

EXHIBIT 15

BREAKING

Beloved actress Betty White dies at age 99



**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

Log Out

Thank you for subscribing.

Choose from a variety of newsletters to stay informed.

Georgia redistricting signed into law and lawsuits quickly follow



POLITICS

By [Mark Niesse](#) - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Maya T. Prabhu - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Updated 22 hours ago

Maps favor Republicans in a politically divided state

Advertisement



Gov. Brian Kemp signed new Georgia political maps into law Thursday, finalizing Republican efforts to solidify their majorities in a rapidly changing state as opponents immediately filed three court challenges.

The once-a-decade redistricting creates boundaries that give Republicans an opportunity to gain a seat in Congress after next year's elections. The new congressional map contains nine districts that lean Republican and five districts with mostly Democratic voters.

Advertisement

While there was never a doubt that Kemp would sign the redistricting bills, he waited over a month since they passed the General Assembly. The delay stalled legal action until the new maps were written into state law.

The federal lawsuits allege that both congressional and state maps are racially discriminatory because they reduce the voting strength of people of color who tend to support Democrats. Georgia's population has increased by 1 million since 2010, fueled entirely by people of color as the number of white residents declined.

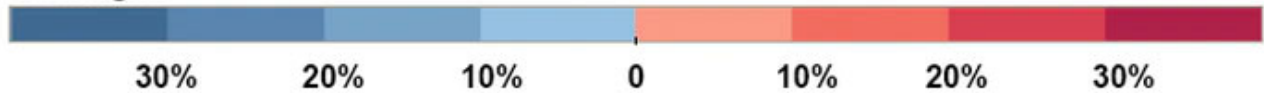
"Notwithstanding this explosive growth, politicians have failed to draw maps that give many of these new Black voters new opportunities to elect candidates of their choice," said Sean Young, legal director for the ACLU of Georgia. "Rather than a new chapter, politicians have stuck with the same discriminatory playbook."

Some of the lawsuits target the 6th Congressional District in Atlanta's northern suburbs, currently held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Lucy McBath, which legislators reshaped in hopes of electing a Republican in 2022. The new district stretches northward into more Republican areas.

