

Historic Walton County Courthouse  
111 South Broad Street  
Monroe, Georgia 30655



(770) 267-1301  
FAX:(770) 267-1400  
[www.waltoncountyga.gov](http://www.waltoncountyga.gov)

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 6, 2020

Dear Secretary Raffensperger:

The Walton County Board of Commissioners and the Mayors of the Cities of Walton County are writing to express our concerns regarding your current plans to hold the 2020 General Primary and Presidential Preference Primary on May 19th. We encourage you to use all available flexibility and legal authority to delay the primary to the latest possible date in order to ensure the health and safety of Walton County's citizens.

As you know, Governor Kemp has declared a State of Emergency for the entire state of Georgia in response to the ongoing dangers of COVID-19. Additionally, President Trump granted Georgia's request for a Major Disaster Declaration on March 29th and on the same day encouraged all Americans to follow The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America until at least April 30th.

If the election were to be held on May 19th, the legally mandated early voting period would be required to begin on April 27th in direct contradiction to the CDC's recommendations that all Americans avoid large gatherings. As you yourself have said, the average poll worker in Georgia is over the age of 70, a group that medical experts have indicated is especially vulnerable to this virus. Moving forward with an election date that requires early voting to begin during a time when every public health agency has stated that "if you are an older person, stay home and away from other people" is irresponsible. Keeping the status quo unnecessarily exposes Georgia's poll workers to dangerous health risks and creates the possibility of severely understaffed voting locations if those poll workers follow the guidance of federal, state, and local authorities.

We are also concerned about the potential cost to our county and cities. If the state moves ahead with the schedule as you have laid it out, costs incurred would not be able to be recovered and any delays will cause the county to spend unnecessary funds at the time of an already trying budget process.

If an infected person does decide to exercise their right to vote, any of our facilities could be compromised and cause exposure to many. Walton County's Government Building is used for early voting and is currently closed to foot traffic.

Taking all of these points into consideration, we ask that you delay the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary and General Primary to the latest date possible in order to ensure the safety of Walton County voters and the poll workers that make elections possible.

We the undersigned feel very strongly that you consider our request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Little

Kevin Little  
Chairman, Walton County

John Howard

John Howard  
Mayor, City of Monroe

Rey Martinez

Rey Martinez  
Mayor, City of Loganville

David Keener

David Keener  
Mayor, City of Social Circle

Jimmy Guthrie

Jimmy Guthrie,  
Mayor, City of Good Hope

Mark Moore

Mark Moore  
Mayor, City of Walnut Grove

Randy Carrithers

Randy Carrithers  
Mayor, City of Jersey

Jeanne Sullivan

Jeanne Sullivan  
Mayor, City of Between