacant SD 12 seat as Democratic.

Democrats flipped four Senate seats, three from incumbents

District	Winner	Defeated	Note
SD 37 (Cobb)	Darcy Castro (D)	Sen. Ed Setzler (R-Acworth)	50.8%-49.2%
SD 42 (Newton/Morgan)	Eric Lee (D)	Bret Dunn (R)	Open; Strickland ran for AG
SD 45 (Gwinnett)	Scott Tippetts (D)	Sen. Clint Dixon (R-Buford)	52.4%–47.6%
SD 48 (Gwinnett)	Laura Murvartian (D)	Sen. Shawn Still (R-Suwanee)	52.9%–47.1%

Open seats held by the incumbent party: SD 14 (Kevin Abel, D), SD 19 (David Sikes, R), SD 27 (Mike Dudgeon, R), SD 51 (Will Wade, R).

Sources: Secretary of State results via GPS (SD 37, latest count); 11Alive (SD 45 and 48); Fox 5 Atlanta (Nov. 4); MultiState.

Senate Republicans have no margin for error

No margin for error

Bills need 29 votes. One Republican defection or absence stops a party-line bill.

A Democrat in the chair

McLaurin presides, but the majority controls committee assignments. Republicans stripped Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor's powers in 2003; McLaurin wants power-sharing.

Party-switch risk

One switch makes it 28–28, with the lieutenant governor breaking ties. McLaurin says he will not court party-switchers.

Leadership set for 2027

On Nov. 9, Republicans re-elected Leader Jason Anavitarte and nominated Larry Walker III for Pro Tem. Appropriations and Judiciary need new chairs.

Sources: Georgia Senate Press Office (Nov. 9); AJC (Nov. 9; 2003 precedent); WALB/Atlanta News First (McLaurin, Nov. 9).

SECTION

04

The State House

Democrats take the majority for the first time since 2004.



Democrats won the House majority they last held in 2004



12

Republican incumbents defeated

1

Democratic incumbent defeated

91

Seats Democrats keep even if the HD 103 recount flips

Gray: HD 151, Dec. 1 runoff. Majority: 91. Unofficial as of Nov. 9. Sources: AJC (Nov. 6); Fox 5 Atlanta (Nov. 9).

Democrats defeated 12 Republican incumbents; Republicans picked up two seats

District	Winner (D)	Defeated (R)
HD 19	Cynthia Starke-Jones	Joseph Gullett
HD 29	Scott Soracco	Matt Dubnik
HD 40	Elisa Lassiter	Kimberly New
HD 44	Danielle Bell	Don Parsons
HD 48	Adam Cleveland	Scott Hilton
HD 53	Beth Fuller	Deborah Silcox

District	Winner (D)	Defeated (R)
HD 81	Mishael White	Noelle Kahaian
HD 99	Michelle Kang	Matt Reeves
HD 105	Farooq Mughal	Sandy Donatucci
HD 147	Renita Duncan	Bethany Ballard
HD 161	David Dillie	Bill Hitchens
HD 164	Stephanie Burgess	Ron Stephens

Republican pickups: In HD 121, Mack “Dutch” Guest IV defeated Rep. Eric Gisler (D). In HD 128, Trey Sheppard leads for the open seat of retiring Rep. Mack Jackson (D).

Sources: AJC (Nov. 4–6); Georgia Recorder (HD 128). Unofficial as of Nov. 9.

Two House races will set the size of the Democratic majority

District	Status	Who leads	Seat held by
HD 103	Recount-eligible	Chris Luchey (D) by 27 votes over Rep. Soo Hong (R)	R
HD 154	Reversed Nov. 6	Rep. Gerald Greene (R) by 261 over Harry James (D)	R
HD 128	Republican leads	Trey Sheppard (R) over Tyrone Evans (D)	D (retiring)
HD 22	Republican leads	Rep. Jordan Ridley (R)	R
HD 151	Dec. 1 runoff	Rep. Mike Cheokas (R) vs. Ethan Wolfe (D)	R

HD 103 and the HD 151 runoff decide whether Democrats hold 91, 92 or 93 seats. A candidate losing by 0.5% or less may request a recount within two business days of state certification on Nov. 20.

Unofficial as of Nov. 9. Sources: AJC (Nov. 6); Fox 5 Atlanta (Nov. 9); Atlanta News First (recount law); Georgia Recorder.

Democrats now control the House agenda

New leadership

Carolyn Hugley (D-Columbus) is in line to be the first Black woman speaker; Stacey Evans will not challenge her. Speaker Jon Burns loses the gavel.

