



Fayette Democratic Women Political Action Committee

“Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition it has only one way to go and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear”

Harry Truman

WHAT IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY?

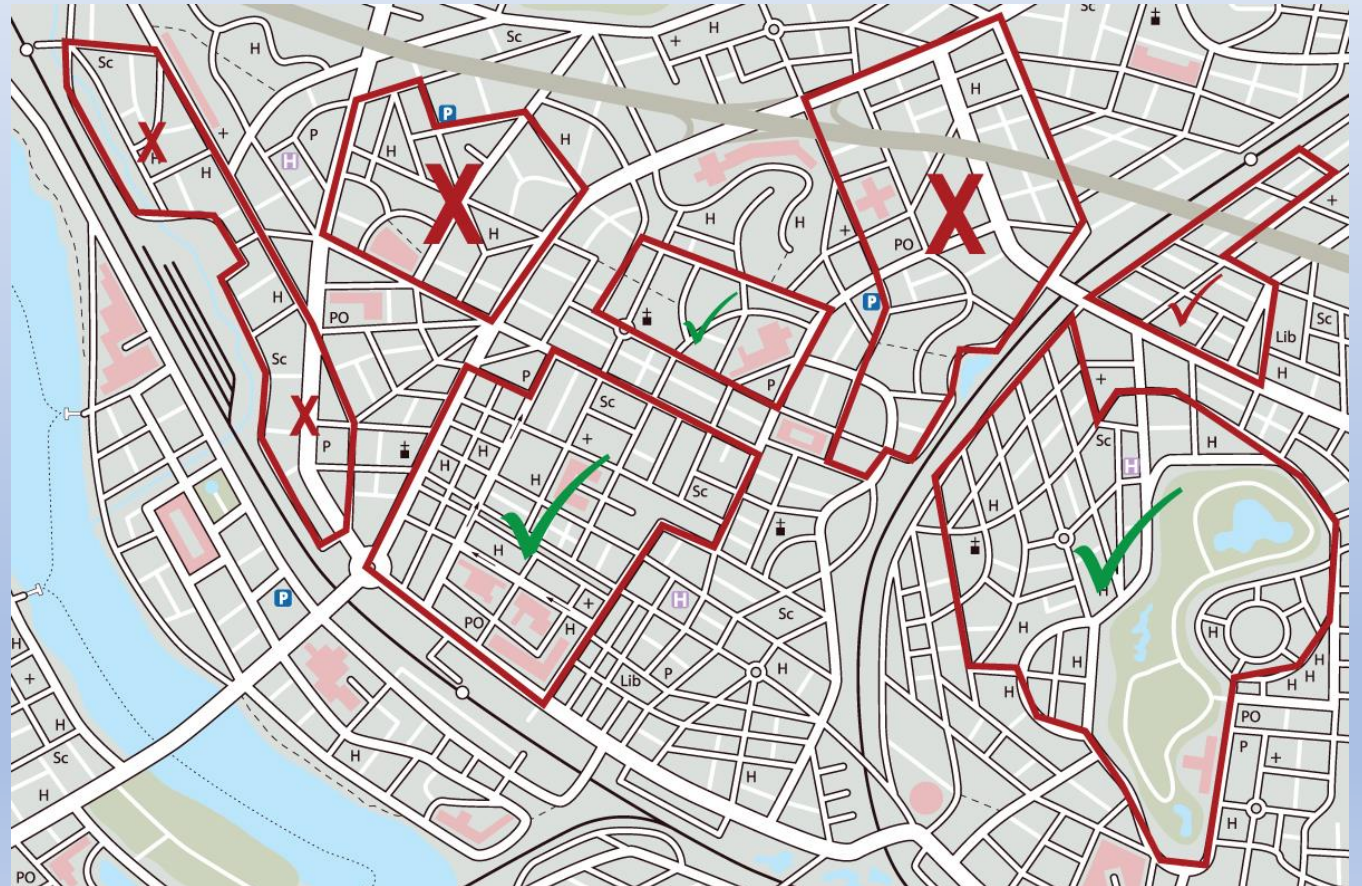
Critical race theory is an academic concept that is more than 40 years old. The core idea is that **race is a social construct**, and that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also **something embedded in legal systems and policies**.

