



# Houston Gaines

House of Representatives District HD-117

Republican

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District Address P.O. Box 1203 Athens, GA 30603



View Online

This legislator voted constitutionally on **67%** of the votes shown below.

★ Pro-liberty    ✗ Anti-liberty    ? Did not Vote    **Vote**

**1. HB872 Student Loan Forgiveness (Passed 150 to 3 on 2/16/2024).** Expands the service cancelable loan program for medical professionals in "underserved" rural areas of Georgia to include dental students. **✗**

**2. HB986 Elections and Free Speech (Passed 148 to 22 on 2/24/2024).** Proposes that anyone found guilty of disseminating information considered deceptive by the government within a 90-day period leading up to an election will face felony charges. The penalties for this felony range from a minimum of 2 years to a maximum of 5 years in prison. This measure aims to curb the spread of "misinformation" that could influence the outcome of elections. **✗**

**3. HR780 Citizen Voting (Passed 98 to 61 on 2/29/2024).** Proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution to clarify that only U.S. citizens have the right to vote in state elections. **★**

**4. HB206 Georgia Green New Deal (Passed 142 to 22 on 3/28/2024).** Known as the "Georgia Green New Deal," this bill changes commercial property assessment rules to include conservation and energy improvements, allows authorities to issue bonds and grants, and sets up financing procedures without using other public funds. **★**

**5. SB420 Foreign Owned Land (Passed 97 to 67 on 3/21/2024).** Restricts the ability of certain foreign persons and entities to purchase, own, and convey real estate by nonresident aliens, particularly agricultural land and land near military bases. **★**

**6. HB1053 Central Bank Digital Currency (Passed 136 to 32 on 2/29/2024).** Prohibits governmental agencies from using a central bank digital currency (CBDC) as payment and from participating in any testing of such currency. **★**



**Rep. Houston Gaines**      **GA Scorecard 2024**  
**Lifetime Score: 46%**      **2023-2024 Regular Session Score 50%**

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.**

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Georgia Legislature in 2024 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.

This is our fourth state-level Scorecard; the selected votes may not be reflective of legislators' overall records. Their cumulative scores will change as we add more votes. Please check regularly for updates.



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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Student Loan Forgiveness

HB872 expands the service cancelable loan program for medical professionals in underserved rural areas of Georgia to include dental students, provided they agree to practice in designated underserved areas. Allocates grants for rural hospitals and other healthcare entities to support recruitment efforts.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed HB872 on February 16, 2024 by a vote of 150 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because government should not subsidize or issue taxpayer-funded loans, nor should it interfere with private enterprise. This bill expands the size of government, picks winners and losers, and creates a dependency on government assistance, undermining the free market. When the government meddles in areas it shouldn't, individuals and businesses lose control and freedom, especially when they end up owing money back to the government.

## 2. Elections and Free Speech

HB986 proposes that anyone found guilty of disseminating information considered deceptive by the government within a 90-day period leading up to an election will face felony charges. The penalties range from 2 years to 5 years in prison.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed HB986 on February 24, 2024 by a vote of 148 to 22. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." This legislation blatantly violates those principles.

## 3. Citizen Voting

HR780 proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution to clarify that only U.S. citizens have the right to vote in state elections.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed HR780 on February 29, 2024 by a vote of 98 to 61. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because strengthening our election laws is crucial to preserve our election process and election integrity. Article IV, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution provides that "citizens" of the United States "shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities," such as the "right of citizens of the United States" to vote as prescribed in the 26th Amendment.

## 4. Georgia Green New Deal

HB206, named the "Georgia Green New Deal," was first voted on in 2023 and revisited in 2024 after minor amendments. It revises rules for assessing commercial properties to include conservation, energy, and resiliency improvements. The bill defines key terms like "energy efficiency" and "renewable energy" and allows authorities to issue bonds and provide loans or grants for green improvements. It outlines financing procedures, enabling municipalities and counties to partner with authorities, ensuring that financing is sourced solely from assessments, not other public funds.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed HB206 on March 28, 2024 by a vote of 142 to 22. We assigned pluses to the nays because this bill increases government interference in the free market by favoring certain businesses. It also advances the United Nations' Agenda 2030, which threatens individual freedom and private property under the guise of addressing climate change. Additionally, HB206 is unconstitutional, exceeding government authority and infringing on property rights by imposing mandated improvements and financing mechanisms, contradicting principles of limited government, free markets, and individual rights.

## 5. Foreign-owned Land

SB420 restricts the ability of certain foreign persons and entities to purchase real estate by illegal aliens, particularly land near military bases.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed SB420 on March 21, 2024 by a vote of 97 to 67. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this is a great step toward preserving state sovereignty. Allowing foreigners from countries that reject American values, such as Communist China, to purchase land is a sure way to lose our sovereignty. This also compromises national security and impedes on citizens' rights.

## 6. Central Bank Digital Currency

HB1053 prohibits governmental agencies from using a central bank digital currency (CBDC) as payment and from participating in testing of it.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed HB1053 on February 29, 2024 by a vote of 136 to 32. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because Article I, Sections 8 and 10 of the U.S. Constitution state that only Congress has the power to coin money. States should take steps to return to the gold standard and embrace the use of real money. Digital currency can be easily tracked, allowing the government to monitor all financial transactions. This could lead to unconstitutional and extensive surveillance of individuals' financial activities, eroding personal privacy and potentially freezing assets, which is already happening in other countries.