

# Georgia insight

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*"She hath done what she could." Mark, 14:8a*

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## **PFLAG Wants to Help Educate Children If They'll "Come Out of the Closet"**

### **Scholarships: Another Way to Solicit Children into Alternate Lifestyles**

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), an organization promoting all varieties of homosexuality, devised an ingenious method of recruiting children into various alternate lifestyles. They use money to get to children *via* school counselors and financial aid offices where students who claim to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans-gender (LGBT) can get scholarship applications. "Straight" kids don't qualify and need not apply.

Atlanta PFLAG began giving scholarships in 1995. That year's recipients were three students professing homosexuality and, by 2004, PFLAG had given \$100,000 in scholarships through school counselors, the Internet or personal contact with PFLAG offices. The 2006 PFLAG program offers scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 for the 2006-2007 academic year.

The first of four criteria for evaluating applicants is "a demonstrated history of LGBT or other community service or activism, and/or extracurricular activities". *Academic achievement is the fourth* eligibility requirement. Alternate lifestyle is the all-important prerequisite.

In 2004 national PFLAG gave nine college scholarships for \$2,500 and 14 for \$1,000 to high school seniors who *pledged to become activists for same-sex causes*. It's surprising the number organizations listed on the Internet as funding a plethora of scholarships based on sexual orientation. Most are lifestyle-specific and some have ethnic requirements.

PFLAG's goal is to foster a positive social image for LGBT through students that "identify openly as lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans-gender". To achieve that, recipients must sign press releases for their name, photograph and other personal information for PFLAG publicity.

Considering the above information, the importance of passing **S.B. 149** becomes even more critical. From preschool through college, students are constantly bombarded with solicitations to tolerate and accept homosexuality as normal and desirable. The persistence of PFLAG and other pro-homosexual organizations has resulted in Coming-Out Days, Days of Silence, gay-straight alliance clubs, pro-homosexual lectures and alternate-lifestyle role models in classrooms where sensitivity training is used to destroy differences of opinion.

**S.B. 149 requires parental permission for children to join *any* school club or extracurricular activity.** It passed the Senate Education and Youth Committee January 23<sup>rd</sup> and is now in Senate Rules Committee. It needs to pass to reaffirm the authority of parents.

**ACTION – Support.** Ask for a YES vote from Rules Committee Senators Balfour, Ch., 404 656-0095, SS9BALFOUR@AOL.COM; Hamrick, V-Ch., 656-0036, bill.hamrick@senate.ga.gov; Seabaugh, Sec., 656-6446, mail@mitchseabaugh.com; Adelman, 463-1376, david.adelman@senate.ga.gov; Butler, 656-0075, gloria.butler@senate.ga.gov; Hill, 656-5038, jack.hill@senate.ga.gov; Hooks, 656-0065; Johnson, 656-5109, ejohnson@legis.state.ga.us; Moody, 463-8055, dan.moody@senate.ga.gov; Stephens, 656-0048; D. Thomas, 656-6436, don.thomas@senate.ga.gov; and Unterman, 463-1368, reneunterman@senate.ga.us.

# Here's Proof: Picture I.D., A Must for Georgia Voters

S.B. 84 passed January 24, 2006

After all the dust settles, Georgia's new voter I.D. law should be appreciated by all who want honest elections. Anyone who thinks a picture I.D. isn't necessary to prove who's voting should've heard Senator Preston Smith's power-packed speech the morning of January 24<sup>th</sup>. I've excerpted much of his speech here because of the valuable information he gave.

He had reviewed State Elections Commission minutes and learned that, during the last 18 months, almost every meeting was peppered with two to three examples of voter fraud, ranging from people casting multiple votes, to machines with balloting numbers that weren't consistent, to illegally obtained or handled absentee ballots.

**Dead Men (and Women) Voting.** *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and WSB-TV reported *grave* (pardon the pun) problems in the November 6, 2000 election when 15,198 dead people were on Georgia voter rolls. The names of 5,412 of them had been used to cast fraudulent votes. In DeKalb County, Minnie Pearl Clark received an eligibility form for her husband to sign and *reconfirm* his voter registration. Someone had forged his name on a confirmation card after using his name to vote in 1992. Her husband James Clark of Decatur had died ten years earlier and Mrs. Clark had never *received or signed* a card that he was still alive.

You might've visited Alan Jay Mandel's Tinder Box tobacco shop at Lenox Square Mall. Mr. Mandel voted in March, July and November of 1997 *after* dying of heart failure in January.

One of the state's most colorful cases of the dead voting happened in the 1946 gubernatorial election. In the home county of Herman Talmadge's parents, 56 write-in votes for him were "discovered" after it first appeared that his opponent had barely won. Investigations revealed that the 56 ballots had been cast in the name of dead people and other ineligible voters.

**Non-Citizen-Voting.** Atkinson County had 15 affidavits of people encouraged to vote after telling election officials they are *not* citizens. The election officials then told them, "You don't need to vote. We'll vote it for you." The GBI and Attorney General are investigating that situation.

You'd think they'd know better, but someone in the Secretary of State's Office told people they were qualified to vote if they had a driver's license and social security card.

**False Addresses.** Fulton County proved voter fraud by sending letters back to 1,200 suspicious registrants. Half came back with bad addresses. In Hancock County 328 registered voters used the same residence and most wanted to vote absentee. *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* reported that public records prove "the dead regularly vote in local, state and federal elections across Georgia".