Agenda control flips

Democrats set committee rosters, name every chair and decide which bills reach the floor.

Early priorities

Hugley named Medicaid expansion and early childhood education, called affordability voters' top issue, and will defer to Bottoms.

Thin working margin

At 91 or 92 seats, attendance and unity decide close votes. Everything still needs the Republican Senate.

Source: AJC, Nov. 4.

SECTION

05

Democratic Priorities

Cost of living first: tax relief, Medicaid expansion and education funding.



Governor-elect Bottoms will lead with cost-of-living relief

Household costs

Local option to suspend or end the grocery tax; gas tax cut to 28¢ a gallon.

Auto insurance

End the 2.25% state premium tax; limit insurers to one rate increase a year.

Health care

Full Medicaid expansion and support for rural hospitals.

Education

Fully fund Pre-K and add 3-year-olds; full education funding and teacher pay in the first budget.

Wages and housing

$15 state minimum wage; more workforce and affordable housing.

Other commitments

Statewide data-center moratorium; refocus economic development on small business; repeal abortion restrictions.

Campaign and post-election statements. Sources: CBS News; WSB-TV; Fox 5 Atlanta; Capital B via Yahoo; AJC (Nov. 6).

House Democrats will put affordability first and follow Bottoms' lead

Named priorities

- Lower costs for working families
- Expand Medicaid
- Support struggling hospitals
- Early childhood education (Hugley)

How they will move

Hugley says the first session will focus on affordability but is holding specifics until Bottoms sets her agenda.

Democratic chairs can now move bills that stalled in GOP-run committees. The session runs 40 legislative days.

Sources: Georgia Recorder; Capitol Beat via Moultrie Observer; Georgia Sun; GPB; AJC.

SECTION

06

The New Statewide Officers

Who now runs each agency, and what they plan to do with it.



McLaurin, Miller and Brown Reynolds bring new priorities to three key offices

Officer	Stated priorities	How they plan to lead	What to watch
Josh McLaurin Lieutenant Governor	Expand Medicaid; repeal the six-week abortion ban; lower health care, housing and child-care costs.	Presides over a Republican Senate; calls the job a bully pulpit and cites a bipartisan record.	Whether the GOP majority limits his committee and bill-routing powers in January.
Tanya Miller Attorney General	Consumer protection on rent, grocery and utility pricing; prosecute gun trafficking and online predators.	Former prosecutor; plans an active consumer-protection office and to represent consumers before the PSC.	More pricing and antitrust probes; possible suits against federal policy.
Penny Brown Reynolds Secretary of State	Voting rights and trust in elections; modernized business filings and licensing; fraud protection for seniors.	Former judge; promises a public report card on elections, filings and licenses.	Licensing modernization and filing turnaround for businesses.

Campaign platforms and post-election statements. Sources: Fox 5 Atlanta; AJC; Stateside; WABE; Times-Georgian.

New leaders for four key state agencies

Officer	Stated priorities	How they plan to lead	What to watch
Keisha Waites Insurance Commissioner	Fight home and auto rate hikes; ban ZIP-code and credit-score pricing; senior fraud task force.	Require data behind increases; pass 2025 tort-reform savings to premiums.	Tougher rate reviews for insurers.
Katherine Juhan-Arnold Agriculture Commissioner	Farmer market access and input costs; local food access; rural growth; land protection.	Farmer and first-time officeholder; criticized falling food-safety inspections.	Inspection levels and land-use stances.
Nikki Porcher Labor Commissioner	Affordable child care; Labor Department customer service; small-business support.	Air Force veteran and former teacher; service-first agency.	Claims service and workforce programs.
Lydia Powell School Superintendent	Expand pre-K; modernize the QBE formula; less standardized testing; rural access.	26-year educator; promises teachers a seat at the table.	QBE rewrite; scrutiny of the $100M voucher program.

Sources: AJC; Georgia Recorder; Digital Insurance; WABE; Atlanta Press Club debates.

A new PSC majority will scrutinize utility costs

Peter Hubbard · District 3, re-elected

Affordable bills, reliable service and close scrutiny of major infrastructure spending; supports customer access to rooftop solar.

Shelia Edwards · District 5, new

Stop further Georgia Power rate hikes; make data centers pay their fair share; expand energy assistance and residential solar.

What to watch

In late 2025 the PSC approved about 9,900 MW of new Georgia Power capacity, roughly 80% for large customers such as data centers. The new 3–2 majority ran as a team on cost scrutiny, so large energy users should expect closer review of who pays for that growth.

