

Senate Resolution 937

By: Senators Howard of the 35th, Jackson of the 41st, Rahman of the 5th, Harbison of the 15th, Harrell of the 40th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Department of Homeland Security and United States Immigration
2 and Customs Enforcement to refrain from immigration enforcement activity in the immediate
3 vicinity of polling places and locations where ballots are being cast in the State of Georgia;
4 urging the Secretary of State to issue uniform guidance and protocols to protect voters, poll
5 workers, and election officials from intimidation; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, the right to vote is a fundamental right secured by the constitutions of the
7 United States and the State of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia law establishes a protected buffer around polling places during voting,
9 including restrictions within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building in which a polling
10 place is established and within 25 feet of any voter standing in line, reflecting the General
11 Assembly's intent that voting occur free of disruption, pressure, and undue influence; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia law further provides criminal penalties for interference with elections
13 and for intimidation of electors, including when any person uses threats or acts that place
14 another person in reasonable fear for safety in order to vote or refrain from voting; and

15 WHEREAS, credible concerns have been raised nationally that the presence of federal
16 immigration enforcement personnel at or near voting locations could chill lawful voter
17 participation, disrupt election administration, and intimidate voters and election workers; and

18 WHEREAS, other states have introduced legislation to prohibit federal immigration
19 enforcement personnel from being within a specified distance of polling places during
20 voting—for example, Rhode Island's H 7434 would prohibit ICE personnel within 200 feet
21 of polling places.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
23 urge the United States Department of Homeland Security and United States Immigration and
24 Customs Enforcement as well as state or local law enforcement agencies to refrain from
25 immigration enforcement actions, operations, surveillance activities, or deployments within
26 the same protected vicinity recognized in Georgia law during any period in which ballots are
27 being cast, including within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building in which a polling
28 place is established, within any polling place, and within 25 feet of any voter standing in line
29 to vote.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge the Secretary of State of
31 Georgia to issue uniform statewide guidance to county election superintendents, poll
32 managers, and election officials that reiterates Georgia's existing protections against
33 intimidation and interference; establishes a protocol for responding to the appearance of
34 federal immigration enforcement personnel near a voting location (including immediate
35 notification of the county superintendent and the Secretary of State's office, de-escalation
36 steps, and documentation); and emphasizes that voter eligibility questions and challenges
37 must be handled only through lawful election procedures and not through intimidation or
38 coercion.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Governor, the
41 Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Georgia Congressional Delegation, and the
42 Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security.