
Front-Line Issue: Opposition to Critical Race Theory (CRT)

September 22, 2020: President Trump issued EO 13950 to ban CRT training in Federal entities.

January 20, 2021: President Biden's EO 13985 reinstated CRT for federal entities, revoking Trump's ban.

April 27, 2021: Republican Congressmen warned USDOE Secretary Cardona about pushing CRT in schools.

May 7, 2021: America First Legal asked USDOE to withdraw its April 19, 2021 rule¹ proposal.

U.S. Senator Cotton (R-AR), “I’ve introduced bills that ban CRT from being taught in our military and classrooms and I’m going to keep asking Joe Biden’s team the tough questions.”

Headlines

Biden has embraced lunatic ‘critical race theory’ – but you can fight it, by Max Eden 1-25-21

On his first day in office, President Biden rescinded former President Trump’s executive order that prohibited CRT training for federal agencies and federal contractors.

Governor Kemp opposes ‘CRT’ in letter to state board of education, Donesha Aldridge *11Alive* 5-21-21

On Thursday, May 20th, Governor Kemp used Twitter to send a letter to the Georgia State Board of Education. The letter defined CRT as “a divisive and anti-American agenda.”

Carr rejects Federal government’s call for CRT in Schools, 5-19-21

Georgia Attorney General Carr joined 20 state attorneys general, urging Biden’s Administration to reconsider imposing CRT, the 119 Project and other similar curriculum into schools. 5-19-21

The Cherokee School Board recently adopted a resolution that prohibits implementing CRT and the 1619 Project. By Kathleen Sturgeon, *Patch Staff*, 5-24-21

“I again emphasize that neither I nor your school board have any plans to implement CRT and The 1619 Project. We have no plans to implement any of their concepts or race-based teaching under that name or any other name. We’re not playing semantics. We’re being truthful.” by Brian Hightower, School Supt., Cherokee County

CRT banned in Cobb County schools, by Kara McIntyre, *Patch Staff*, 6-10-21

The four Republicans on the board voted in favor of the resolution. The three Democrats abstained from voting. The resolution says the district “will not implement critical race theory, also called CRT, in our schools, not under that name nor any other name, nor will we be using the 1619 Project in our schools, not under that name nor any other name.”

Board of Education says Forsyth County Schools ‘does not and will not teach’ CRT in statement, by Sabrina Kerns, *Forsyth County News Staff*, 5-7-21

Georgia Board of Education Says “NO” to CRT

State Education Board passes resolution about teaching race, by Emily Jones, 6-3-21

On June 3, 2021 the Georgia Board of Education voted to ban using “concepts that impute fault, blame, a tendency to oppress others, or the need to feel guilt or anguish to persons solely because of their race or sex ... they “have no place in training for teachers, administrators, or other employees of the public educational system of the State of Georgia.” The resolution defines “school” as public schools and open-enrollment charter schools.

¹ “Proposed Priorities: American History and Civics Education,” 86 FR 20348, Docket ID ED-2021-OESE-0033 (4-19-21)
Read the proposed rule on Federal Register pages 20348 – 20351. Comment time ended; no final announcement, yet.

Headlines, States Ban CRT

“CRT is designed to further divide Americans by indoctrinating young students into being ashamed of their race and or being a victim because of their race ... advancing an ideology of hate.”

– Brian Mullahy, Utah *KUTV*, June 13, 2021

Florida Board of Education votes to ban CRT in public schools, by Jack Phillips, 6-11-21

“Florida’s education system exists to create opportunity for our children. CRT teaches kids to hate our country and to hate each other. It is state-sanctioned racism and has no place in Florida schools.” Statement by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, 6-10-21

Tennessee bans teaching CRT in schools, by Kimberlee Kruesi, 5-25-21

Governor Bill Lee signed H.B. 0580/S.B. 0623 that does not allow state educators to teach that “an individual, by virtue of the individual’s race or sex, is inherently privileged, racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or subconsciously.” The ban goes into effect July 1, 2021.

Utah GOP governing body passes resolution to ban teaching CRT in schools, by Brian Mullahy, *KUTV*, 6-13-21

On June 12th, the Republican State Central Committee, overwhelmingly, passed a resolution banning CRT and asked Governor Spencer Cox to sign legislation banning it, as well as “like concepts,” before the next school year.

Oklahoma governor booted from commission after banning CRT, by Lee Brown, 5-17-21

After Governor Kevin Stitt signed H.B. 1775 into law to prohibit teaching CRT in Oklahoma schools, the director of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission told Governor Stitt that signing the bill “reflects your desire to end your affiliation” with the Commission.

Idaho moves to ban CRT instruction in all public schools & universities, Asmelash, *CNN*, 5-6-21
Governor Brad Little received H.B. 377 on April 27th and signed it April 28th. It prohibits the spending of education funds to implement CRT and liberal indoctrination in public schools.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signs law targeting CRT, saying she’s against ‘discriminatory indoctrination,’ by Ian Richardson, 6-9-21, *Des Moines Register*

Governor Kim Reynolds signed House File 802 into law June 8, 2021, the same day it passed. Iowa is among more than a dozen states that have considered legislation this year aimed at eliminating similar concepts from classroom curriculum. This law goes into effect July 1, 2021.

Georgia Board of Education Resolution Bans CRT

“... the ability of the citizens of the state of Georgia and its publicly funded school districts to control K-12 curriculum content in courses on history, civics, social studies, and similar topics ... should not be ceded to either the federal government or private entities.”