Sources: Fox 5 Atlanta; AJC; Bisnow; Georgia PSC Spring 2026 newsletter.

SECTION

07

Outlook

What can pass a divided government, and the dates that matter.



07 · OUTLOOK

Tax relief can pass a Republican Senate; Medicaid expansion will be harder

Room for a deal

- Gas tax and auto-insurance relief
- Local grocery-tax option
- Pre-K and school funding in the budget
- Rural hospital support

Hard without GOP votes

- Full Medicaid expansion
- $15 minimum wage
- Repealing abortion restrictions
- A data-center moratorium

Every law will require a bipartisan deal



Bottoms' vetoes will stand

Overriding takes 120 House and 38 Senate votes. Neither party is close.

Senate Republicans hold the brake

With exactly 29 seats, they can stop any bill, but cannot lose a single vote.

Every law is a deal

Bills need the Democratic House, the Republican Senate and the governor's signature.

Georgia Constitution: overrides need two-thirds of members of each chamber. Seats unofficial as of Nov. 9; gray = HD 151 runoff.

07 · OUTLOOK

These leaders will shape the 2027 session

Statewide offices

Keisha Lance Bottoms (D)
Governor-elect; veto and budget proposal

Tanya Miller (D)
Attorney General-elect

Shelia Edwards and Peter Hubbard (D)
New 3–2 PSC majority

State Senate · R majority

Josh McLaurin (D)
Lt. Gov.-elect; presides over the Senate

Jason Anavitarte (R-Dallas)
Re-elected Majority Leader for 2027–28 on Nov. 9

Larry Walker III (R-Perry)
GOP nominee for President Pro Tempore; full Senate votes in January

Harold Jones II (D-Augusta)
Senate Minority Leader

State House · D majority

Carolyn Hugley (D)
In line for Speaker; House votes in January

Jon Burns (R)
Outgoing Speaker; GOP leader role to be set

To be named (D)
Appropriations and committee chairs

Gray names: posts still to be filled. Sources: Georgia Senate Press Office (Nov. 9); AJC (Nov. 9); Fox 5 Atlanta (Nov. 4).

07 · OUTLOOK

Nothing becomes law in 2027 without both parties

Budget

The FY2028 budget is the first test. Kemp may call a pre-session special session on budget issues.

Redistricting

Kemp won't call a session to redraw maps or curb Bottoms' powers. A GOP-only redraw is off the table.

Health care

Medicaid expansion is live in the House but still needs Senate votes.

Energy

A Democratic PSC majority shapes rate cases and service to large loads like data centers.

Agencies

New leaders at AG, SOS, Insurance, Labor, Agriculture and Education shift enforcement and rules.

Senate leverage

Senate Republicans can stop House bills and decide how much power to leave McLaurin.

Sources: AJC (Kemp special session; Medicaid). Analysis is this memo's own.

Seven industries where the new leadership will act first

Sector	What may change	Who decides
Energy and data centers	New PSC majority pledged that data centers pay their own way; Bottoms campaigned on a statewide data-center moratorium.	PSC; Governor
Insurance	Tougher rate reviews; push to ban ZIP-code and credit-score pricing.	Commissioner Waites; legislature
Health care	Medicaid expansion enters the House agenda; rural hospital support.	Governor; House; Senate
Real estate and retail	Planned probes of rent and grocery price-fixing.	Attorney General Miller
Agriculture and timber	Farmer input costs and food-safety inspections; CUVA cap doubles to 4,000 acres.	Commissioner Juhan-Arnold
Education and workforce	QBE funding rewrite and pre-K expansion; Labor Department service focus.	Superintendent Powell; Commissioner Porcher
Transportation and logistics	Proposed gas-tax cut to 28¢ and diesel to 31.3¢ a gallon.	Governor; legislature

Sources: AJC (Nov. 6, business outlook); officials' statements cited on slides 20–25.

07 · OUTLOOK

Voters approved all three constitutional amendments

AMENDMENT 1

53.9%

Conservation-use acreage

Raises the cap on farm and timber land taxed under CUVA from 2,000 to 4,000 acres.

AMENDMENT 2

68.4%

Nonpartisan probate judges

Removes party labels from the last partisan judicial office in Georgia.

AMENDMENT 3

77.7%

Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund

Lets the legislature create and fund a dedicated 911 modernization fund.

Yes-vote shares: MultiState; AJC reports the same results rounded (68%, 78%).

