

# Georgia insight

Sue Ella Deadwyler  
www.georgiainsight.org  
"She hath done what she could."  
Mark 14:8a  
"... and having done all ... stand."  
Ephesians 6:13c

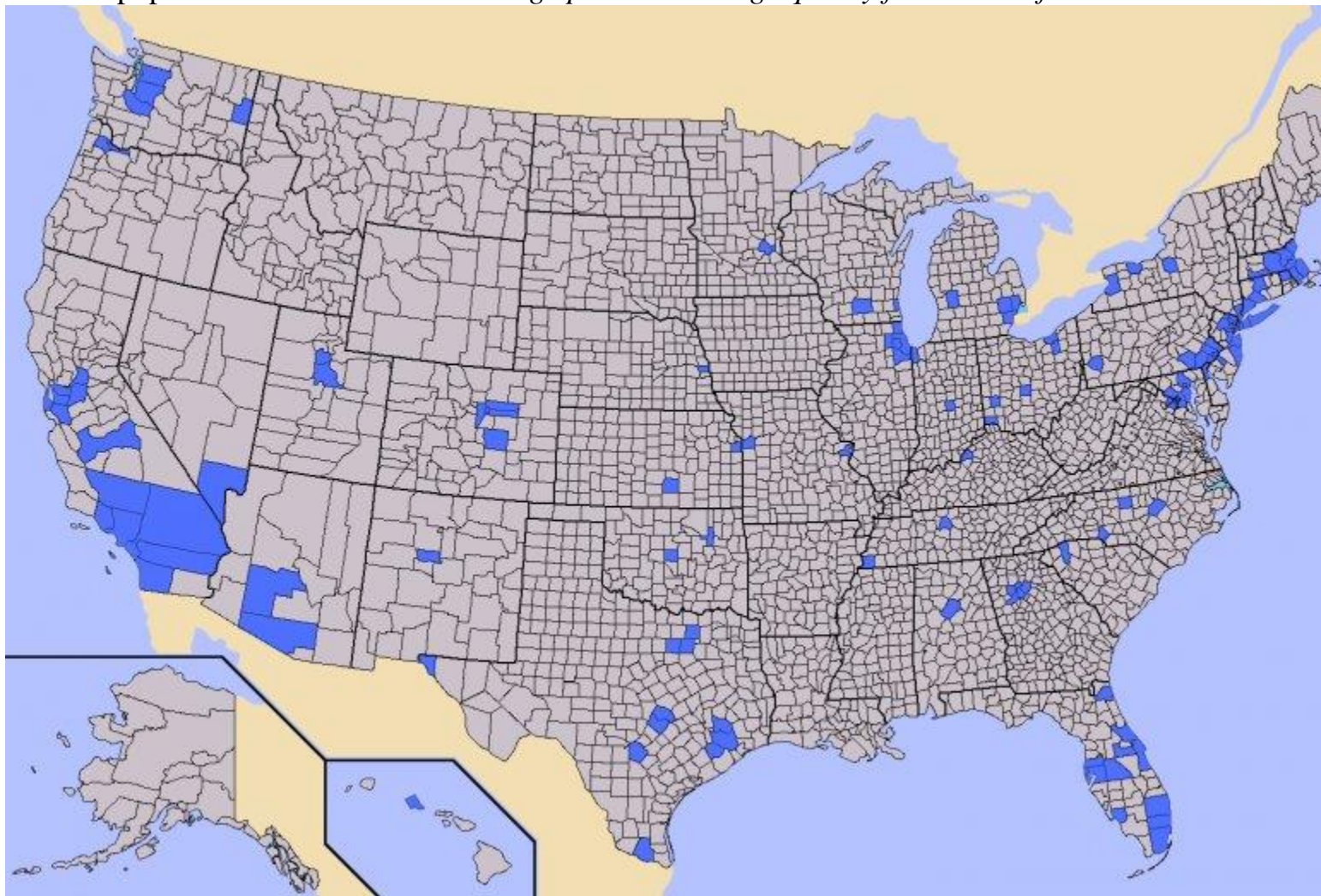
## Electoral College Equalizes Power of Voters in All States

*"Using Census data, we've<sup>1</sup> figured out that half of the United States population is clustered in just the 146 biggest counties out of over 3000. Here's the map, with said counties shaded in.*

*Below the map is the list<sup>1</sup> of all the counties, so you can see if you live in one of them."*

**Georgia Statistics:** According to the latest figures available, the total population of Georgia is 9,687,653, which is almost equally divided among males (4,729,171) and females (4,958,482). The blue sections below identify the 146 most populace counties in the U.S., which includes four Georgia counties with the following residency: Fulton, 1,010,562; Gwinnett, 895,832; Cobb, 741,334; and DeKalb, 734,871. Taliaferro County has the fewest residents with 1,639.