–Georgia State Board of Education Resolution, June 3, 2021

Since the Georgia General Assembly adjourned sine die March 31st, a state law banning CRT cannot be introduced or passed until the next session convenes. However, the Georgia Board of Education, in a called meeting June 3, 2021, passed a resolution, specifically, banning CRT instruction, whether identified as CRT or otherwise. In resolution 13, the document states that the State Board of Education, “Will, if not already codified, consider actions codifying in part or whole paragraphs (6) through (13) herein within State Education Rules filed with the Georgia Secretary of State as “Department 160. RULES OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.”

Front-Line Power, Local Boards of Education

“Service on a local board of education is important citizen service. Given the specialized nature and unique role of membership on a local board of education, this elected office should be characterized and treated differently from other elected offices where the primary duty is independently to represent constituent views.”

– O.C.G.A. 20-2-61

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) has 180 members, one for each of Georgia’s 180 public school districts. Those 180 are divided into 14 geographic districts, each of which has a delegate who attends the GSBA annual business meeting to represent the local board and vote in the development and adoption of GSBA positions and policies. In addition, the 14 select a director for the GSBA board.

Working with GSBA are the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) and the 14 lawyers on the Georgia Council of School Board Attorneys (GCSBA), who represent the local boards of education.

In February of each year, GSBA hosts a series of State Capitol visits, giving school board members a scheduled, structured opportunity to communicate face-to-face with legislators about issues currently in the General Assembly. GSBA and GSSA staff make sure local school board members know which bills to support or oppose when they speak with legislators.

Georgia Code 20-2-52.1 provides for the election of seven school board members for each local school district. Each member must be domiciled within the local school district.

What do local school boards do?

1. Manage and control local public schools
2. Approve and manage multimillion dollar budgets
3. Ensure each student a quality basic education
4. Set a school vision and determine policy
5. Hire a qualified superintendent
6. Adopt a confidentiality code of ethics
7. Employ certified public accountants
8. Have audits of board books, records and accounts
9. Some provide group medical and dental insurance

Will or did your local school board prohibit CRT?

Local school board responsibilities include rejecting curricula and materials that are harmful academically, psychologically, nationally, or spiritually. On April 19, 2021, such curricula were promoted when the U.S. Department of Education opened for public comment Proposed Priority 1, “Projects That Incorporate Racially, Ethnically, Culturally, and Linguistically Diverse Perspectives into Teaching and Learning.” Will your school board reject that?

CRT Defined ... Simply

Congressmen Doug Lamborn (R-CO) and Jeff Duncan (R-SC) wrote the U.S. Secretary of Education: “Simply put, the teachings of CRT want to reject the principles established in our Constitution and our individual God-given rights, and instead divide individuals into competing racial identity groups while doing little to help minority students advance.”

ACTION – Ask your local school board to ban CRT. Vote for school board members who are conservative, patriotic, uphold the Constitution, and prohibit bad curricula. Replace members who do not reflect conservative values.

July 13th, Run-Off Election in Two Georgia House Districts

The June 15th special election was necessary because (a) Marietta Republican Bert Reeves resigned to take a job at Georgia Tech, leaving House District 34 open, and (b) Republican Greg Morris was elected to the State Transportation Board, leaving District 156 open.

Since five candidates ran in District 34 and three in District 156, no one received a majority vote. Therefore, a run-off election is scheduled for July 13, 2021. Candidates in District 34 are Republican Devan Seabaugh who received 47.09 % of the vote and Democrat Priscilla G. Smith who received 24.56 %. Both run-off candidates in District 156 are Republican. They are Leesa Hagan who received 43.07 % of the vote and Wally Sapp, who received 42.30 %.

ACTION – Residents of District 34, please vote for Republican Devan Seabaugh. Residents of District 156, please elect the more conservative Republican candidate.

Reapportionment, a Congressional Responsibility

Based on U.S. Census results, every ten years the U.S. House of Representatives apportions the national population into 435 equal districts. The calculation is based on the total residential population (citizens and non-citizens) of the 50 states. Since 1970, the Census has included U.S. Armed Forces personnel and federal civilian workers stationed outside the U.S. (and their dependents living with them) that can be allocated back to a home state. However, residents of Washington, D.C. are not included in apportionment.

The Constitution provides for each state to have a minimum of one member in the U.S. House of Representatives. Then, the apportionment calculation divides the remaining 385 seats among the 50 states. Congress decides the method used to calculate the apportionment.

During the last decade, the U.S. population rose to 331,449,281, which is a 7.4 increase, the second-slowest increase ever recorded. For the 2022 election, five states gain one U.S. House seat each, while seven states lose one U.S. House seat each.

Dividing the 331,449,281 population by 385 districts puts 765,136 residents in each U.S. House district. Each of Georgia's 56 Senate districts will have 191,284 constituents, and each House district will have approximately 59,511 constituents. Georgia maps will be drawn to outline the districts and will be available for purchase at \$5, \$10, or \$15 each, depending on size and color.

Redistricting, a State Responsibility

Georgia's Senate Committee on Reapportionment & Redistricting, chaired by Senator John F. Kennedy (R-Macon), and House Legislative and Reapportionment Committee, chaired by Representative Bonnie Rich (R-Suwanee), held a joint virtual (zoom) town hall hearing on Tuesday, June 15th, 5 – 7 p.m., during which Georgians gave two-to-five minute testimonies. That zoom meeting was live-streamed at www.legis.ga.gov and remains available for viewing.

Chairman Rich said, "We'll be holding at least one more virtual hearing." Also, eight in-person hearings will be held around the state between June 28 and July 29. Georgians who wish to speak must register. A website will be set up for Georgia residents to post comments, as well.

Extra Legislative Session to Convene for Redistricting

Committee findings will be reported to the Georgia General Assembly, which will convene in the fall in an extra session to redraw districts. The extra session is pushed into September or later because the Census Bureau is expected to send additional data by the end of August.

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