07 · OUTLOOK

Key dates from certification through the 2027 session

2026 · FINISHING THE ELECTION

Nov. 9
County certification deadline

Nov. 20
State certifies results, 5 p.m.

Dec. 1
HD 151 runoff

Dec. 18
Runoff certification deadline

2027 · THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Jan. 11
159th General Assembly convenes

Day 28
Crossover Day: bills must pass their first chamber

Day 40
Sine die: session ends

+40 days
Governor's deadline to sign or veto

Calendar dates for Crossover Day and sine die are set by the legislature in January. Sources: AJC; Atlanta News First (recounts); Brownstein; GPB.

SECTION

08

Our Solutions

Practical, pro-growth answers to the issues voters raised, and how we will get them done.



Georgia Republicans will be a check on overreach and a partner on affordability

What we will protect

- The 2025 tort reform that is already lowering insurance rates
- School choice and the state's voucher program
- Strong election-security standards
- A low-tax, pro-growth business climate

Where we can find common ground

- Cost-of-living relief, starting with property taxes
- Gas-tax relief, which Republicans have delivered before
- Support for rural hospitals

How we will lead

- No bill becomes law without 29 Senate Republican votes
- A firm check on spending and new mandates
- An orderly transition: Gov. Kemp declined a lame-duck special session

Facts: AJC and WSB-TV (insurance rates); AJC (Kemp, Nov. 4); Georgia Constitution.

Lower taxes and insurance costs for employers

THE ISSUE	OUR SOLUTION	WHY IT MATTERS FOR BUSINESS
Taxes and cost of living Personal and corporate rates fell to 4.99% in 2026 and are set to drop 0.125 points a year to 3.99% if revenue targets are met (HB 463).	• Defend the scheduled HB 463 cuts to 3.99%. • End local opt-outs so every homeowner gets the HB 581 inflation cap on assessments. • Partner on gas-tax relief, paired with spending restraint.	Predictable, falling rates for employers and employees; capped assessments for homeowners.
Insurance premiums The state approved auto rate cuts of 10% (Travelers), 5.7% (Liberty Mutual) and 3% (State Farm), and credits the 2025 tort reform, SB 68 and 69. *Figures represent overall approved rate changes, not guaranteed savings for every policyholder.*	• Protect SB 68 and SB 69 from repeal or rollback. • Require rate filings to show how tort-reform savings reach customers. • Give the commissioner stronger fines against bad-faith insurers.	Lower liability, auto and property premiums for employers and fleets.

Sources: Georgia Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner (Dec. 2025; Apr. 2026); WABE and BDO (HB 463).

Expand coverage and power growth responsibly

THE ISSUE	OUR SOLUTION	WHY IT MATTERS FOR BUSINESS
Health care and rural hospitals Pathways covers adults up to 100% of poverty with an 80-hour monthly work requirement. In August the state asked for a 90% federal match.	• Win the 90% match for Pathways and simplify its reporting. • Expand the rural hospital donor tax credit. • Negotiate any wider coverage on Georgia terms: work requirements and private plans.	Fewer uninsured patients and less cost-shifting onto employer health plans.
Energy and data centers A 2025 PSC rule makes new users over 100 MW pay their own grid costs, with contracts up to 15 years and minimum bills.	• Write the 2025 large-load rule into state law so it outlasts any PSC majority. • Require regular reports showing data-center revenue lowers household bills. • Keep Georgia open to data-center investment rather than a moratorium.	Stable power prices and continued capital investment.

Sources: Georgia Public Policy Foundation; WRDW; Georgia PSC; AJC.

Build the workforce and deliver results

THE ISSUE	OUR SOLUTION	WHY IT MATTERS FOR BUSINESS
Education and workforce The incoming superintendent plans to rewrite the QBE funding formula and scrutinize the Promise Scholarship voucher program.	• Protect the Promise Scholarship and fund the Early Literacy Act. • Tie any QBE rewrite to measurable gains in reading and math. • Expand HOPE Career Grants and dual enrollment in high-demand trades.	A deeper pipeline of skilled workers.
Getting it done Every law now needs the Democratic House, the Republican Senate and the governor's signature.	• Use the 29-seat Senate majority to set terms on the budget. • Lead with shared priorities: gas-tax relief, insurance accountability, rural hospitals. • Hold firm on tort reform, tax cuts and school choice.	Stability and predictability for employers through 2028.

Sources: WABE; AJC; Georgia Constitution.

GEORGIA REPUBLICAN PARTY

Questions and discussion

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Figures will be updated after statewide certification on November 20, 2026.

