
Georgia Newspaper Project: Transitioning from Microfilm to Digital Capture

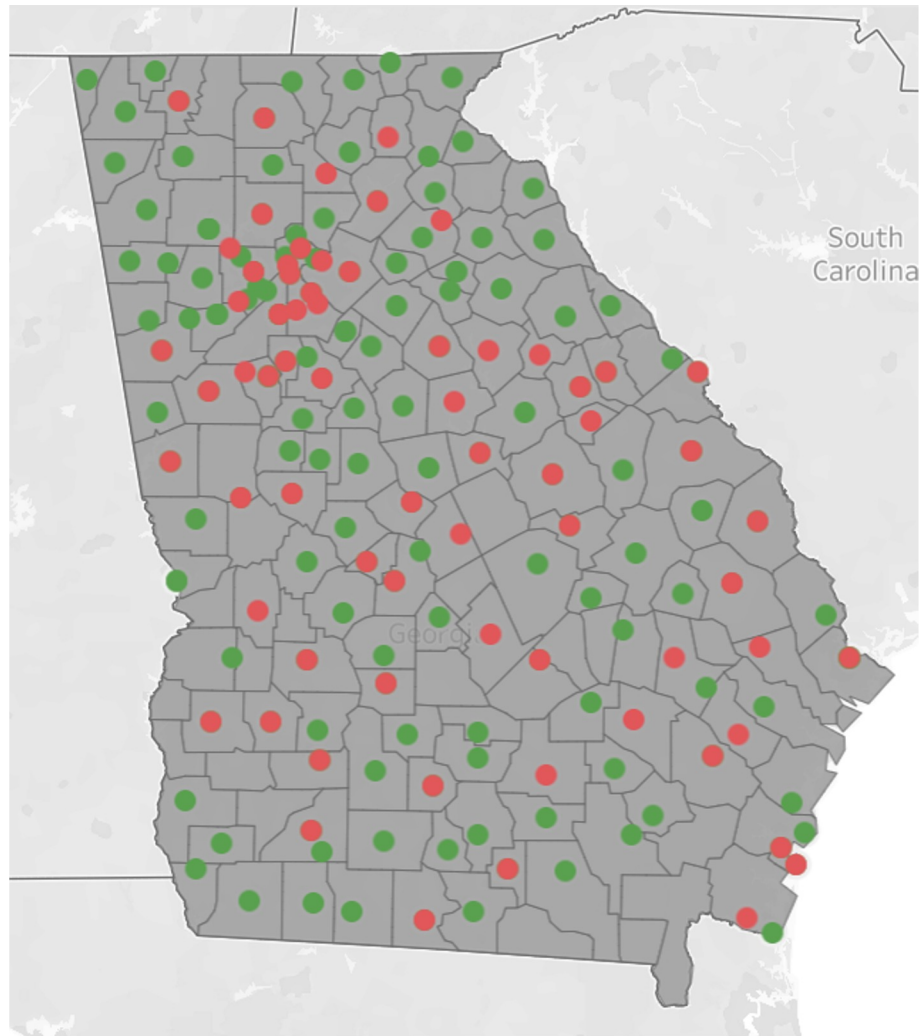
Sheila McAlister
Director, DLG and GNP



Preserving Georgia's newspapers

- At least one newspaper from each of Georgia's 159 counties has been filmed
- 2500 historic titles
- 25,000 reels to date





