



The Woke Express

**BIG BETHEL SOCIAL
ACTION COMMISSION**

September 2024

2024 General Election Dates to Remember

Monday, August 19th

First day to request an Absentee Ballot

Monday, September 16th

First day to request an Absentee Ballot for Run-off

Saturday, September 21st

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens (UOCAVA)

Absentee Ballots begin getting mailed

Monday, October 7th

Absentee Ballots begin getting mailed

Monday, October 7th

Voter Registration deadline (by 5:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, October 15th

First day for Early Voting

Friday, October 25th

Last day to request an Absentee Ballot

Friday, November 1st

Last day for Early Voting

Friday, November 1st

Last day to return Absentee Ballot in Drop Box

Tuesday, November 5th

Last day for an Absentee Ballot submitted by mail

Tuesday, November 8th

STRENGTH

PROSPERITY

WELL-BEING

Last day to Return UOCAVA Absentee Ballot (Must be postmarked by November 5, 2024)

Grand Rising Woke Nation,

The month of September is most notably associated with the commemoration of the Labor Day holiday. This day, founded by a union leader, was meant to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being.

It is clear that there is still a lot of work to do. Work to protect our freedom. Work to preserve the dignity of every citizen. Work to remind us that we have more in common than what divides us, and work to ensure that EVERY vote is counted! But, you can't vote if you don't register.

The Social Action Commission is preparing for our Voter Registration Fair on September 14th. We will have something for everyone; registration/voter status check, absentee ballots, voting machine demonstration, food, games, music, vendors, giveaways, a bounce house and more! If you are a registered voter, bring a friend, colleague or family member. It doesn't matter what County in Georgia; we can register them all!!!

There will be an eyeglass collection for all of the old or unwanted eyewear you may have around the house. We will be donating them to a local organization that will repurpose them for people in need throughout the U.S. or abroad so please, no broken frames or lenses.

The election cycle begun on August 19th. Absentee ballots are now available. Let's make the next sixty-four days **OUR** labor days. There are many organizations that are looking for volunteers. Whether it is phone/text banking, door knocking, working the polls, transporting voters or whatever your passion, **please get involved.**

Let's not wake up on November 6th feeling like our nation isn't okay. Do Something!

Humbly,

Editor-in-Chief

STRENGTH

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WELL-BEING

September Health Awareness

Pain Awareness Month

The American Chronic Pain Association have spearheaded efforts to raise awareness of the challenges of living with and managing chronic pain, as well as awareness of how others can help.

National Cholesterol Education Month

This campaign seeks to educate the public on the dangers of high cholesterol and its link to heart disease. Organizations such as the CDC and the American College of Cardiology come together to recognize the work being done. People can talk to a healthcare professional about getting their cholesterol levels checked.

Blood Cancer Awareness Month

This campaign raises awareness of blood cancers.

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Represented by a gold ribbon, many children's cancer organizations come together to mark this campaign. Visit the American Childhood Cancer Organization to find out more and donate.

Healthy Aging Month

This is an observance designed to focus on the positive aspects of growing older.

National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month

This campaign seeks to raise awareness and education of atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular or rapid heartbeat. Stopafib.org, cardiosmart.org, and heart.org provide comprehensive insight and advice.

National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

This campaign helps parents and caregivers prevent child obesity early and understand the physical health problems associated with the condition.

National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Organizations such as the Men's Health Network sponsor events related to this campaign, alongside the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

National Recovery Month

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration aim to increase awareness and understanding of substance use disorders and celebrate those who recover.

National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

This month helps focus attention on the need for research and treatment. The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America drive this campaign and have extensive resources and information online. Visit the American Red Cross to give blood.

Newborn Screening Awareness Month

This campaign draws attention to the benefits of newborn screening for prospective caregivers and medical professionals.

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Ovarian cancer is a common gynecologic cancer in the U.S. Wear a teal ribbon to show support.

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month

This was created to increase awareness and education of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), as there is currently no cure for it.

Sepsis Awareness Month

Organizations aim to focus on the dangers of sepsis and how people can prevent it.



