

Georgia 2024 End-of-Session Report

What Georgia's General Assembly Accomplished This Year

Georgia legislators wrapped up their 2023–2024 legislative session early on Friday, March 29th. The adjournment brought to a close a session that was closely followed both nationally and by those within Georgia.

A number of bills passed at the very end of session will now head to Governor Kemp's desk. Governor Kemp will have 40 days to decide what to sign, what to veto, and what to allow to pass into law without his signature. Meanwhile, many legislators won't rest for long before heading out on the campaign trail. Every seat in the General Assembly is up for election this November.

Digesting and distilling so much legislative activity can be challenging. Fortunately, Plural's industry-leading open data and innovative AI tools make this process much easier. Below, we leverage that data and functionality to analyze what Georgia's General Assembly accomplished this year.



BY THE NUMBERS

Georgia General Assembly's 2024 Activity

Across both years of the 2023–2024 legislative session, 2,107 bills were introduced. This number does not include resolutions. Of these introductions, Georgia legislators acted on 1,167 in 2024. Amongst all of this activity, **Plural AI** was able to determine the following topics that came up the most:

- Criminal Justice, Public Safety, Law Enforcement, and Incarceration – 16% of legislation
- Appropriations, Budget and Taxation – 16% of legislation
- Civil Law, Family Law, and Judicial Proceedings – 14% of legislation

Raw numbers don't always tell the full story. However, in this case, our topic analysis aligned with the narratives dominating coverage of the General Assembly's work. As is common across all state legislatures, budget discussions took up significant time and attention. The budget was passed on the last day of the session. National focus on public safety, immigration, and law enforcement was reflected in the number of bills on those topics and the tenor of the debate on those bills.

We will need to await action from the Governor's office before reporting on exactly how many proposals make it into law from this session. In the interim, you can see all of the bills that Governor Kemp has signed into law so far [here](#). This list is up-to-date as of March 29, 2024.

Read on for further details on some of the most significant legislation considered and passed by the General Assembly this year.



The Budget

The final three days of session saw a flurry of legislative action on [HB 916](#), the budget bill. Following four roll call votes, the Georgia General Assembly passed a \$36.1 billion FY 2025 budget. Governor Kemp is expected to sign the bill into law. The funding represents a nearly \$4 billion increase over the original FY 2024 budget, although that budget was later supplemented by funding passed earlier this year.

Some of the most notable inclusions in this year's budget include:

- Increased wages for state workers and teachers. Most state workers will receive at least \$4,000 raises, with some receiving up to a \$7,000 raise. Most public school teachers will see their pay increase by \$2,500
- Over \$500 million in increased education funding including for the state's pre-K program.
- Improvements and upgrades to public buildings at the Capitol, state agencies, and state colleges and universities. Notably, some of this funding came from cash left over from previous budget surpluses.
- Increased funds for domestic violence shelters.

The final bill is nearly 150 pages, which advocates will pore over in the coming months. Despite the length, the final deal does appear to have secured many of Governor Kemp's priorities.

Elections & Voting

The last five years have seen Georgia become the center of the U.S. discussion over voting and elections. Elections and voting are a key focus in Georgia. Several close runoff elections with national implications have occurred in the state. Also of national focus are President Biden's narrow win in the state and the ongoing legal drama surrounding efforts to overthrow that win have been a national focus. This context means that every action Georgia takes on voting access will be closely scrutinized.

On the final day of the legislative session, [SB 189](#) passed into law. Perhaps the most notable bill within this category, the massive bill makes a number of changes to election law in the state. This includes:

- Adding clarity to the term "probable cause" within the context of the state's rules for challenging voter eligibility. Support (or lack of) for the bill fell along partisan lines. Generally, Democrats opposed the bill and Republicans supported the bill. They disagreed about whether this change would increase or decrease the number of challenges.
- Changes to "chain of custody" and reporting rules for absentee ballots processed by local voting centers. These changes generally reduce the amount of time that election officials have to process ballots.
- Granting access to the ballot to political parties that have qualified for the U.S. Presidential ballot in 20 other states or territories. This will make it easier for third-party and independent presidential candidates to make it onto Georgia's ballot. Changes will take place in 2024 and beyond.





Immigration and Public Safety

Immigration and public safety were key Republican priorities during this legislative session. Their focus on these issues only increased after the tragic murder of Laken Riley in Athens, Georgia. HB 1105 passed the Georgia House of Representatives one week after Riley's death. It received final passage to the Governor's desk on March 28th.

HB 1105 requires closer collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration officials. Opponents of the bill argued that it would increase fear within immigrant communities without improving public safety. These concerns were not enough to convince Republicans to vote it down.

Other Notable Bills

Sports Gambling

SB 386 provided a path toward legalized sports betting in Georgia. Despite support from advocates, the bill ended the session without receiving approval from the House. However, it's expected that this issue will reappear in the 2025–2026 legislative session.

Rioting and "Cop City"

HB 505 proposed making the act of rioting a felony rather than a misdemeanor. The bill generated significant opposition from groups like the ACLU of Georgia. Debate over the bill was colored by the recent protests of Atlanta's "Cop City." HB 505 was tabled in the Senate before receiving a final passage vote.

Children's Social Media Use

The Georgia legislature followed in the footsteps of several other state legislatures by passing SB 361. Passed by both chambers, the bill now sits with Governor Kemp for his signature. SB 361 would mandate that users under 16 receive parental permission in order to create social media accounts. It would also create new restrictions on the use of social media in schools.





Looking Ahead

Georgia's legislators accomplished a lot this year.

A budget securing expanded funding for education, state workers, and infrastructure project received overwhelming bipartisan support. The Republican majority secured wins on voting and immigration laws. We can expect these to be touted in the coming months, as Governor Kemp signs bills and legislators ramp up their campaigns.

At the same time, every legislative session leaves some legislative priorities unresolved. We expect Georgia's 2025 legislative session to include reconsideration of key issues like sports gambling. There will also be continued debates over voting rights and election law.

Get Started With Plural

Whether you're looking back at the work legislators accomplished this year or looking ahead at what remains to be done, Plural is the perfect tool.

With Plural, it's easier than ever to connect with and monitor the work at the Georgia state capitol. Plural users:

- Access superior public policy data
- Are the first to know about new bills and changes in bill status
- Streamline their day with seamless organization features
- Harness AI to gain insights into individual bills, plus the entire legislative landscape
- Keep everyone on the same page with seamless collaboration and organization tools

See how Plural can transform the way you do public policy work. Interested in getting started? Request a demo today!

[SCHEDULE DEMO TODAY](#)

Helping you shape policy together, so you can shape the future.