Current newspapers filmed by GNP or Available via an online aggregator

Newspaper Receipt and Preparation

- Check-in
- Claiming
- Organizing
- Cutting
- Flattening

Filming

- Filming
- Quality Control
- Duplication

Distribution

- Full-quality to State Archives
- Positive to standing orders



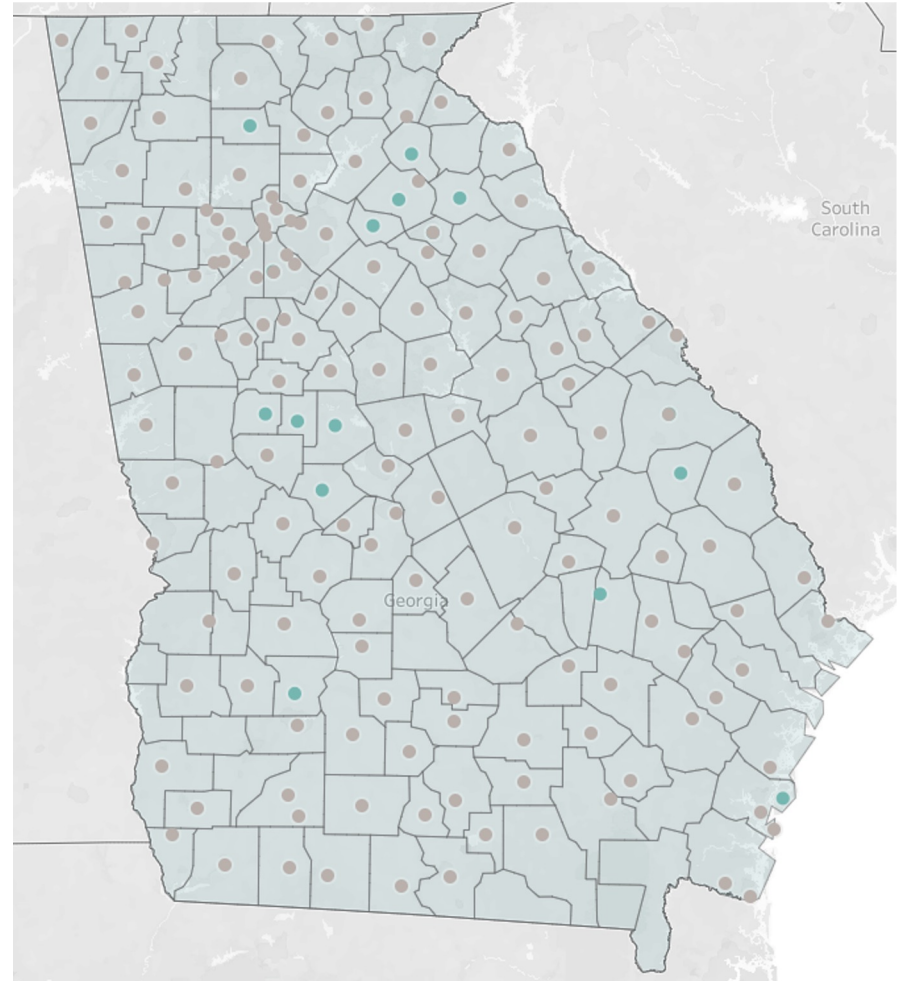
Future of Microfilm

- Approaching obsolescence
 - Supplies increasingly expensive
 - Upkeep of equipment difficult

Will stop filming as of July 1, 2024

Pilot Participants

[Advance \(Vidalia, Ga.\), 2021-](#)
[The Banks County news. 2008-](#)
[Barrow news-journal, 2016-](#)
[Braselton News, 2007-](#)
[The Commerce news, 2007-](#)
[The Herald-gazette. \(Barnesville, Ga.\),
2021-](#)
[Jackson herald. \(Jefferson, Jackson
County, Ga.\), 2009-](#)
[The Lee County ledger, 2001-](#)
[Madison County journal \(Hull, Ga.\),
2009-](#)
[The Millen news, 2014-](#)
[Pike County journal and reporter.
\(Zebulon, Ga.\), 2021-](#)
[The true citizen. \(Waynesboro, Ga.\),
2009-](#)



Candidates square off in forums as July primary nears

By Matthew J. Permar

With Glynn County's July 15 General Primary less than a month away, local candidates spent time last week facing each other and answering questions in public forums sponsored by various groups and organizations.

The first was a Tuesday night forum on St. Simons Island sponsored by Residents United for Planning and Action (RUPA).

On Wednesday night the Brunswick Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce sponsored a forum at the Historic County Courthouse in conjunction with the Glynn County Homebuilders Association and the Glynn County Board of Realtors.

The Wednesday night event featured candidates for the Board of Education, County Commission and both state legislative races. Senate Dist. 3 and House Dist. 167.

The final forum, County Commission candidates only, was Thursday night at Brunswick Old City Hall. It was sponsored jointly by the local Republican party and Citizens Against Wasteful Spending.

Having attended the Wednesday and Thursday night forums, which spanned a total of four and a half hours with 10 candidates, it is not practical to report all the opening statements and questions and answers in their entirety in one article.

