

**Legislative Days 29 - 32**  
Principal: Don Bolia

# Session Week 8

## Legislative Report



Georgia Society  
of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery

# 2024

**PGR** | PEACHTREE  
GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS

# Week 8, Legislative Days 29-32

The Georgia General Assembly met this week from Monday to Friday, with the exception of Wednesday, which were session days 29 through 32. Throughout the week there were several committee meetings, several dealing with appropriations for different topics as the Senate is working to finish the budget. After Crossover day, many bills are no longer able to pass and become law. But even though the pool of bills is smaller, the bills that are still alive are rushing to become law at the end of the 40 day session. Keep reading below for a breakdown of the week!



# Qualifying Week Overview

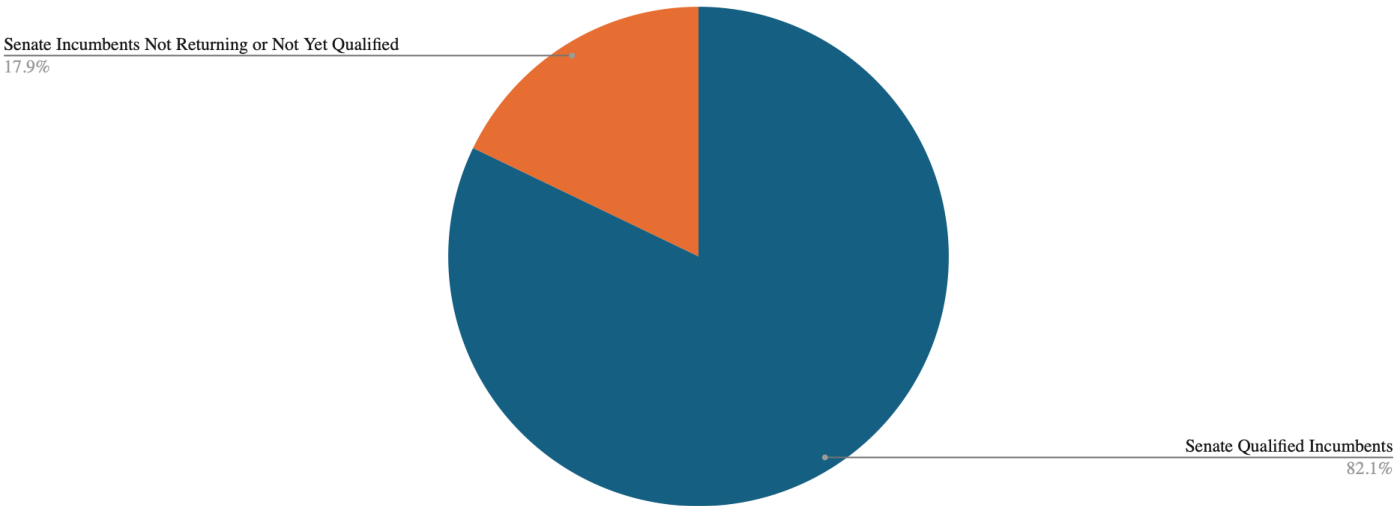
Georgia's 2024 electoral race surged ahead this week with the commencement of qualifying procedures for state and federal positions. A multitude of candidates representing both the Republican and Democratic parties flocked to the state Capitol to complete paperwork and submit qualifying fees. Concurrently, contenders vying for nonpartisan roles and running as independents queued up across the street to complete their qualifying process at the secretary of state's office. The deadline for candidates to officially enter the race is set for noon on Friday.

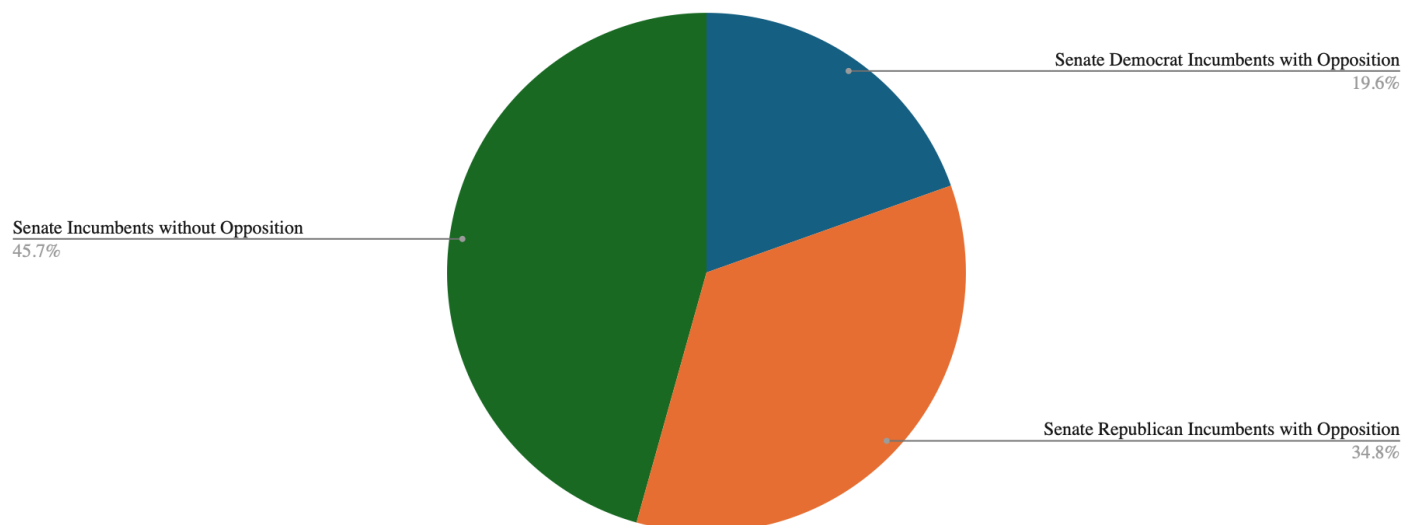
Although the presidential race will dominate Georgia's November ballots, attention is also focused on all 14 of the state's congressional seats, along with its 56 state Senate seats and 180 state House seats, which are up for contention. Primary elections are slated for May 21, the same day Georgia will cast votes for judges and various nonpartisan positions. Subsequently, runoff elections are scheduled for June 18 to resolve any contests where a candidate fails to secure a majority of votes on May 21.