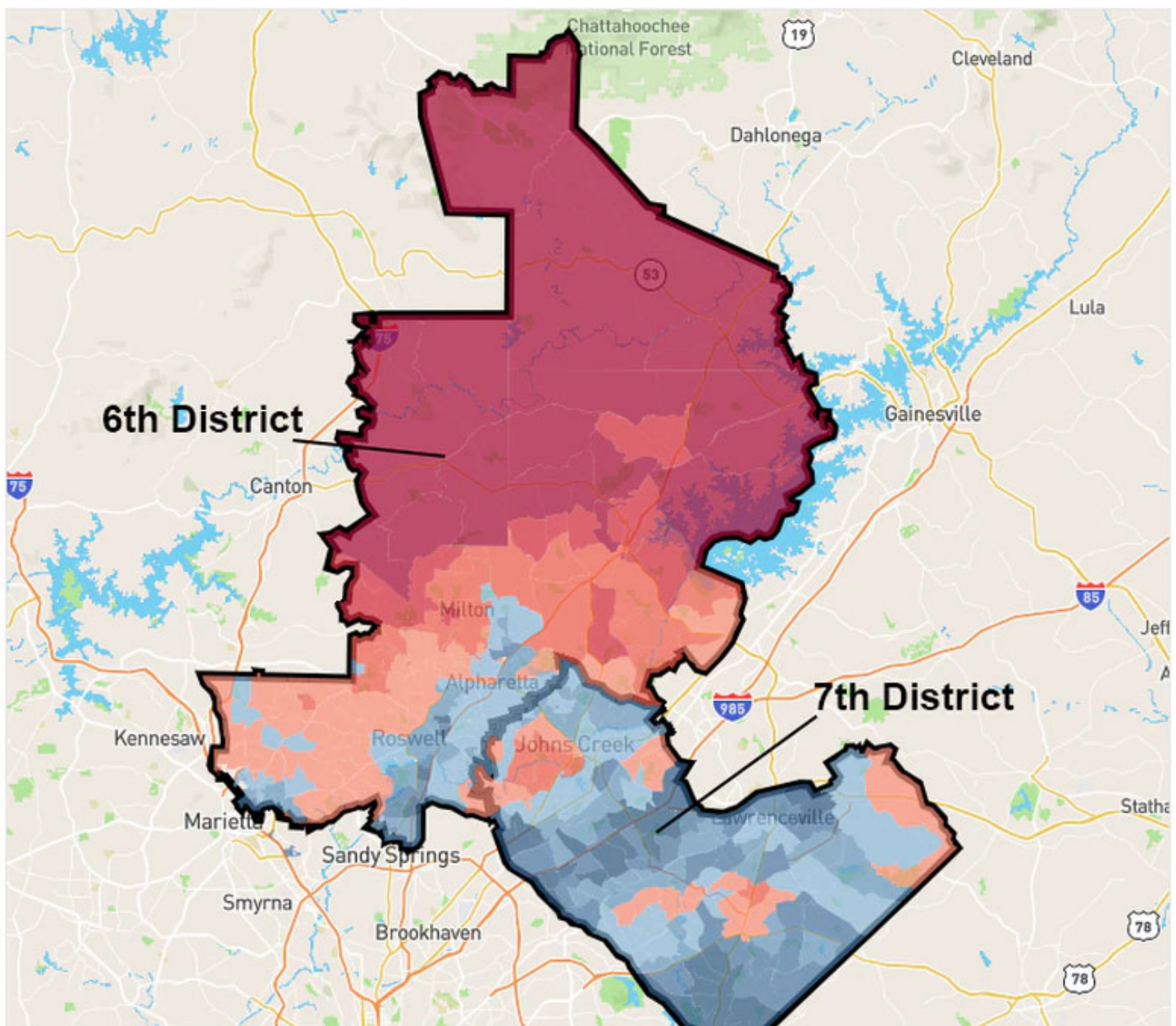
How 6th and 7th districts could change

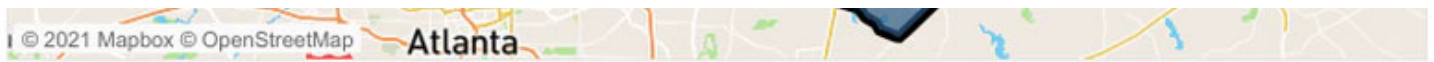
Two of the most competitive districts in the U.S. House could have solid partisan leanings. The 6th would favor Republicans by trading Democratic areas in Cobb, DeKalb and Fulton counties for solid Republican precincts in Cherokee, Dawson and Forsyth counties. The 7th would favor Democrats by losing GOP areas of Forsyth and adding Democratic parts of Gwinnett.

