

2012 Senate Reapportionment & Redistricting Committee Roster

Senator Charlie Bethel, Chairman
District 54
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Dalton, GA 30720
404-656-6436
324-A CLOB

Senator Steve Henson
District 41
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121-B State Capitol

Senator Judson Hill, Ex-Officio
District 32
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421-D State Capitol

Senator Bill Cowsert, Vice-Chairman
District 46
P. O. Box 512
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Senator Bill Jackson
District 24
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109 State Capitol

Senator Horacena Tate, Secretary
District 38
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110-C State Capitol

Senator Chip Rogers
District 21
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236 State Capitol

Senator Don Balfour
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453 State Capitol

Senate David Shafer
District 48
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421-F State Capitol

Senator Ronnie Chance
District 16
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Tyrone, GA 30290
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109 State Capitol

Senator Cecil Staton
District 18
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Senator Vincent Fort
District 39
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121-J State Capitol

Senator Ross Tolleson
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Senator Ed Harbison
District 15
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Senator Tommie Williams
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148 Williams Avenue
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321 State Capitol

2011-2012 Rules for the Senate Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting

1. The quorum for the Committee shall be eight (8) members.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson shall determine measures to be considered and the order in which such measures are considered.
4. The Rules of the Senate shall prevail in all matters not covered by these Committee Rules.
5. All amendments to legislation in the committee shall be delivered to the Chairperson no later than 24 hours prior to any called meeting of the Committee, unless the meeting is called on 24-hour notice, in which event amendments must be delivered to the Chairperson no later than 12 hours prior to the meeting.
6. These Committee Rules may be amended upon motion duly made and seconded and subsequently approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Committee provided that written notice has been given to the Chairperson (24) hours prior to the Committee Meeting.

**SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT &
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING**
Wednesday, February 15, 2012
2:00 p.m. - 307 CLOB

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Bethel, 54th, Chairman
Senator Cowsert, 46th, Vice Chair
Senator Tate, 38th, Secretary
Senator Chance, 16th
Senator Fort, 39th
Senator Henson, 41st

Senator Jackson, 24th
Senator Shafer, 48th
Senator Staton, 18th
Senator Tolleson, 20th
Senator Williams, 19th

Chairman Bethel, 54th, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

HB 829 (Rep. Lane, 167th) State house districts; boundaries of certain districts; revise

Chairman Bethel, 54th, called upon Rep. Lane, 167th, to speak to HB 829. He explained the districts as detailed in the bill. A short discussion followed.

Chairman Bethel, 54th, asked were there any others who wanted to speak to the bill. Having none, Senator Cowsert, 46th, made the motion to “**DO PASS.**” Senator Williams, 19th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-3:

Cowsert, 46 th , yes	Tate, 38 th , no
Chance, 16 th , yes	Fort, 39 th , no
Jackson, 24 th , yes	Henson, 41 st , no
Shafer, 48 th , yes	
Staton, 18 th , yes	
Tolleson, 20 th , yes	
Williams, 19 th , yes	

Chairman Bethel, 54th, will carry the bill in the Senate.

SB 382 (Shafer, 48th) Public Service Commission; change description of the election districts; manner of election and term of office

Chairman Bethel, 54th, called upon Senator Shafer, 48th, to speak to the substitute for **SB 382, LC 28 6051S**. He explained the Public Service Commission districts as detailed in the bill and added that the substitute corrected a scribe’s error regarding the term ending date for one of the Commission District seats in the original bill. A short discussion followed.

