

SOS Election Scheduling Led to Apr. 18 Reporting Problems

ATLANTA GA – VoterGA has **confirmed** that improper elections scheduling by the Secretary of State’s (SOS) office led to the reporting problems incurred by Fulton County on April 18th Election Night. Emails obtained via **Open Records Request** to the Governor’s office and the City of Johns Creek provided confirming documents. They show that the Secretary of State’s (SOS) office proposed to combine the 6th District Congressional Special Election on April 18 with a Roswell City Council runoff but **failed to consider the unworkable implications of having inadequate lead time needed to combine the candidates on one ballot.**

Fulton Co. was forced to hold separate 6th District, Roswell and Johns Creek elections on the April 18th, each with their own sign in processes, ballots, memory cards, voting machines, and close-out procedures. **That burden and complexity is believed to be unprecedented in Georgia election history.** A reporting error occurred when a memory card from the Roswell Runoff was accidentally loaded into live election results of the separate 6th District election. The [deficient](#) upload and database server functions **lacked adequate security checks to detect the error and failed to generate actionable error messages.** Technicians spent two hours to identify and purportedly correct the error after an exporting malfunction.

Gov. Deal declared the April 18th election in his Feb 10th [writ](#) based on **bad advice from the SOS office.** [Emails](#) show that on Feb. 9th SOS counsels provided a complete forecast of events for the 6th District April 18th election and stated, “*That is the earliest it could feasibly be held given that it is a federal election and brings in overseas/military voters*” But they failed to consider the impact of a [45 day lead time requirement](#) in combining elections for military overseas voting. The Roswell Runoff was set for April 18th and **it was impossible to produce a combined ballot for March 4th overseas distribution.** Roswell candidates would not be known until a March 21st city election was held weeks after the March 4th federal deadline.

The Emails confirmed recent [VoterGA study](#) findings and conflict with Secretary Kemp’s [statement](#) that, “*...Fulton officials are ultimately responsible for the error*” [Emails](#) also show **Fulton Co. Elections Dept. warned Johns Creek** there was not enough time to hold their election on April 18th. A key Fulton Elections staff member explained that the deadline for ballot transmission to military overseas voters was March 4th and Johns Creek could not complete candidate qualifying until March 8th. **Fulton Co. recommended a June election but Johns Creek proceeded with an [unsuitable](#) April election resolution anyway.**