Election margin

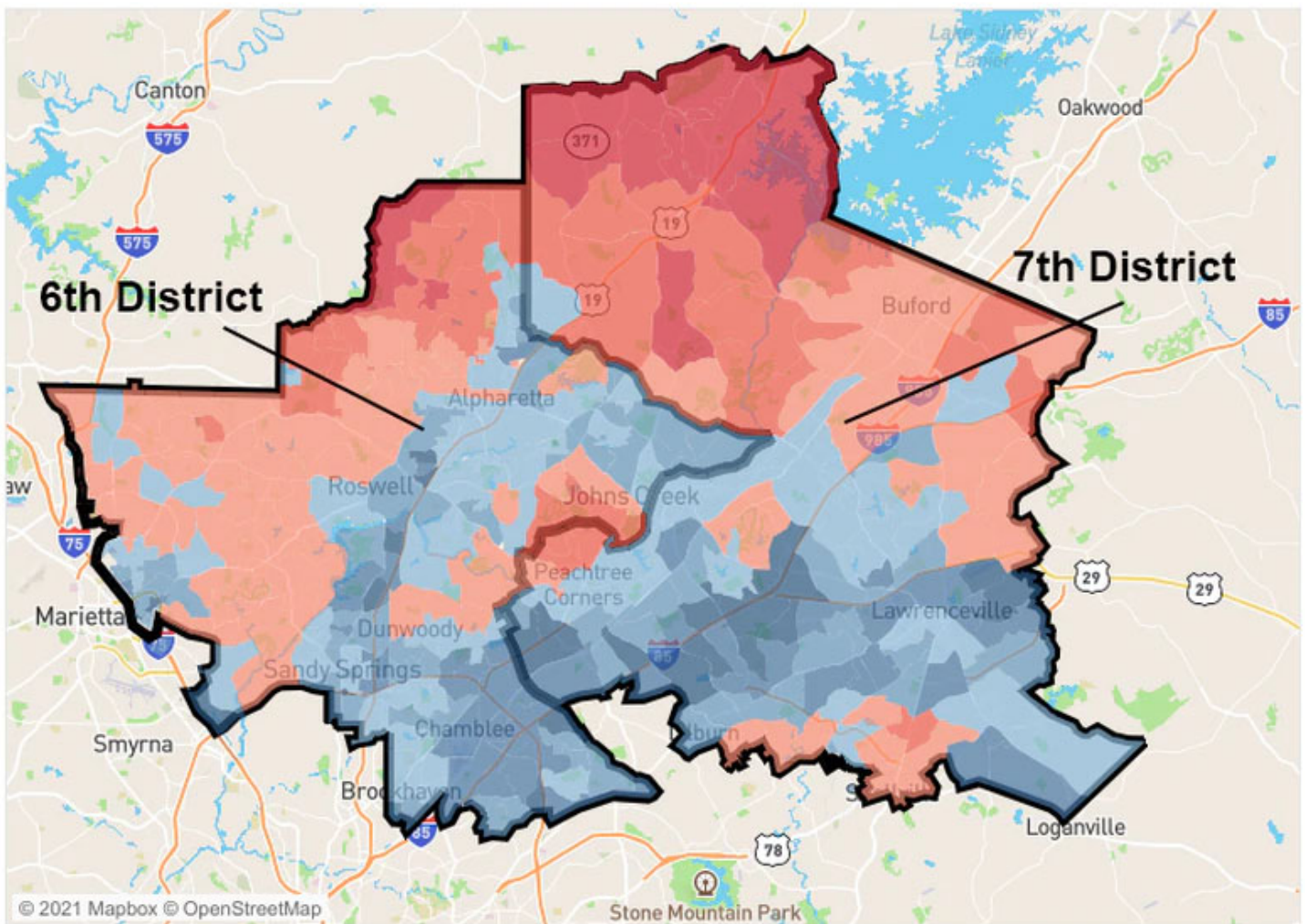


Proposed 2021





Current 2020



Source: Georgia secretary of state election data

Credit: Isaac Sabetai

After McBath won 55% of the vote in last year's election, the new 6th District favors Republicans by 15 percentage points, according to estimates by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution based on voting patterns.

