New Business Item #13

COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Chairman Steve Brown
Meeting Date:	Monday, February 17, 2014	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of Chairman Brown's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2014-08 in support of House Bill 852, providing for Transparency in Vote Counting for elections in Georgia.

Background/History/Details:

Georgia House Bill 852, introduced by Representative Charles Gregory, amending Article 10 of Chapter 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to absentee voting, so as to provide that any candidate in an election or primary shall be entitled to inspect and reproduce absentee ballots for a certain period of time after the election or primary.

It is recognized that there is no more essential component for the preservation and protection of the nation's governmental system than fair and honest elections.

Candidates standing for higher office must be able to inspect and reproduce absentee ballots in an effort to ensure that the election process has been followed fairly and legally.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of Chairman Brown's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2014-08 in support of House Bill 852, providing for Transparency in Vote Counting for elections in Georgia.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance		Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing		County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

County of Fayette;
State of Georgia

RESOLUTION 2014 – 08

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 852, PROVIDING FOR TRANSPARANCY IN VOTE COUNTING FOR ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA

WHEREAS, there is no more essential component for the preservation and protection of our governance system than fair and honest elections; and

WHEREAS, we are living in an era where even Presidential elections are determined by a mere handful of votes; and

WHEREAS, all candidates participating in the electoral process should have thorough access to voting records following an election; and

WHEREAS, a Superior Court Ruling in metropolitan Atlanta denied a losing candidate access to review absentee ballots following an election to insure a proper accounting of the votes; and

WHEREAS, State Representative Charles Gregory has introduced House Bill 852, affording that: *"any candidate in an election or primary shall be entitled to inspect and reproduce absentee ballots for a certain period of time after the election or primary"* to verify an fair and honest accounting of the votes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Fayette County Board of Commissioners does hereby formally support HB 852, requesting that the bill be released out of the Government Affairs Committee to the floor of the House of Representatives, inviting our full Fayette County Legislative Delegation to offer their support to insure fair and honest elections.

.

So resolved this 13th day of February 2014, by the FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Attest:

_____
Steve Brown, Chairman

_____
Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk

House Bill 852

By: Representative Gregory of the 34th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Article 10 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to absentee voting, so as to provide that any candidate in an election or primary shall be entitled to inspect and reproduce absentee ballots for a certain period of time after the election or primary; to provide for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 10 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to absentee voting, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"21-2-391.

Any candidate in an election or primary shall be given the opportunity, upon request, to inspect absentee ballots for a period of two years after the date of such election or primary. Such candidate shall be entitled to create reproductions of such ballots at his or her expense. Such inspection shall be made at a reasonable time and place determined by the custodian of such absentee ballots. This Code section shall be applicable to elections or primaries held prior to July 1, 2014, and to any election or primary held after that date."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

Email message

Close Print

Date: Sat, 8 Feb 2014 7:07:01pm
From: Garland Favorito <garlandf@msn.com>
To: "Garland Favorito" <garlandf@msn.com>
Subject: HB852: Action Needed to Help Avoid Election Secrecy

VoterGA Supporters,

As I previously reported last year, Cobb County Superior Court Judge, Adele Grubbs, ruled that candidates in Georgia have "no compelling reason" to see the absentee ballots that voters cast for them in any given election. This means that there is no way to ensure that absentee ballot counts which have been reported for any race are accurate. In response, State Representative, Charles Gregory, has introduced HB852, a bill that allows candidates this option. The text of this simple one paragraph bill which will help prevent Georgia elections from being conducted in total secrecy is included below. Like most other house legislation, this bill is likely to die in committee, since Rep. Gregory, the former head of the Ron Paul campaign in Georgia, is not in the inner circle of the establishment formed by the Speaker of the House. If you would like this bill to have a hearing you can contact, the chairwoman of the House Government Affairs Committee and request that it be heard. In order of effectiveness, personal visits are preferable over phone calls, which are preferable over faxes, which are preferable over Emails. Also included below are the Email addresses for the administrative assistant and policy analyst of the committee who have been supportive of our previous efforts.. The Chairwoman is Amy Carter. The contact information for her and the Government Affairs Committee is:

Rep. Amy Carter

218 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: (404) 656-6801
Fax: (404) 656-6700

Chair: amy.carter@house.ga.gov

Admin: pam.norwood@house.ga.gov

Policy: craig.foster@house.ga.gov

- **Rep. Amy Carter**
- **District Address**
- PO Box 4930
- Valdosta, GA 31604
- 229.245.2733 - Office
- 229.245.8890 - Fax