BIG BETHEL SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



VOTER **REGISTRATION** **DRIVE** ★

Let Your Voice
Be **Heard**
Because your vote
matters

*You Can't Vote
If You Don't
Register!!*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
AT BIG BETHEL PARKING LOT
On Jesse Hill Jr. Drive
10AM - 4PM

**Games, Music, Giveaways,
Food & Drinks
Used Eyeglass Collection**



FOR MORE INFORMATION :
WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG/Big-Bethel-Social-Action-Commission
or
www.bbsac.org

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

STRENGTH

PROSPERITY

WELL-BEING

AME Bishop looks back over 8 years in Georgia

Reginald Jackson said fight for voting rights was one of the biggest battles during his time in the state.



Credit: Ben Gray

AME Bishop Reginald Jackson speaks to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution editorial board in Sandy Springs on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024. (Ben Gray / Ben@BenGray.com)

By [Shelia Poole](#)

When African Methodist Episcopal Bishop Reginald T. Jackson was a student at Turner Theological Seminary in Atlanta a bishop once told students that “Georgia is for Georgians.”

Jackson, a native of Delaware, thought, “I guess that means I have to go home.”

Decades later, in 2016, Jackson returned to Georgia, as the presiding prelate of the 6th Episcopal District of Georgia, which is comprised of more than 500 churches and exceeds 96,000 members.

“Doesn’t God work in mysterious ways,” said Jackson, 70, who still recalls the words of the former bishop. “Not only was I able to come back to Georgia but to come back as bishop. Soon that role will end and another begin.”

STRENGTH

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Now, as the AME Church holds its General Conference through Aug. 28 in Columbus, Ohio, it will also be the last one in which Jackson represents Georgia. Church policy allows for bishops to serve as many as two, four-year terms in the same district, then they are assigned elsewhere.

His successor and where Jackson will land for his last four-year term before mandatory retirement at 75, are not public at this point.



Credit: Miguel Martinez

At the end of the worship service, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson (left) and Pastor John Foster offer a prayer for DA of Fulton County Fani Willis at the Big Bethel AME church on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Miguel Martinez /miguel.martinezjimenez@ajc.com

Jackson though, became a familiar figure in the fight against restrictive voting laws in Georgia.

He and other Black pastors criticized companies that remained silent or did too little to oppose the bill. They often found themselves at odds with Georgia's predominately Republican legislators and sometimes its governor.

STRENGTH

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Credit: arvin.temkar@ajc.com

Bishop Reginald Jackson, presiding prelate of the 6th Episcopal District of Georgia, speaks at a press conference for Black clergy in support of Joe Biden at the Capitol in Atlanta on Thursday, July 11, 2024. (Arvin Temkar / AJC)

In 2019, he renewed calls for a hate crime law in Georgia when a white teenage girl was arrested for planning an attack on an AME church in Gainesville and again the next year after the shooting death of 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery in the Brunswick area by white men the next year.

Jackson recounted in a recent meeting with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution editorial board that he was surprised that Georgia was one of a handful of states without a hate crimes law.

Explore

AME bishop leading opponent of Georgia's new election laws

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When he raised the issue with Gov. Brian Kemp, Jackson said he was told “Bishop, this is the new Georgia and we’re not going to tolerate hate in Georgia,” Ironically, shortly after that meeting the girl’s plot was discovered.

Jackson later said he didn’t think the threat got enough attention.

“If this had happened in an Episcopal church in Athens, this would be a major issue but because it happened to in Black church, that doesn’t seem to resonate in Georgia,” he said.

The Rev. Gerald Durley, pastor emeritus at Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, has known the bishop for years.

He said Jackson has a strong understanding of the political realities and times and the spiritual awakening.

He called him a: “catalyst” who makes things happen.

In Jackson’s meeting with the AJC’s editorial board, he talked about a wide range of issues from civil rights, the foiled attack on the AME church and Georgia’s restrictive voting rights laws.

While he often spoke out on voter rights and civil rights, Jackson said he is also passionate about giving every Georgia access to quality health care.; increasing the living wage; education and prison reform.

“Without an education, too many of our brothers and sisters end up in prison,” he told the editorial board. “School ought not to be the pipeline to prison.”

Jackson said he hopes to return to Georgia after his retirement in four years. He and his wife, Christy Davis- Jackson, have two children - one adult and one in college.

“My eight years are coming to a close and I’m going to miss Georgia,” said Jackson. “I absolutely love it. The people are, by and large, very nice. I think it’s a beautiful state and it has so much potential.