RIGHTS FREEDOM JUSTICE ACCESS

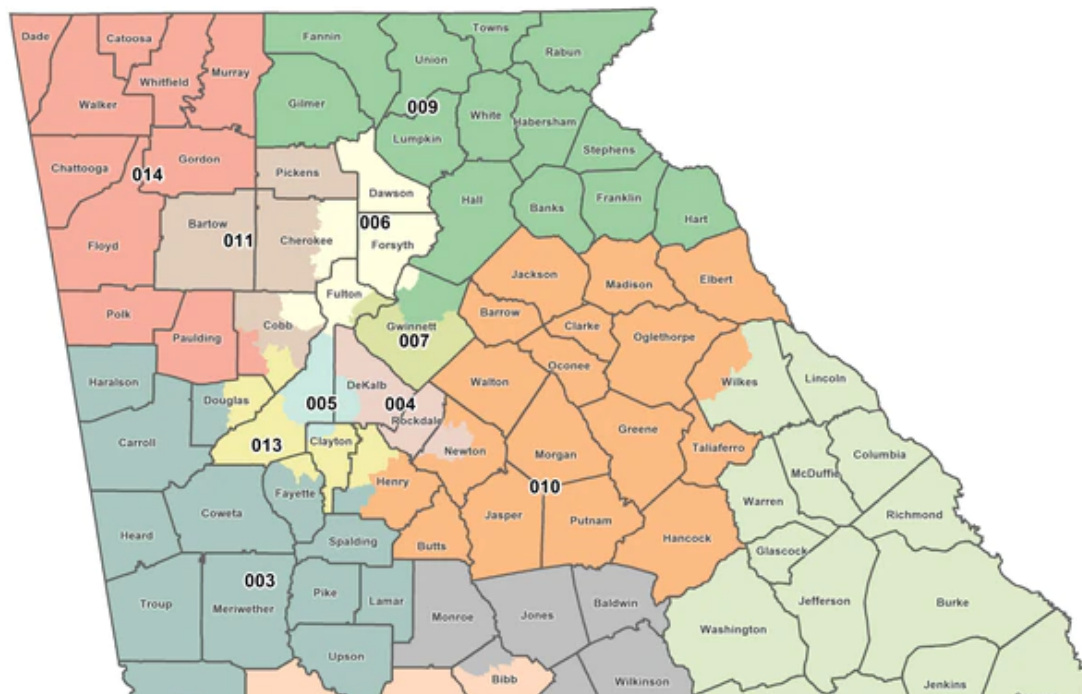
GIVE NOW

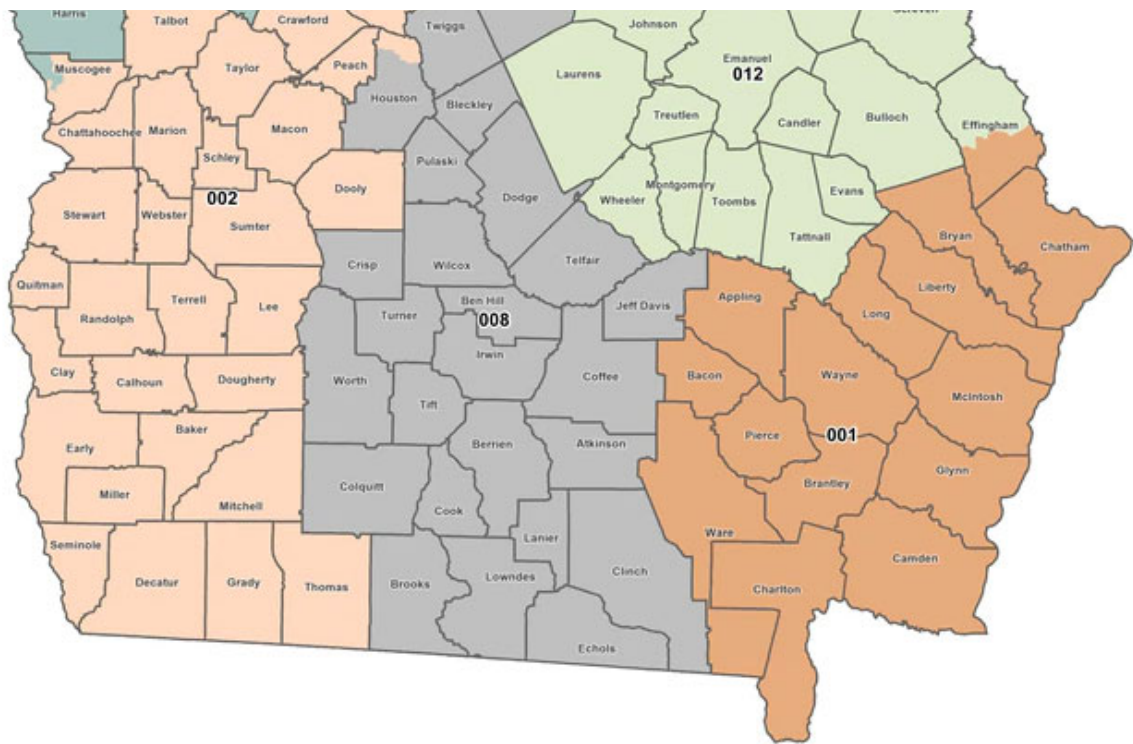
Activists who opposed the new map questioned the need to change the 6th District so drastically when it had about 660 more voters than were required for each of the state's 14 congressional districts to ensure equal-size populations. It was the district that was closest to being right on target with about 765,000 voters.