Chairman Bethel, 54th, asked were there any others who wanted to speak to the bill. Having none, Senator Cowsert, 46th, made the motion to “**DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 6051S).**” Senator Shafer, 48th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-3:

Cowsert, 46th, yes
Chance, 16th, yes
Jackson, 24th, yes
Shafer, 48th, yes
Tolleson, 20th, yes
Williams, 19th, yes

Tate, 38th, no
Fort, 39th, no
Henson, 41st, no

Having no further business, Chairman Bethel, 54th, adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

/s/ Senator Tate, 38th, Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

**SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT &
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING**
Friday, February 17, 2012
8:00 a.m. – 450 CAP

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Bethel, 54th, Chairman	Senator Rogers, 21st
Senator Cowsert, 46th, Vice Chair	Senator Shafer, 48th
Senator Tate, 38th, Secretary	Senator Tolleson, 20th
Senator Henson, 41st	Senator Williams, 19th
Senator Jackson, 24th	

Chairman Bethel, 54th, called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

SB 430 (Bethel, 54th) - State Senate Districts; revise certain boundaries

Chairman Bethel, 54th, explained the details of the bill. A short discussion followed.

Chairman Bethel, 54th, asked were there any others who wanted to speak to the bill. Having none, Senator Cowsert, 46th, made the motion to “**DO PASS.**” Senator Williams, 19th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-2:

Cowsert, 46 th , yes	Tate, 38 th , no
Jackson, 24 th , yes	Henson, 41 st , no
Rogers, 21 st , yes	
Shafer, 48 th , yes	
Tolleson, 20 th , yes	
Williams, 19 th , yes	

Having no further business, Chairman Bethel, 54th, adjourned the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

/s/ Senator Tate, 38th, Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

**SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT &
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING**
Thursday, February 23, 2012
4:00 p.m. – 310 CLOB

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Bethel, 54th, Chairman
Senator Cowsert, 46th, Vice Chair
Senator Tate, 38th, Secretary
Senator Fort, 39th
Senator Henson, 41st
Senator Hill, 32nd, Ex-Officio
Senator Jackson, 24th

Senator Rogers, 21st
Senator Shafer, 48th
Senator Tolleson, 20th
Senator Williams, 19th

Chairman Bethel, 54th, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. [SB 359](#), [SB 175](#), and [SR 263](#) were scheduled for a **hearing only**. Due to the late start of the committee meeting and given time constraints for the meeting, Senator Carter, 42nd, offered that his bills be tabled and that Senator Tate, 38th, be allowed to use the entire meeting time for the presentation of her bill.

[SB 175](#) (Carter, 42nd) **Citizens' Redistricting Commission; create; membership; duties: TABLED.**

[SR 263](#) (Carter, 42nd) **Citizens' Redistricting Commission; provide legislative/congressional reapportionment; independent, nonpartisan commission instead of General Assembly-CA: TABLED.**

[SB 359](#) (Tate, 38th) **Board of Commissioners of Fulton County; change the description of the commissioner districts; definitions; inclusions**

Senate Tate, 38th, presented a summary of SB 359. A short discussion followed.

Senator Fort, 39th, asked why SB 359 was originally assigned to the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations (SLGO) Committee and then re-assigned to the Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee. Chairman Bethel, 54th, explained that a unanimous vote by the Commissioners was necessary for the bill to be processed as local legislation through SLGO. Since the vote was not unanimous, it had to be reassigned appropriately.

Senator Hill, 32nd, questioned the possibility of changing the current allocation of two at-large commissioners along with five district seats to only one at-large and six district seats. Senate Tate, 38th, responded that a charter change would be necessary to make that change.

Since the next election will not be held until 2014, Senator Tate, 38th, requested that no changes be made at this time. Chairman Bethel, 54th, agreed and **no vote was taken**.

Chairman Bethel, 54th, asked were there any others who wanted to speak to the bill. Vangie Watkins, a Fulton County resident, spoke in support of the proposed redistricting plan approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners on December 21, 2011.

Having no further business, Chairman Bethel, 54th, adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

/s/ Senator Tate, 38th, Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

**SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT &
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING**
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
3:00 p.m. – 307 CLOB

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Bethel, 54th, Chairman
Senator Cowsert, 46th, Vice Chair
Senator Fort, 39th
Senator Jackson, 24th

Chairman Bethel, 54th, called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

SB 175 (Carter, 42nd) Citizens' Redistricting Commission; create; membership; duties

SR 263 (Carter, 42nd) Citizens' Redistricting Commission; provide legislative/congressional reapportionment; independent, nonpartisan commission instead of General Assembly-CA

Chairman Bethel, 54th, asked Senator Carter, 42nd, to speak to **SB 175** and **SR 263**. Since the bill and resolution are related, they were addressed together. Senator Carter, 42nd, described the purpose of forming a Citizens' Redistricting Commission and the anticipated benefits to the redistricting process by doing so.

