



Media Contact  
Sheryl Sellaway  
404.273.5133

[sheryl@righteouspragency.com](mailto:sheryl@righteouspragency.com)

## Fulton Judge Ignores Law in Allowing Raffensperger to Reject Challenge to His Own Candidacy

ATLANTA, GA. MAY 8, 2026 – A Fulton County Superior Court judge issued an order Monday upholding Secretary of State (SOS) Brad Raffensperger’s **refusal to transfer a gubernatorial candidacy challenge against him to an administrative court as required by Georgia law**. Any elector may send a candidacy challenge to the SOS who is mandated to send all challenges to the administrative court system for a hearing as per O.C.G.A. §21-2-5(b).

Northwest Georgia residents, Brandyn James and Harvey Wysong, filed a Petition for Writ of Mandamus seeking the court to **force the SOS to comply with the law** by transferring their challenge, which is based on an approved Georgia Republican Party resolution stating:

*“It is resolved that the Georgia Republican Party shall not qualify, allow to be qualified, or take any action to allow Brad Raffensperger to qualify as a Republican or run for any elected office unless and until a GAGOP Convention removes this restriction;”* [\[pg 10\]](#)

But SOS General Counsel, Charlene McGowan, rejected their challenge stating:

*“...we have determined that the information provided does not meet the criteria required to constitute a valid candidate challenge.”* [\[pg 25\]](#)

There is **no provision under Georgia law for the SOS, to make any such determination as to the validity of a candidate challenge**, especially one that challenges his own candidacy.

Judge Belinda Edwards’ order, confirmed a May 1 hearing decision by finding:

*“Petitioners lack a clear legal right to an administrative hearing”.* [\[pg 2\]](#)

Georgia law provides no clear authority for a Superior Court to make such a determination before a challenge is heard since **that is the jurisdiction of an administrative law judge**.

The Petitioners entered an appeal for the Mandamus directly to the Georgia Supreme Court on Tuesday **after being denied the normal challenge process**. Attorney Jake Medhoff said:

*“We respectfully disagree with the trial court’s decision and are confident that the Supreme Court of Georgia will vindicate both our clients and the plain language of the statute.”*

The case has incurred a **near total black out by local news media despite a massive conflict of interest** in allowing the SOS to determine whether or not he is properly qualified to run for Governor. Meanwhile, Raffensperger continues to collect Republican primary votes even though the Republican Party passed a resolution prohibiting him to run as a Republican.