The Republican-drawn map shifts about 45% of the district — or about 355,000 residents — from Democratic-leaning DeKalb and Fulton counties out of the district and brings in about the same number from Republican-leaning Cherokee, Dawson and Forsyth counties.

Proposed Joint Congressional Districts of Georgia

Client: 1
Plan: C
Type: Congress





©2021 CALIPER



Credit: Special

Plaintiffs in the lawsuits include a variety of civil rights, religious and political groups, along with individual voters. They include the Georgia NAACP, the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the 6th District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Kemp didn't comment on the redistricting bills.

"The congressional map signed into law by Gov. Brian Kemp is a shameless power grab that cheats Black voters out of proper representation," said Marina Jenkins of the National Redistricting Foundation, an affiliate of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. "We call for a plan that complies with the Voting Rights Act and properly protects the rights of Georgia's Black voters."

In addition to redrawing congressional lines, the General Assembly created maps for the state House and Senate that aim to protect Republican majorities in elections for years to come.

But the maps also anticipate gains by Democratic candidates in metro Atlanta where the state's population has been expanding. Each district is required to have a roughly equal number of

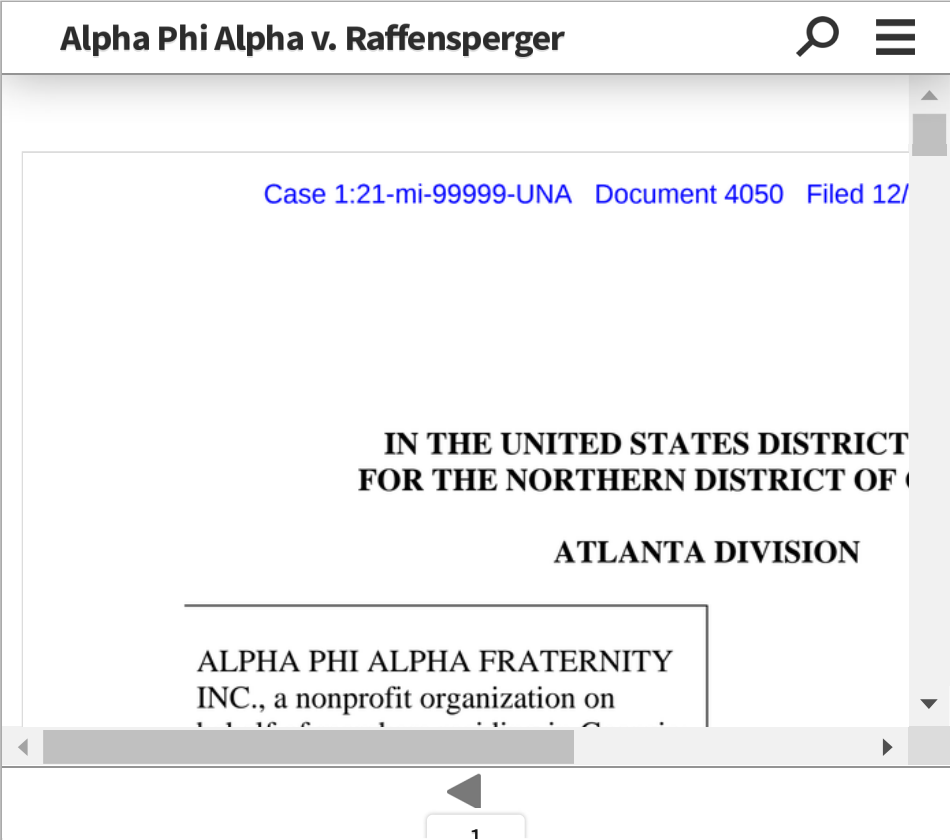
residents.

The revised Senate has 33 districts that tend to vote for Republicans and 23 that lean toward Democrats, an increase of one Democratic seat from current districts. The new House map includes 98 districts that favor Republicans and 82 tilted toward Democrats, a potential gain of five Democratic districts in next year's elections.

One district targeted in court is the only majority-minority district in the General Assembly to currently be represented by a Republican lawmaker — state [Sen. Brian Strickland of McDonough](#). Senate District 17 previously included parts of Henry, Newton and Rockdale counties — including the majority-Black cities of Locust Grove and Hampton.