“On top of that, one of the things that really wedded me to Georgia is its rich history ... I couldn’t get out of my mind that this is the home of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Hosea Williams and Andy Young. The leadership of the civil rights movement was mostly here in Georgia, and, in a lot of ways, that helped sharpen and define my ministry.”

Georgia creates website for voters to cancel their own registrations

Secretary of State Raffensperger's website aims to remove outdated registrations.



Credit: Miguel Martinez/AJC

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger launched the voter registration cancellation website Monday, providing an online method for voters to remove their outdated registrations. (Miguel Martinez / AJC)

By Mark Niese

Updated July 29, 2024

A new Georgia website makes it easier for voters who moved away to cancel their own voter registrations without having to wait for the government to confirm that they're no longer residents.

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger launched the **voter registration cancellation website** Monday, providing an online method for voters to remove their outdated registrations. Previously, voters had to fill out a cancellation form and return it to their county's election office.

The website is another way to remove ineligible voters from Georgia's registration list, along with routine cancellations **and voter eligibility challenges**.

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“This is a convenient tool for any voter who wants to secure their voter registration by canceling their old one when they move out of state,” Raffensperger said. “It will also help keep Georgia’s voter registration database up to date without having to rely on postcards being sent and returned by an increasingly inefficient postal system.”

Unless voters cancel their own registrations, it can take years to remove them from the rolls. Federal and state laws require mailed notifications to voters who appear to have moved, and if they don’t respond, registrations can be canceled if they don’t participate in the next two general elections.

Conservative activists have sought to accelerate the registration cancellation process, filing over 100,000 voter challenges with county election boards since the 2020 election. They say outdated registrations could be used for fraud, though very few cases of out-of-state voting have been proved and voter ID is required in Georgia.

Democrats said they’re concerned that the cancellation website could be misused.

“This portal is ripe for abuse by right-wing activists who are already submitting mass voter challenges meant to disenfranchise Georgians,” said Tolulope Kevin Olanoye, executive director for the Democratic Party of Georgia. “This page is yet another move in Georgia Republicans’ playbook to empower anti-democracy activists, and the secretary of state must take it down immediately

There are currently **over 8 million registered voters** in Georgia, including 914,000 voters in **“inactive” status** who are still allowed to vote but could be canceled if they skip upcoming elections.

The secretary of state’s office canceled 189,000 inactive voter registrations last year. Through the new website, voters who want to cancel their registrations can enter their name, county, date of birth and personal identifying information, such as a driver’s license or state ID number. Then county election officials will receive a notification from the state’s voter registration system and remove those voters. The website can be used by voters who have moved, those who no longer wish to be registered and relatives of voters who have died. County election officials will then send verification letters to voters who cancel their registrations.

The voter registration cancellation website is available at **cancelmyregistration.sos.ga.gov**.

Georgians can check their registration status and sign up to vote through the state’s My Voter Page at **mvp.sos.ga.gov**.



As a conservative, there are several reasons you might take pride in *Document 2025*, particularly if it aligns with your values and policy preferences. Here are five key reasons:

1. Restoration of Constitutional Principles

Document 2025 emphasizes a return to the foundational principles of the U.S. Constitution, advocating for limited government, federalism, and the protection of individual liberties. This focus on constitutional governance reflects a commitment to the rule of law and the original intent of the Founding Fathers.

2. Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility

The document likely outlines strategies for reducing the federal deficit and controlling government spending. By prioritizing fiscal discipline, it aims to ensure that future generations are not burdened by excessive debt, which aligns with conservative values of financial prudence and responsibility.

3. Strengthening National Security

Conservatives often prioritize a strong national defense, and *Document 2025* likely includes plans to bolster the military, secure borders, and address global threats. This focus on national security ensures that America remains safe and sovereign, capable of defending its interests both at home and abroad.

4. Promotion of Free Market Economics

The document probably advocates for policies that reduce regulation, lower taxes, and encourage entrepreneurship. By promoting free market principles, it aims to create a thriving economy where businesses can innovate and compete without excessive government interference, leading to greater prosperity and job creation.

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5. Preservation of Traditional Values

Document 2025 likely underscores the importance of traditional American values, such as faith, family, and personal responsibility. By promoting these cultural and moral foundations, it seeks to strengthen the social fabric of the nation, ensuring that these values continue to guide public policy and societal norms.

These points collectively represent a vision for America that aligns with conservative principles, focusing on limited government, economic freedom, strong national defense, and the preservation of traditional values.