At the end of the fourth qualifying day, March 7th, 92 candidates qualified to run for a State Senate seat, and 306 candidates qualified to run for a State House seat. Keep reading for a breakdown of the qualified candidates and election district information. Please note that this information is based off of candidates qualifying Thursday and before. Updated qualifying information will be sent shortly upon the availability of additional data.

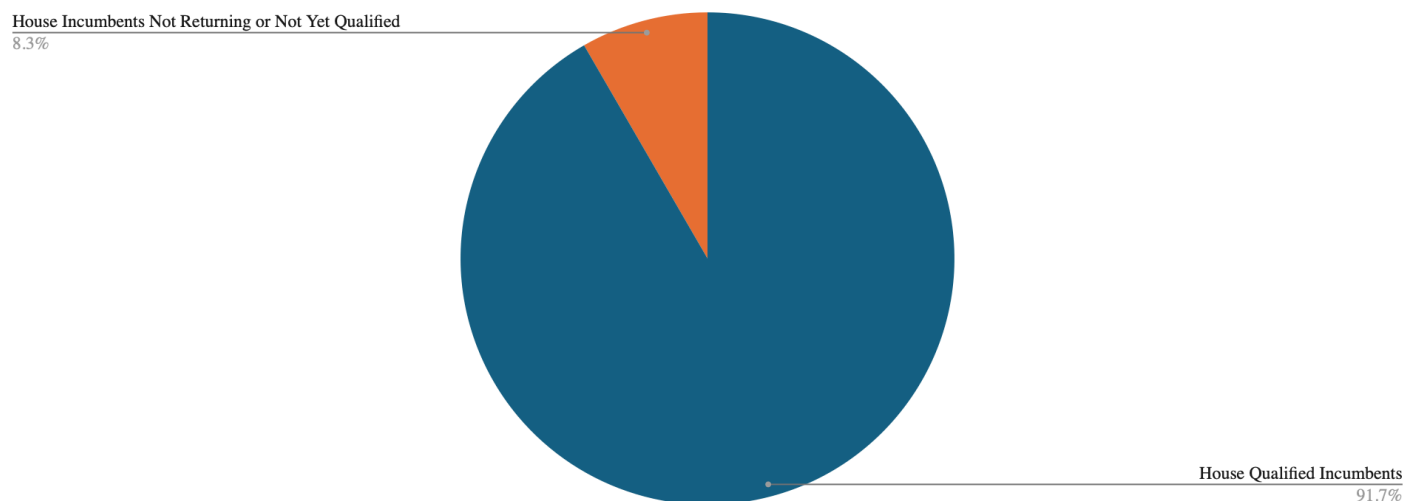
Click here for a link to the [Candidate Report Spreadsheet!](#)