CRT is an analytical tool used to look at the ways racial inequity persisted even after enactment of civil rights laws and anti-discrimination laws were enacted during the civil rights movement posing the question as to *why racial inequality endures and persists even after passage of the civil rights laws?* And *how do we contribute to abolishing it?*

The basic tenets of critical race theory, or “CRT”, emerged out of a framework for legal analysis in the late 1970s and early 1980s created by legal scholars Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Richard Delgado, among others. **CRT is taught at law schools, and at the college and graduate school levels.**

A good example is when, in the 1930s, government officials literally drew lines around areas deemed poor financial risks, often explicitly due to the racial composition of inhabitants. Banks subsequently refused to offer mortgages or improvement loans to Black people in those Areas.

This policy was known as “Red Lining”.





2022 GA State Legislative Calendar Re: Bills Restricting Freedom of Speech in Education

Freedom of Speech and thought matters, especially when it is speech and thought with which we disagree. The moment the majority decides to destroy people for engaging in thought it dislikes, thought crime becomes a reality.”

SB 377

SB375

HB 888

HB 1084

Censorship of Educational Curricula

SB 377

- Requires State agencies, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, units of the University System of Georgia, units of the Technical College System of Georgia, local boards of education, and local school systems to take measures to **prevent the use of curricula or training programs which act upon, promote or encourage certain concepts.**

Can't teach "divisive concepts." Divisive concepts are defined in the bill and include numerous examples about race such as **teaching that an individual, because of his race, color or ethnicity is responsible for actions committed by persons of the same race whether in the past or present.** *The bill essentially restricts and dictates how current events and America's history of racism can be taught in public schools and bans the use of certain concepts on racism. The Bill is intended to ban teaching of a concept that is only taught at the law school and college level college.*

Status: In Senate Education and Youth Committee. Hearing held on 2-7 and 2-15-22. Additional hearing to be scheduled.

SB 375



- Identical to 377. Requires same scrutiny by local government and certain state agencies to take measures to prevent the use of curricula or training programs which act upon, encourage or promote certain concepts.
- Both 377 and 375 provide for a complaint resolution procedure for anyone objecting to course content.
- **Status:** Senate Read and referred

HB 888

A bill specifically addressing curricula teaching about race and other individual traits and beliefs in public education. To prohibit inclusion of certain concepts in courses offered in public elementary, secondary schools, and public postsecondary schools. Status: Pending in House Education Committee. **Status:** Pending House Second Readers 1-14-22



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HB 888 and HB 1084

HB 1084

Prohibits teaching of “divisive” concepts about race, ethnicity, morality, etc. which the author says will not allow students to be taught about race through a lens that makes them feel guilty or pits one student against another because of their ethnicity. The bill outlines a process in which parents can take an appeal as high as the state school board if they feel their child is being taught lessons on race that are inappropriate.

The laundry list of divisive concepts that would be prohibited includes race stereotyping or scapegoating, making individuals feel uncomfortable or ashamed based on their race and or implying any group is inherently superior or inferior based on its race.”--Requires local school boards adopt a complaint resolution policy for local school systems to address complaints by parents, students, teachers, administrators alleging violations of the law. To be submitted to the principal and appealable to the Superintendent of Schools.

Status: Pending House Education Committee-House Second Readers 2-2-22



Banning Literature Deemed to be Obscene

“Censorship is to art as lynching is to justice” **Henry Louis Gates**

SB 226

HB 1217

Banning Literature Deemed to be Obscene

SB 226

A bill banning the sale or distribution of harmful materials to minors, applicable to school libraries. Harmful is defined as materials portraying nudity, sexual conduct, sadomasochistic abuse, is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community with respect to what is suitable reading material for minors. Or when taken as a whole, is lacking in serious literary, scientific, or artistic content. Requires the State Department of Education and local board of education to adopt a model policy establishing a complaint procedure for local school districts to address complaints by parents or guardians alleging reading materials are harmful to minors. Provides for a complaint review process and removal of material found too “harmful”.