As a liberal, there are several reasons you might oppose *Project 2025*, particularly if it contrasts with your values and policy preferences. Here are five key concerns:

1. Erosion of Social Safety Nets

Project 2025 may advocate for significant cuts to government spending, particularly in areas like healthcare, Social Security, and welfare programs. As a liberal, you might be concerned that these cuts could undermine the social safety nets that protect the most vulnerable populations, increasing inequality and poverty.

2. Rollback of Environmental Protections

The project likely emphasizes deregulation and may propose rolling back environmental regulations that are seen as burdensome to businesses. From a liberal perspective, this could lead to increased pollution, harm to natural resources, and a lack of action on climate change, which you might see as critical issues requiring strong governmental intervention.

3. Undermining of Civil Rights and Social Justice

Project 2025 might prioritize traditional values and stricter immigration policies, which could be viewed as infringing on civil rights and social justice. As a liberal, you may oppose any efforts to limit LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive rights, or the rights of immigrants and minorities, seeing these as essential to a fair and equitable society.

4. Threat to Public Education and Healthcare

The project might advocate for privatization or reduced federal involvement in public services like education and healthcare. Liberals often see these as public goods that should be accessible to all, regardless of income, and might be concerned that such policies could exacerbate disparities in access to quality education and healthcare.

5. Concentration of Power and Reduction of Government Accountability

Project 2025 may push for a reduction in the size and scope of the federal government, emphasizing state and local control. While decentralization can have benefits, as a liberal, you might worry that this could weaken federal oversight and accountability, particularly in areas like civil rights enforcement, environmental protection, and economic regulation, leading to inconsistent standards and protections across the country.

These concerns reflect a liberal perspective that emphasizes social equity, environmental stewardship, civil rights, and the importance of robust public institutions.

AREAS OF LIFE THAT COULD BE IMPACTED BY “THE PROJECT”

Project 2025

Women's Health

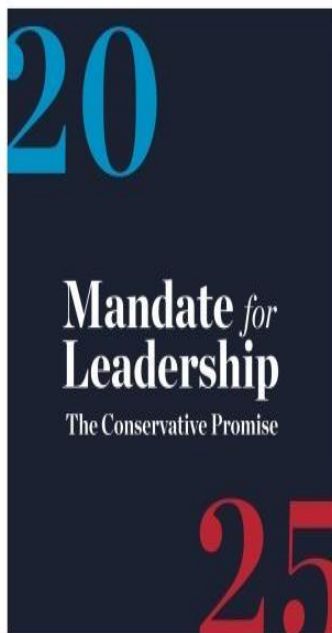
Ban abortion completely with no exceptions
Ban contraceptives

Family

End marriage equality
End no-fault divorce
Condemn single mothers while promoting only “traditional families”

Healthcare

Cut Medicare
End the Affordable Care Act
Raise prescription drug prices



Working Americans

Give additional tax breaks to corporations and the 1%
Increase taxes for the working class
Eliminate unions and worker protections
Raise the retirement age
Cut Social Security

Education

Eliminate the Department of Education
Use public, taxpayer money to for private religious schools
Teach Christian religious beliefs in public schools
End free and discounted school lunch programs
Eliminate Head Start early childhood education

Environment and Climate

End climate protections
Increase Arctic drilling
Deregulate the oil industry

Civil Rights

End civil rights and DEI protections in government
Ban African-American and gender studies in all levels of education
Ban books and curricula that teach about slavery

Criminal Justice

Promote and expedite capital punishment
Continue to pack the Supreme Court and lower courts with right-wing judges

Homeland Security

Defund the FBI and Homeland Security
Increase Arctic drilling
Use the military to break up domestic

Immigration

Conduct mass deportation of immigrants and incarceration in “camps”
End birthright citizenship
Ban Muslims from entering the country

Federal Government

Eliminate federal agencies like the FDA, EPA, NOAA and more
Eliminate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Eliminate civil service employment protections for federal employees

Veterans & Military Families

Cut veterans healthcare benefits and reduce number of VA clinics
Cut military housing allowances

What is Project 2025?

Project 2025 is an initiative coordinated by the Heritage Foundation and led by two former Trump administration officials.

It aims to promote right-wing policies, reshape the United States federal government and consolidate executive power should Donald Trump win the 2024 presidential election. At least 140 Trump employees have been involved in Project 2025.

STRENGTH

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