**NPV vs. Electoral College.** Consider this *half-and-half* fact: The **146 blue counties** outlined below include *half* of the population in the U.S. **Over 2,854 gray counties** are home to *half* of the U.S. population. *The Electoral College provides voting equality for each half.*



Census/Business Insider

<sup>1</sup> Source: Hickey and Weisenthal, Census/Business Insider, 9-4-13; GA's Fulton, Gwinnett, Cobb, & DeKalb are blue.

## The 2017 Legislative Session Began January 9<sup>th</sup>

**S.R. 1 Senate Rules** was adopted the first legislative day by a vote of 37 – 18, authorizing: (a) a new section on security against sabotage or criminal or terrorist acts; (b) elimination of the Non-Civil Judiciary Committee; (c) committee meeting cancellations an hour before scheduled; (d) tighter committee voting rules; (e) 28<sup>th</sup> day as cross-over; (f) new rules for gallery conduct.

**Also, on January 9<sup>th</sup>**, the Senate Committee on Assignments announced the list of committee chairmen<sup>1</sup>. As each bill is introduced, it is assigned to committee according to topic.

**S.B. 16, Low THC Oil & Eligibility for Use**, introduced by Senator Ben Watson, January 12<sup>th</sup>, (a) lowers the percentage of THC<sup>2</sup> from 5 percent, now allowed in Georgia law, to 3 percent, and (b) adds autism spectrum disorder to the list of conditions qualified for its use. S.B. 16 was assigned to the Health & Human Services Committee.

**ACTION – To express your opinion, call Health & Human Services Committee** Senators Unterman, Ch., 404 463-1368; Burke, V-Ch., 656-0040; Millar, Sec., 463-2260; Butler, 656-0075; Cowsert, 463-1366; Henson, 656-0085; Hill, Judson, 656-0150; Hufstetter, 656-0034; Jackson, 463-5261; Kirk, 463-5258; Ligon, 646-0045; Orrock, 463-8054; Shafer, 656-0048; Walker, 656-0081; Watson, 656-7880 (Area code for all is 404.)

**H.B. 65, Low THC Oil Patient Registry** was placed in the House hopper by Representative Allen Peake on January 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be read in the House and assigned to committee on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. This leaves the THC<sup>2</sup> level at 5 percent, but (a) deletes the one-year Georgia residency requirement for registration, which is required under current Georgia law. Also, it (b) deletes the required quarterly physicians' report on dosages recommended for certain conditions, clinical responses, compliance, responses to treatment, side effects and drug interactions. Then, it (c) adds seven more conditions that qualify for THC: Tourette's syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, intractable pain, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Alzheimer's disease, HIV, or AIDS. Since last year's bill was handled by the Judiciary Non Civil committee, with a possibility this one will go to the Health & Human Services committee, I'm listing a few numbers to call.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Non Civil Judiciary Committee Chairman Representatives Golick, 404 656-5943; Coomer, 656-5024; and Setzler, 656-7857. Also, call Health & Human Services Chairman Cooper, 656-5069.

**H.R. 36, Proposed Constitutional Amendment for Medical Cannabis**, was put in the House hopper by Representative Allen Peake on January 12<sup>th</sup> to be assigned to committee January 23<sup>rd</sup> when it is introduced. As a proposed constitutional amendment, it requires two-thirds vote in both House and Senate and, if passed there, would be on the next General Election Ballot.

H.R. 36 allows passage of laws (a) for cultivation of cannabis, (b) sale of medical cannabis, and (c) to use some revenue for drug treatment. The following question would be on the ballot:

*“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by general law for the regulation of the production of cannabis and sale of medical cannabis to certain individuals and further provide that the net revenue of the fees from such production be dedicated to a department and state sale taxes be dedicated to a fund to support drug treatment programs within this state?”*

**ACTION – Oppose. Call Non Civil Judiciary or Health & Human Services committees listed above under H.B. 65.**

<sup>1</sup> Senators chairing Senate committees: Beach, Transportation; Black, Retirement; Dugan, Economic Development; Hufstetter, Senate Finance; Jones, Insurance & Labor; Ligon, Banking & Financial Institutions; Stone, Judiciary; Watson, Reapportionment & Redistricting; Anderson, Agriculture & Science & Technology; Brass, Economic Development; Unterman, Ch., Burke, V-Ch., Health & Human Services; Kennedy, Banking & Financial Institutions; Martin, State & Local Governmental Operations & Higher Education; Tillery, State Institutions & Properties

<sup>2</sup> Tetrahydrocannabinol, tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, or a combination of both

# U.S. Map of Sanctuary Cities, Counties, and States<sup>1</sup>



A *sanctuary policy* is intended to obstruct the efforts of federal officers to enforce immigration laws, by instituting local views on immigration. A *sanctuary jurisdiction* has a law, ordinance, policy, practice, or rule that deliberately obstructs immigration enforcement, restricts interaction with federal immigration agencies, or shields illegal aliens from detection. Federal law prohibits such policies.