Status: House Committee 2-10-22

HB 1217

A bill to ban obscenity, or any other objectionable material from school textbooks. To implement technology to monitor student use and to filter out objectionable material. Prohibits access to materials which, when taken as a whole, lacks serious artistic, literary, political, or scientific value and depicts sexual conduct. Failure of the school district to comply will result in withholding local funds to School districts by State Board of Education.

Status: House Second Readers 2-8-22. No votes yet



Parent Bill of Rights

“Too many adults wish to ‘protect’ teenagers when they should be stimulating them to read life as it is lived.” Margaret A. Edwards

SB 449

HB 1178

HB 372 and SB 435

SB 449 and HB 1178

Gives parents the right to review all instruction materials, to access child's grades and grading policy, to be informed of a child's curriculum, in each grading period, dispute elementary and secondary education curriculum. Parent may appeal any refusal to provide the information to the Board of Education. Parent may remove child from public school, enroll the child in another public school or private school, including a religious school, home study program, or other educational institution.

Status: SB 449 Heard in the Senate Youth and Education Committee February 15, 2022. It has passed out of committee.

HB 1178-House second readers February 7, 2022.

Parents Bill of Rights



Transgender Sports

HB 372 and SB 435

Provides for classification of sporting events or activities based upon gender. Defines gender as sex denoted on a birth certificate and only allows school sports to be played according to the gender assigned at birth. Provides for a waiver process and remedies.

Status: SB 435 passed in the Senate February 24, 2022. HB 372 House second readers February 11, 2021.



Voter Suppression

“The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it.” **John Lewis**

SB 325

SB 71

SB 69

HB 1317

HB 1318

HB 531

HB 1085

Elections and Voting Voter Suppression

SB 325

Bill relating to elections and primaries to remove provisions relating to absentee ballot drop boxes and repeal conflicting laws. Requires voters to either mail in the absentee ballot, deliver to County elections board office or to the polling place.

Status: Senate read and referred January 25, 2022



SB 71 Bill relating to elections and primaries generally, to revise the definition of “absentee elector” or voter. Requires reasons or Excuses for voting by absentee ballot.
Status: This bill was introduced February 2021 and has been recommitted to the Senate on January 10, 2022.

SB 69 Bill banning automatic voter registration requiring persons desiring to register to vote or update their voter registration through application for driver’s license or identification card will be required to affirmatively state the desire to do so on the application.
Status: The bill was recommitted to the Senate on January 10, 2022.

HB 1317 Companion bill to SB 325 relating to elections and primaries to remove all absentee ballot drop boxes.
Status: Introduced February 10, 2022. House Second Readers on February 14, 2022. Pending in House Special Committee on Election Integrity.

HB 1318 Relating to conduct of primaries and elections to provide that the county election superintendent may permit any elector of the county to vote in any precinct of the county they choose in a primary, election, or runoff under certain conditions. To provide for certain notices.
Status: House Second Readers.

HB 531 Bill relating to elections and primaries to prohibit election superintendents or boards of registrars from accepting private funding to assist in managing board operations.

Status: Engrossed on March 1, 2021. Senate Recommitted on January 10, 2022

HB 1085 Bipartisan bill relating to primaries and elections generally. Provides for the option for municipalities to adopt and use instant runoff voting for their elections.

Status: In House Governmental Affairs Committee. **Status:** House Second Readers.

In Georgia, for a bill to remain active, it must pass in either the Georgia House or Senate and then “cross over” to the other legislative body by a certain date. In this case the above bills must cross over by a designated day.