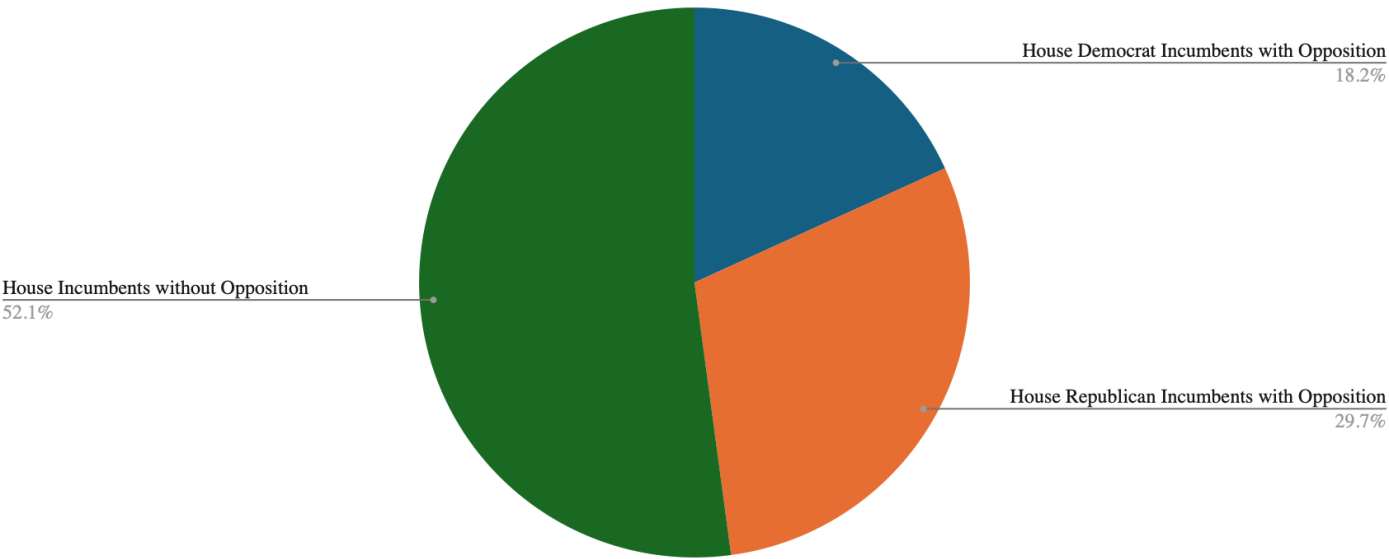
Among the State Senate qualifying candidates, 46 are returning incumbents meaning 10 current Senators are not running for election again or have not qualified yet. Out of the 46, 29 are Republican and 17 are Democrat. Out of the 10 not returning or yet qualified, four are Republican and six are Democrat. 54% of all returning incumbents have opposition with 19% having primary opposition so far, and 46% have no qualified opposition at this point. Breaking it down further, 36% of incumbents with opposition are Democrats with 64% being Republican. Five Democratic incumbents have opposition from their own party and four Republican incumbents have opposition from their own party.





Among the State House qualifying candidates, 165 are returning incumbents to their district meaning 15 current Representatives are not running for election again in their district or have not qualified yet. Out of the 165, 95 are Republican and 70 are Democrat. Out of the 15 not returning or yet qualified, 10 are Republican and 5 are Democrat. 47% of all returning incumbents have opposition with 14% having primary opposition so far, and 53% have no qualified opposition at this point. Breaking it down further, 38% of incumbents with opposition are Democrats with 62% being Republican. 11 Democratic incumbents have opposition from their own party and 12 Republican incumbents have opposition from their own party. At noon on Friday, March 8th, qualifying will officially end, and the election ballots will be set for primary elections on May 21st.





# Healthcare Legislation

## *Senate Health Appropriations Subcommittee*

During the lengthy Senate Health Appropriations subcommittee, discussions centered around various budget adjustments and allocations. For the Department of Community Health, topics included the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, the end of the Federal Public Health Emergency, and the launch of Pathways to Coverage. Healthcare costs and service utilization, particularly in mental/behavioral health, were highlighted. For the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, notable adjustments included funds for cost-of-living adjustments for state employees, retirement systems, agency premiums, and telecommunications infrastructure. Increases were allocated for adult developmental disabilities services, adult forensic services, adult mental health services, child and adolescent addictive diseases services, child and adolescent mental health services, and departmental administration, while reductions were made to reflect various adjustments in federal medical assistance percentages and operational savings.

## *Senate Regulated Industries Committee*

On March 7th, the Senate Regulated Industries Committee held a lengthy meeting to discuss HB 1339, which focuses on certificate of need reform. The bill's primary objective is to enhance tax credits for contributions to rural hospital organizations. This involves increasing the aggregate limit for tax credits and extending the sunset provision. Additionally, the bill proposes amendments to Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, which pertains to medical assistance. Specifically, it suggests the establishment of the Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission. Despite the discussion, the committee did not reach a voting decision on the bill during the meeting.

# GSDDS Legislation

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>
<b>HB 502 (Rep. Deborah Silcox)</b>	Georgia Cosmetic Laser Services Act; revise a definition; revise a provision	House passed, Senate Committee favorably reported
<b>HB 1046 (Rep. David Clark)</b>	advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order home healthcare services; substitute introduced with language from SB 102 (that died in committee) allowing CRNAs to administer anesthesia without direct physician oversight in rural hospitals	House passed, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
<b>HB 1264 (Rep. Ron Stephens)</b>	Professions and businesses; establish a professional health program to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals; authorize	House passed, Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities favorably reported
<b>HB 1322 (Rep. Chas Cannon)</b>	Georgia Hemp Farming Act; regulate consumable hemp products	House passed, Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities
<b>HB 1326 (Rep. Ron Stephens)</b>	Crimes and offenses; Schedule I, Schedule III, and Schedule IV controlled substances; provide certain provisions	House passed, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
<b>SB 495 (Sen. Sam Watson)</b>	Low THC Oil Patient Registry; term of validity of a registration card; provide	Senate passed, House Regulated Industries Committee