The new map shifts the district to the east, stretching into Walton and Morgan counties, while moving away from metro Atlanta and removing Locust Grove, Hampton and the portion of Rockdale County that had previously been in the district. The changes increase the district's white population from about 46% to 57%.

Strickland won reelection last year with about 51% of the vote. The new district favors Republicans by about 10 percentage points, according to the AJC's estimates.



Georgia redistricting at a glance

- Republicans who hold a majority in the Georgia General Assembly passed a congressional map designed to help them gain a seat in next year's elections. Republicans currently hold an 8-6 lead in Georgia's congressional delegation.
- Redistricting is required every decade to ensure equal populations in districts. This time, it came after Georgia gained 1 million new residents.
- Lawsuits will allege that the maps are racially discriminatory because they reduce the voting strength of people of color.

About the Authors



Mark Niese



Maya T. Prabhu



Editors' Picks



How Georgia nuclear project's big finish went so wrong

9h ago



Beloved actress Betty White dies at age 99

43m ago



Atlanta HBCUs pivot to virtual learning due to COVID-19

2h ago



Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms: 'We are leaving this city intact'

8h ago



Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms: 'We are leaving this city intact'

8h ago



Inside the campaign to undermine Georgia's election

The Latest



Opinion: Are Democrats trying to do too much on elections?

OPINION: The election wasn't stolen

What happened in Georgia politics in 2021, and what it could mean for 2022

Investigations



Georgia gets first shipments of Merck, Pfizer COVID pills



22h ago

Last-minute change of plans leads to life-saving rescue in Georgia

18h ago

Inside the campaign to undermine Georgia's election

CONTENT BY

iShares | Sponsored

The next-gen innovation ETF that lets you invest in tech across various sectors.

Far & Wide | Sponsored

America's Coolest Small Towns by State

Facts Therapy | Sponsored

The 4 Sister's Took Photo Every Year For 40 Years, You Won't Believe What Happened To Them

Chaikin Analytics | Sponsored

“Move Your Money by Jan. 1,” Wall St legend Warns

Luxury SUV Savings | Sponsored

These Top-Of-The-Line Luxury SUVs Are Shockingly Affordable

Cuteness | Sponsored

The 60 Most Hilarious Cat Memes of All Time

Beverly Hills MD | Sponsored

Top Plastic Surgeon: How To Improve Your Neck's Appearance

POPSUGAR | Sponsored

Nicole Kidman's Incredible Evolution in Photos

HighlyHealthy | Sponsored

5-Year-Old Calls 911 To Save Dad's Life But Her Call Is Cracking Everyone Up

Ultimate Pet Nutrition | Sponsored

Does Your Cat Throw Up Often? - Try This One Trick

Fisher Investments | Sponsored

7 Ways to Retire Comfortably With \$500k

Stadium Talk | Sponsored

Ranking the Largest College Football Stadiums

edition.si.com | Sponsored

100 Greatest Sports Photos of All-Time

NowThis | Sponsored

Tom Hanks Movies Ranked From Worst to First

The Dodo | Sponsored

100 Hilarious Animal Memes to Brighten Your Day

Always Pets | Sponsored

Everyone Stopped to Laugh at These Funny Dog Memes

moneywise.com | Sponsored

The Worst College Football Stadiums In The U.S. (Washington's Ranks High)

CRI Genetics | Sponsored

Montana Man Discovers He Has Oldest DNA In America

BleacherBreaker | Sponsored

40 Collector's Items That Aren't Worth Keeping

Post Fun | Sponsored

30+ Comparison Pictures That'll Put Things In Perspective

Camper Van Warehouse | Search Ads | Sponsored

Most Affordable Camper Vans

bonvoyaged.com | Sponsored

90% Of Americans Fail This Citizenship Quiz

BleacherBreaker | Sponsored

First Lady Wedding Gowns

Daily Finance Stories | Sponsored

Cher's Son Chaz Bono Is So Skinny Now And Looks Like A Model (Photos)