A discussion followed about how an independent commission was envisioned to work, the best timing of creating such a commission, what other states have already created an independent commission and how it has been set up, and how Georgia compares to these states.

Mr. William Perry, Common Cause Georgia, was in support of SB 175.

Since this meeting was for a hearing only, **no votes were taken**.

HB 923 (Rep. Howard, 121st) Richmond County; City of Augusta; change description of commissioner districts

HB 924 (Rep. Howard, 121st) Richmond County; school board; change description of districts

Both **HB 923** and **HB 924** were on the original agenda for this meeting on March 20, 2012; however, upon written request by both Senator Davis, 22nd, and Senator Stone, 23rd, they were **tabled**.

Having no further business, Chairman Bethel, 54th, adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

/s/ Senator Bethel, 54th, Chairman

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

**SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT &
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 26, 2012
8:30 a.m. – 450 CAP**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Bethel, 54th, Chairman
Senator Cowser, 46th, Vice Chair
Senator Tate, 38th, Secretary
Senator Balfour, 9th
Senator Fort, 39th

Senator Henson, 41st
Senator Jackson, 24th
Senator Rogers, 21st
Senator Williams, 19th
Senator Hill, 32nd, Ex-Officio

Chairman Bethel, 54th, called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Senator Tate, 38th, had to leave this meeting before the votes were taken due to a conflicting meeting.

HB 923 (Rep. Howard, 121st) **Richmond County; City of Augusta; change description of commissioner districts**

HB 924 (Rep. Howard, 121st) **Richmond County; school board; change description of districts**

Chairman Bethel, 54th, explained that **HB 923** and **HB 924** shared the same map. He allotted Senator Stone, 23rd, and Rep. Howard, 121st, 10 minutes each to speak on the bills before the following additional speakers were recognized:

Commissioner Alvin Mason, Chairman, Redistricting, ARC – Oppose
Lynn Bailey, Executive Director, Richmond County Board of Elections - testimony only
Pete Fletcher, General Counsel, Richmond County Board of Education – testimony only
Jack Padgett, Jr., Board Members, Richmond County School System - Support
Barbara Sims, Representative, Georgia House of Representatives, 119th - Support
Quincy Murphy, Representative, Georgia House of Representatives, 120th - Oppose
Hardie Davis, Senator, Georgia Senate, 22nd - Oppose

Upon the conclusion of a lengthy discussion, action was taken on each bill separately.

HB 923:

Senator Cowsert, 46th, made the motion to “**DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 6158S).**” Senator Balfour, 9th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-2:

Cowsert, 46 th , yes	Fort, 39 th , no
Balfour, 9 th , yes	Henson, 41 st , no
Jackson, 24 th , yes	
Williams, 19 th , yes	
Hill, 32 nd , yes	

The bill will be sponsored in the Senate by Senator Stone, 23rd.

HB 924:

Senator Cowsert, 46th, made the motion to “**DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 6157S).**” Senator Balfour, 9th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-2:

Cowsert, 46 th , yes	Fort, 39 th , no
Balfour, 9 th , yes	Henson, 41 st , no
Jackson, 24 th , yes	
Williams, 19 th , yes	
Hill, 32 nd , yes	

The bill will be sponsored in the Senate by Senator Stone, 23rd.

Having no further business, Chairman Bethel, 54th, adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

/s/ Senator Bethel, 54th, Chairman

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
Room 353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

The following bills are being reported as having no action taken on them by the Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee during the 2012 Legislative Session:

[Senate Bill 175](#)

[Senate Bill 359](#)

[Senate Bill 509](#)

[Senate Resolution 263](#)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diana Hauser
Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee
Recording Secretary