But Dodge County, Georgia holds the record for the biggest election fraud in the country. Of Dodge County's 17,000 population, 21 were indicted for illegal voting practices in the 1996 county commission election between two Democrats. A campaign worker "assisted" someone to vote by using the name of a woman who died the year before. Another woman couldn't vote at her polling place because someone had already cast an absentee ballot in her name. Fraud was so bad that the election was re-held and absentee ballots decreased over two-thirds. At least 30 convicted felons voted, although it's illegal for felons to vote.

## **Picture I.D. Required for Voting**

### **S.B. 84 Goes to Federal Court for Scrutiny**

The General Assembly hopes S.B. 84 fares better than other legislation that, also, required voters to have a picture I.D. U.S. District Court Judge Harold Murphy of Rome ruled previous legislation unconstitutional and placed an injunction against implementation of the proposal after finding that it contained an unconstitutional poll tax. He was referring to the proposed charge for a picture I.D. for voters with no acceptable photo I.D.

That brought the issue back to the 2006 General Assembly where S.B. 84 addressed the problems Judge Murphy found. After the governor signs it, S.B. 84 goes to the U.S. Department of Justice for review as required by the Voting Rights Act.

#### ***Provisions of S.B. 84***

- A valid (a) driver's license or (b) other acceptable photo I.D. card is sufficient voter I.D. Also acceptable for voter I.D. are other (c) valid photo I.D. cards issued by a branch, department, agency, or entity of the State or any other state or the U.S., if they are authorized by law to issue personal I.D.

NOTE: Persons with a valid driver's license or other acceptable photo I.D. mentioned above do not need and will not qualify for voter I.D. cards.

- No fee will be charged for Georgia voter I.D. cards.
- To obtain a voter I.D. card, applicants must supply the following:
  - A photo I.D. document (except that a non-photo identity document is acceptable if it includes both the person's full legal name and date of birth); documentation showing the person's date of birth; proof of the person's social security account number; and documentation showing the person's name and address of principal residence.

The State Election Board will provide and maintain for each county board of registrars all necessary equipment, forms, supplies and training for producing Georgia voter I.D. cards.

- Voter I.D. cards will be valid while persons live at the same address and are qualified to vote.
- The General Assembly will appropriate funds to educate voters about voting absentee, as well as at the polls, emphasizing acceptable I.D. required to vote.
- Each county board of registrars shall provide at least one place in the county that will accept applications for and issue free-of-charge Georgia voter I.D. cards valid only for voter I.D.
- The voter I.D. card will be captioned "GEORGIA VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD" and will state that under Georgia law it is valid only as voting I.D. It will be laminated and must contain a digital color photo of the applicant with the following information:

Full legal name; residence address; birth date; date I.D. card was issued; sex; height; weight; eye color; county issuing I.D. card (including a county number Secretary of State will assign each county); and additional data required by rule of the State Election Board.

The application must be signed and sworn to by the applicant and any falsification or fraud in making the application will be a felony, relating to false swearing.

**After a 1955 amendment to the state constitution allowing seizure of property for redevelopment purposes, the Georgia Supreme Court criticized the change as follows:**  
*“History teaches us that one of the first steps necessary to be taken in the establishment of a totalitarian form of government is to abolish the right of private ownership of property.”*

– Bailey v. Housing Authority of the city of Bainbridge, 1959

## **The Latest on Eminent Domain**

In its late 2005 meetings, Senator Jeff Chapman chaired the Eminent Domain and Economic Development Study Committee. Prohibitions against the use of eminent domain power for economic development were proposed in his January 9<sup>th</sup> letter from which I quote as follows:

*“It is excessive to use eminent domain to remedy blight. It is a grave injustice to rob a man and his heirs of all right to his property merely because its current use is substandard due to the fact that local authorities have not used their regulatory authority in a timely and preventative fashion. ...The use of eminent domain was never envisioned by our Founders to become a marketing tool for private enterprise through the strong arm of government. ...My purpose is to separate the issue of regulatory powers from the use of eminent domain and also to eliminate the ability of government to use eminent domain for redevelopment or economic development purposes.”*

On January 24, 2006 Bert Gall, Georgia native and attorney for the Institute for Justice, told the House Judiciary Committee that articles and cases between 1998 and 2002 document that over 10,000 properties throughout the country were either taken or threatened with condemnation for private development. The 10,000 does not include non-publicized cases.

Mr. Gall explained the Stockbridge situation where Mark and Regina Meeks have taken out a mortgage on their house to pay a lawyer to fight for their florist shop the City wants for redevelopment, while offering them only 50 percent of market value. He followed those comments with recommendations that would reform eminent domain power.

### ***Mr. Gall Recommended Good Eminent Domain Bills***

**S.B. 86**, bad when introduced in 2005, was changed to prohibit the use of eminent domain for redevelopment purposes. Now, it stops private-to-private transfer for private development.

**H.B. 943** limits the power of eminent domain to public roads and streets and public transportation. It allows state, counties and municipalities to use eminent domain power for public utilities and pipelines *if* they're authorized by law.

These are additional specifications: (a) economic development or redevelopment shall not constitute a public purpose for which property may be acquired by eminent domain.

(b) In doubtful cases, all laws of the state shall be construed to favor the protection of private property rights over the public right of eminent domain.

**S.B. 652, H.R. 87, H.R. 1037** propose constitutional amendments to narrowly define public use and specifically exclude economic development.

**H.B. 960 and S.B. 391** provide moratoriums to protect property owners while the legislature works toward protecting property rights.

**ACTION – The governor's office is working on combining all proposals into two pieces of legislation. One will change the law and another will change the constitution. Until those bills come out, let your senators and representatives know that you want strong protection for private property rights in Georgia.**

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