Digital Trends | Sponsored

The Man Who Took Diana's Crying Photo Shares A New Detail About It

MisterStory | Sponsored

Old Woman (89) Is Denied Business Class - Then Flight Attendant Discovers Who She Really Is

bonvoyaged.com | Sponsored

We Will Guess Your Education Level in 17 Questions

Post Fun | Sponsored

Strange Photos That Were Snapped At Disney Parks

Factable | Sponsored

20 Kiss Scenes That Weren't Supposed To Happen

MoneyWise.com | Sponsored

Fumbled Fields: The Worst Stadiums in College Football

Grizly | Sponsored

97% Of Christians Can't Pass This Basic Jesus Quiz

Trend Chaser | Sponsored

Guess The Football Team By Only Their Helmet

Thrillist | Sponsored

Most Breathtakingly Beautiful Small Towns In the World

Taco Relish | Sponsored

"My Three Sons" Cast: Then And Now

BleacherBreaker | Sponsored

Most Uncool Things Boomers Still Think Are Cool

Zen Herald | Sponsored

Scientist Explains Mary Todd Lincoln's Bizarre Behavior That Baffled America

Motley Fool Wealth Management | Sponsored

How to Turn Your Nest Egg into Retirement

Luxury Rehab | **Search Ads** | Sponsored

Seattle Rehab Centers You Have to See to Believe

Pets Detective | Sponsored

20 Odd Hells Angels Rules, #10 Is Mandatory

Diabetes Treatment | **Search Ads** | Sponsored

Diabetes Treatments That Your Doctor May Not Know About

Macular Degeneration Treatment | **Search Ads** | Sponsored

Early Signs of Macular Degeneration You Might Want To Know About

Erectile Dysfunction | **Search Ads** | Sponsored

More American Men May Suffer From ED

Stuff Answered | Sponsored

Medicare Plans for Seniors. Learn about the Cost

Taco Relish | Sponsored

20 Heisman Winners That Don't Deserve That Trophy

Pawzilla | Sponsored

Scientist Finally Explains Mary Todd Lincoln's Behavior That Baffled America

AmRelieve | Sponsored

Bad Knees? Walk, Run, & Bend Down Again With This Knee Sleeve!

Metastatic Breast Cancer | Search Ads | Sponsored

Metastatic Breast Cancer Symptoms Americans May Not Know About

thedelite.com | Sponsored

Brutally Honest All-Time NFL QB Rankings (Montana Not Top 5)

The Farmer's Dog | Sponsored

Dogs should eat food, not burnt brown balls.

grizly.com | Sponsored

The Hollywood Quiz Almost No One Can Pass

Trucking Jobs | Search Ads | Sponsored

Do you Know How Much Truck Driver's Pay in Canada Is? See Salaries Here

Caesars Slot | Sponsored

Casinos In Vegas Will Hate You For Doing This but They Can't Stop You

Housediver | Sponsored

Just After Birth Of Twins, She Feels Weird. Doctor Takes A Look And Says This Can't Be True

Post Fun | Sponsored

20 Lies About The Wild West You Probably Believed

TriviaBoss.com | Sponsored

Almost Nobody Remembers These Vintage TV Shows. Do You?

NerdWallet | Sponsored

Want \$0 Annual Fees? Compare The Credit Cards Side-By-Side.

Moneypail | Sponsored

Side-By-Side Photos: Actor Vs The Person Portrayed

Dexcom | Sponsored

This Is the One Technology People with Diabetes Need

Wolf & Shepherd | Sponsored

NFL Star Rob Gronkowski Loves These Shoes

All Around Money | Sponsored

At 45, This Is Tiger Woods' Real-Life Partner

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ABOUT

Help Center
About the Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Newsroom Ethics Code
Careers
Archive
Press On

CONTACT US

Contact Us
Send a News Tip
Advertise
AJC Newsroom

OUR PRODUCTS

ePaper

Newsletters

All AJC Podcasts

Download iOS App

Download Android App

SUBSCRIPTION

Print Subscription

Digital Subscription

Manage Subscription

Your Profile

NIE/Newspapers in Education

© 2021 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

All Rights Reserved.

By using this website, you accept the terms of our

Visitor [Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and understand your options regarding [Ad Choices](#).

[Learn about Careers at Cox Enterprises.](#)

Back to Top