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Georgia Tea Parties and Conservative Leaders Adopt VoterGA Election Integrity, Equal Ballot Access Issues

MARIETTA, GA – Over **100 leaders** of local Tea Parties, 9/12 Project chapters and other conservative oriented groups representing **thousands** of citizens throughout Georgia, joined forces here on Saturday for an **unprecedented** statewide strategy and training session. They focused on non-partisan state and local issues such as inequities in the proposed TSPLOST and protecting private property rights that are endangered by recent state legislation.

Two **non-partisan** issues that also garnered the attention and support of the attendees are **election** initiatives that have been continuously advocated by **VoterGA**. Those are:

- Implement verifiable, auditable voting to restore integrity in Georgia elections that have been ranked as America's worst in reliability and recount preparedness
- Remove Georgia's petitioning requirements, rated as the most restrictive, so that any Georgian can run for any office simply by paying the standard filing fee

One of Saturday's event organizers, Jack Staver of the Northwest Georgia 9/12 project, explained: "There is a groundswell of emotions from leaders and patriots all across our state for fair, verifiable elections, especially in today's political climate. The right candidate may unjustly lose and we can't afford that."

Attendees also showed an intense interest in **H.B. 494**, a bi-partisan bill that would remove Georgia petitioning requirements just as Florida legislation did in 1999. It promises to **save** the state and counties the time and costs of processing petition signatures. H.B. 494 is awaiting a hearing in the House Government Affairs Committee.

The newly gained support from statewide Tea Party leaders and other conservative organizations is expected to increase pressure for real solutions on Republicans in the next session. The initiatives have long been supported by progressives, third parties, independents and constitutionalist groups like the Madison Forum, but the leadership of the Democrat and Republican parties have consistently **opposed** them. Election integrity activists believe that is because those leaders are intent on serving their own interests and the interests of their parties, rather than doing the will of the people.

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