Recently, students and faculty at a number of colleges and universities nationwide have demanded that administrators declare their campuses to be sanctuaries. A publicly supported university in Oregon has done so, as have the private Wesleyan and Columbia Universities that, also, collect millions in federal research funds, use federal Pell grants and federally-subsidized student loans as tuition payments. Many others already openly accept illegal alien students in total disregard of immigration laws, while offering in-state tuition rates to illegals.

The University of California system, actually, provides an online Undocumented Student Resources guide declaring the “Undocumented students of all ethnicities and nationalities can find a safe environment and supportive community at UC ... offering support services, including financial aid and legal advising...”

## H.B. 37 Prohibits “Sanctuary” Colleges & Universities

**Georgia background.** Last session, S.B. 269 passed in Georgia; the governor signed it April 26, 2016. It became law on July 1, 2016, mandating local governments to comply with Georgia immigration sanctuary policies, or lose funding. A pin in the above map indicates, but does not identify, a sanctuary location in the state of Georgia.

**H.B. 37, Private Postsecondary Institutions in Georgia shall not adopt Sanctuary Policies,** introduced January 12<sup>th</sup> by Representative Earl Ehrhart defines “sanctuary policy” as any regulation, rule, policy, or practice that prohibits or restricts communication or cooperation with federal officials or law enforcement concerning status information, unless it is confidential data.

**Mandate:** Private postsecondary institutions shall NOT enact, adopt, implement, or enforce any sanctuary policy. **Penalty for non-compliance:** State funds or state administered federal funding will be withheld, including direct or indirect funding for scholarships, loans, and grants.

**ACTION – Support.** Contact the following four members of the House Higher Education Committee: Representative Jasperse, Ch., 404 656-7857; Williams, V-Ch., 656-0254; Kelley, Sec., 657-1803; and Ehrhart, 463-2247.

<sup>1</sup> The Center for Immigration Studies, “Tackling Sanctuaries,” by Dan Cadman, Jessica Vaughan, December 2016

## In the “Hopper,” to be Introduced January 23<sup>rd</sup>

(No Committee Assignment, Yet)

**H.R. 37 Term Limits for Senate and House of Representatives** was dropped in the hopper January 12<sup>th</sup> proposing a constitutional amendment to limit terms for members of the General Assembly. Current law allows members of the General Assembly to serve two-year terms until they are defeated or retire from office. If passed, term limits would become effective January 1, 2019. The bill stipulates:

- (a) After a person serves four consecutive terms as a member of the Senate, that person shall not be qualified to serve in the Senate until at least one full term has intervened.
- (b) After a person serves four consecutive terms as a member of the House of Representatives, that person shall not be qualified to serve as a representative until at least one full term has intervened.

If passed by two-thirds in both House and Senate, the following question would be on the next General Election Ballot:

*“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide term limits for members of the Senate and members of the House of Representatives?”*

**S.B. 17 Alcoholic Beverage Sales on Sundays**, dropped in the hopper January 12<sup>th</sup> by Senator Renee Unterman, authorizes counties and municipalities to adopt a resolution or ordinance that allows Sunday sales of alcohol from 10:30 A.M. until 12:00 Midnight, if they lawfully sell alcohol for consumption on the premises. In closed packages for consumption off the premises, sales are authorized from 12:30 P.M. until 12:00 midnight.

**S.R. 24 Amendment to the Rules of the Senate**, by Senator Josh McKoon was placed in the Senate hopper on January 13<sup>th</sup> to be introduced January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Currently, Senate Rules allow voice votes and hand votes for amendments proposed on the Senate floor. While hand votes may be noticed by occupants observing from the gallery, voice votes will be unknown to observers in the gallery and in the hall. In fact, senators who are aware of gallery observers may scurry to out-of-sight locations to vote. To remedy secret votes, S.R. 24 simply, states:

*“Unless the members of the Senate by unanimous consent otherwise agree, each floor amendment offered for adoption with regard to a bill or resolution being considered by the Senate shall be voted upon by a roll-call vote and the results of which shall be entered into the Journal.”*

**S.B. 1 “The Protect Act – Protecting Georgians Against Terrorism,”** put in the hopper by Senator Bill Cowsert January 10<sup>th</sup>, redefines domestic terrorism to better capture situational violations commonly used by those desiring to commit acts of terror. It revises the offenses of a terroristic threat and a terrorist act. Relating to the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center, it revises the definition of homeland security activity to enable the center’s work in the state’s effective prevention or discovery of, response to, and recovery from domestic terrorism.

**Action on each of the above:** Contact and explain your position to your representative or senator. Your local library can give you names and numbers of your senator and representative.

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