Crossover Day is TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

Sine Die is MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022

CALL TO ACTION!
Your Attention is Directed to Call GA Representatives
About the below bills:

Education

SB377 Description: Requires Boards of Regents of University System of Georgia, State Board of Education, Universities, local Boards of Education, and local school systems to prevent the use of curricula or training programs which promote or encourage teaching of “divisive” concepts, including examples about race. Establishes complaint review process. **Status:** Hearings held Senate Youth and Education Committee on 2-7-22 and 2-15-22. Additional hearings to be scheduled.

SB375 Description: Requires the same scrutiny as 377 of educational content by local educational agencies to prevent misuse of curricula or training programs which act upon, encourage, or promote teaching of divisive concepts. **Status:** Senate Read and referred.

HB888 Description: A bill specifically addressing curricula teaching about race and other individual traits and beliefs in public education. To prohibit inclusion of certain concepts in courses offered in public elementary, secondary, and public postsecondary schools. **Status:** Pending House Second Readers 2-2-22.

HB1084 Description: Prohibits teaching of “divisive” concepts about morality, ethnicity, race, etc. that makes a student feel guilty or uncomfortable about the subject matter. **Status:** Pending House Education Committee. House Second Readers 2-2-22

SB226 Description: A bill banning the sale or distribution of Harmful materials to minors, applicable to school libraries. Harmful is defined as materials portraying nudity or sexual conduct, or when taken as a whole, is lacking in serious literary, scientific, or artistic content. **Status:** In House Judiciary Committee 2-10-22.

HB1217 Description: A bill to ban obscenity or any other objectionable material from school textbooks. To implement technology to monitor student use. Prohibits access to materials including those which lack serious artistic, political or scientific value. **Status:** House Education Committee. Second Readers 2-8-22.

SB449 and HB1178 Description: Gives parents the right to review all instruction materials, access child’s grades, curriculum, and dispute elementary and secondary curriculum. Parent may appeal refusal to provide information or any other decision. Parent may disenroll child from the school. **Status:** Heard in Senate Youth and Education Committee February 2-15-22 It has passed out of Committee. 1178-House Second Readers February 7, 2022.

Education continued:

HB372 and SB 435 Description: Provides for classification of sporting events or activities based on gender. Defines gender as sex denoted on a birth certificate and only allows school sports to be played according to gender assigned at birth. **Status:** **HB372** Introduced January 25, 2022. Pending Senate Judiciary Committee. **SB 435** Passed in the Senate February 24, 2022.

Elections and Voting

SB325 and HB 1317 Description: Provides for removal of all statutory provisions relating to absentee ballot drop boxes and repeal conflicting laws. Requires voters to either mail in absentee ballot, deliver to County Elections Board office or to the polling place. **Status:** **325** Senate read and referred January 25, 2022. **1317** Introduced February 10, 2022

SB 71 Description: Bill to revise the definition of “absentee elector” Requires reasons or excuses for voting by absentee ballot. **Status:** Introduced February 2021 has been recommitted to Senate January 10, 2022.

SB69 Description: Bill banning automatic voter registration through application for driver’s license or ID card. Requires the applicant to affirmatively state the desire to do so on application. **Status:** Bill recommitted to the Senate January 10, 2022 and pending House Committee on Election Integrity.

HB 531 Description: Bill relating to elections and primaries to prohibit superintendents or boards of registrars from accepting private funding to assist in managing board operations. **Status:** Engrossed March 1, 2021. Senate Recommited January 10, 2022.



- 1) Go to My Voter Page at www.mvp.sos.ga.gov to find your GA House Representatives. Find Senate Representatives at “GA Senate Ethics Committee.”
- 2) Call your Senator/House Representative, or sponsors of the bills. Let them know **you oppose all forms of censorship and voter suppression** and encourage/urge them to **vote No** on these bills.

Sample Telephone Script: *“Hello my name is [insert name] and I am a resident of Fayette County. I am contacting you to vote No on [HB/SB#] and oppose any other attempts to censor our educators/ or to attempt to roll back voting rights in Georgia. This/These bill(s) will significantly harm my right to freedom of speech and/or my right to vote.”*

A Summary of the Bills is Available Here

