

THE WEEKLY ENUMERATOR

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

THE SCORECARD FOR LEGISLATION & POLICY

WEEKLY SURVEY QUESTION—HB 941

Should Georgians support Rep. Golick, and others, in their effort to afford law enforcement a different standard of law for grand jury proceedings?

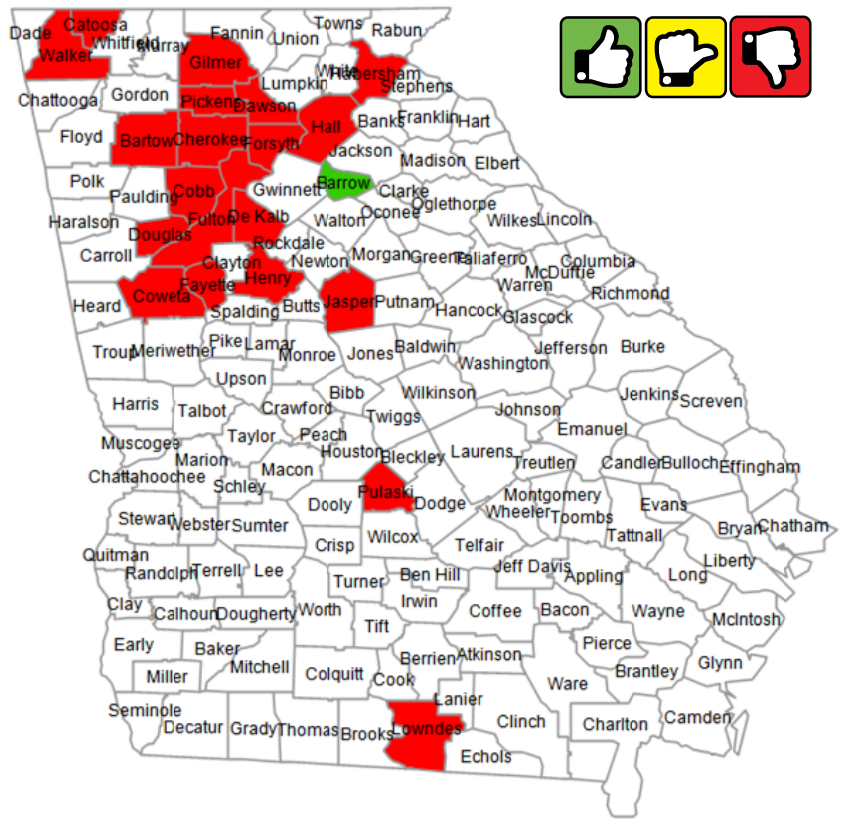


13%: Georgia Counties Reported
5%: Voted YES
0%: Voted MAYBE
95%: Voted NO



Rep. Golick of the 40th, Atwood of the 179th, Pak of the 108th, Abrams of the 89th, are proposing changes to the treatment of law officers as regards the function of the grand jury in the State.

Georgia, alone among the states, allows a peace officer to sit in on the grand jury proceedings where he may be accused and to make a statement to the grand jury that may not be challenged. According to Jim Galloway (AJC), "Golick said there was some talk of barring officers from grand jury probes – as all other targets of investigation are. "We utterly reject that. Because what that says is that police officers are basically like everybody else," Golick said. "The fact of the matter is, police officers are not like everybody else. They're agents of the state. They do have a special role in our society."



WHAT VOTERS THINK ABOUT HB 941

- Law enforcement should be judged by a grand jury as well as everyone else. The grand jury system has been around and worded for hundreds of years. Why do we need to change it now?
- This legislation proposes to treat law enforcement personnel differently from ordinary citizens when being investigated by a grand jury.
- A nation of laws requires all people have the same protection under those laws.
- I agree wholeheartedly with Catherine's (Bernard) comments. The proposed legislation doesn't make much sense.
- Typical of (Rich) Golick and (Stacey) Abrams to be behind this. Nally is correct in his assessment. Preserve and protect the citizen grand jury system in GA and DO NOT SUPPORT this legislation. The District Attorney is not and the citizens should not be led to believe that either a District Attorney or the Attorney General is in control of the Grand Jury and the presentation of evidence - the citizens are fully within their rights to present a case and supportive information to address the courts which in turn should be honored and upheld by the DA and the AG - they are subservient to the citizens.
- We need to keep the grand jury process under the control of the citizens and not carve out a way for government insiders to bypass this check and balance.
- It is time to correct this long-standing oversight.

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