I will break the forums down into the individual political offices and cover the candidates' responses on major issues only. Opening statements are not included.

This week's article will cover the school board and county commission candidates. The candidates for state legislature will be covered in Part 2 next week.

Also due to space issues, the questions and responses have been paraphrased.

Board of Education Candidates include:
Dist. 1 - Ray Snow (Incumbent) and Robert Strickland.
Dist. 3 - Rebecca Edwards, John Mandala and Garrett

Turn to Page 6
GICA CEO

Death of a mullet



Above: Holding his former "mullet," Murphy's Tavern owner Randy Powells acknowledges that he "lost the bet" with his regular who raised \$2,101 that will be donated to Hospice of the Golden Isles. Brennan Arbo (left), Randy's regular haircutter, removed the mullet last week in order to donate the hair to Locks of Love, a charity that provides hair pieces for children who have lost their hair due to illness or medical treatment. Caroline Talley, Hospice Community

Relations Director (center) and Margie Dorsey, Hospice Board of Directors chairman, were on hand to accept the Hospice donation, which will total \$4,202 when matched by former Murphy's owners Dave and Paula Egan.

Center: Randy's daughter Samantha and head bartender Brad Pearce take their whack at Randy's hair.

Bottom: Bald Randy is thanked by Margie Dorsey for his generous donation.

Islander staff photos

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Community History in Peril

Georgia Newspaper Project turns to digital preservation for solution

Since 1953, the Georgia Newspaper Project has preserved the state's newspapers through microfilming. But with an 11-year backlog and out-dated technology no longer in production, the future of the project is in flux.

"Microfilming is a time-intensive process that is approaching obsolescence," said Sheila McAlister, who heads the

project at the University of Georgia Libraries. "It is increasingly difficult to obtain supplies, and they are increasingly expensive. Upkeep of equipment is difficult as parts and repair services are scarce. We need to pivot away from filming if we want to sustain the project."

In 2021, the project piloted a born-digital deposit program, allowing newspapers to send

current issues electronically. After an embargo period determined by the publishers, the issues are published on the Georgia Historic Newspapers website, allowing free access to community members across Georgia.

As of June 30, 2024, the Georgia Newspaper Project will conclude microfilming, and McAlister and other leaders are hoping that the 126 titles currently engaged in the project will continue to be preserved through the digital program.

3 MILLION PAGES

Georgia Historic Newspapers site reaches digitization milestone



With publications dating back to the mid 1700s, the Georgia Historic Newspapers website contains more than 1,000 titles that have chronicled small towns, big cities, and close communities throughout the state. Access is free and provided by GALILEO and the Digital Library of Georgia.

Search the site at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu

“ The Georgia Newspaper Project is an innovative way to bridge the access gap: publishers retain their rights and revenue streams, libraries are able to provide free information resources, and Georgians stay informed through frictionless access to their hometown newspaper. ”

— Angela C. Spitzer Stanley

Assistant State Librarian for Innovation & Collaboration
Georgia Public Library Service

Publishers, we need your help!

To help with the Georgia Newspaper Project's transition to digital newspaper file collection:

- Sign a memorandum of agreement allowing the GNP and DLG to preserve and distribute your newspaper online, setting the embargo period for free access
- Designate a staff contact
- Transfer your newspaper files via FTP
- Work with GNP to address any problems

We'll take care of the rest!

As part of the partnership, the Georgia Newspaper Project and Digital Library of Georgia agrees to:

- Provide support for publishers, including technical assistance and file transfer needs
- Proof the PDF files to ensure that all pages are present and images are intact.
- Preserve the submitted files in a secure digital environment
- After an agreed-upon embargo period, make the issues publicly available online through the Digital Library of Georgia

CONTACT:

Email: gnp@uga.edu
libs.uga.edu/gnp

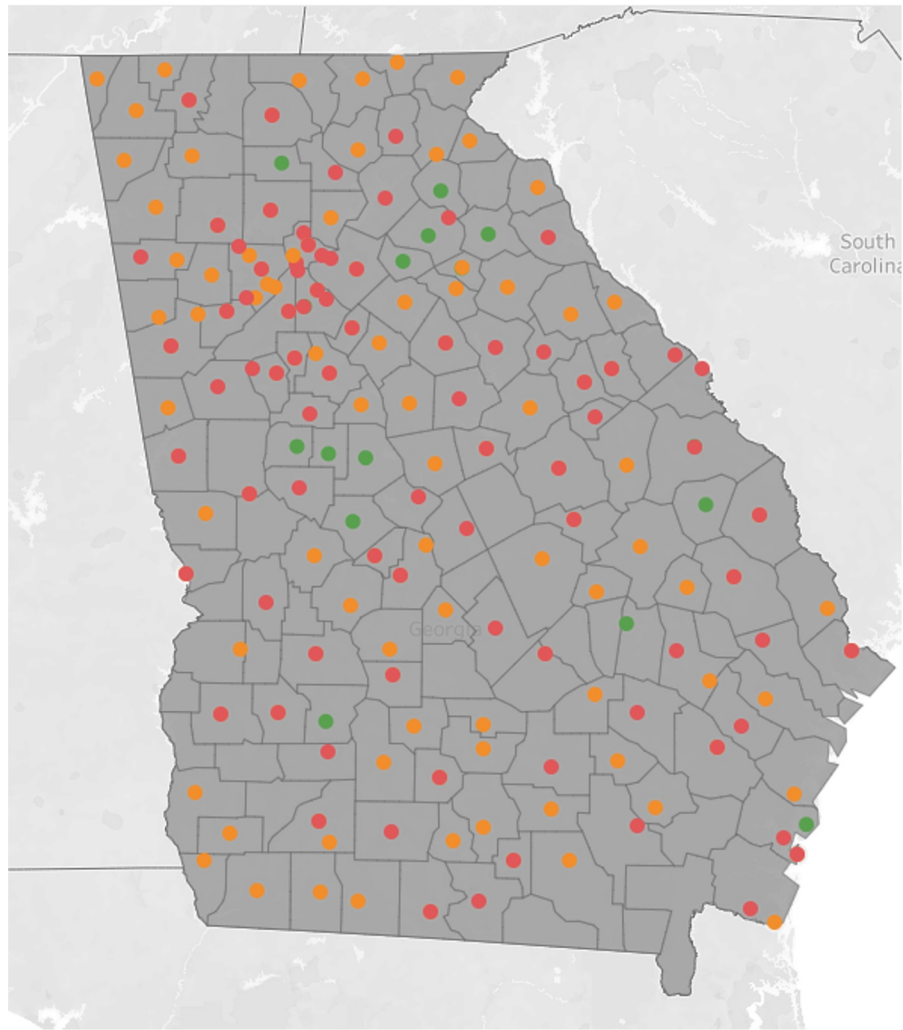


**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**
University Libraries



Digital Library of Georgia

Sharing Georgia's History & Culture Online



Georgia Newspaper
Project

FAQ

Microfilm Holdings

Mission Statement

Other State Newspaper Projects

Independent Researchers for
Hire

Georgia Newspaper Project / Georgia Newspaper Project

Georgia Newspaper Project

The University of Georgia Libraries has been microfilming Georgia newspapers since the early 1950s. The Georgia Newspaper Project is part of the [U.S. Newspaper Program](#), run by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) with assistance from the [Library of Congress](#), which coordinates the efforts of all state newspaper projects. The goal of the U.S. Newspaper Program is to locate, catalog, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present.

To date the Georgia Newspaper Project has microfilmed at least one newspaper title from every county in Georgia in which newspapers were ever published. More than 2500 titles altogether have been filmed, including over 200 current newspapers that continue to be filmed on an ongoing basis. Microfilming is done in accordance with all ANSI/AIIM standards to produce film with a life-expectancy rating of 500 years. All master negatives are stored in a vault at the State Department of Archives and History in Atlanta. The UGA Libraries retain a copy negative for reproduction purposes (located within the Georgia Newspaper Project) and a use copy for the public, which is located in the basement of the Main Library.

Born-Digital Preservation Services

After a long career of microfilming Georgia newspapers for preservation and access, the GNP is transitioning to preserving print-ready PDF newspaper files (sometimes referred to as digital editions or e-prints) and **phasing out its microfilming operations by June 2024**. In 2021, the GNP and several Georgia publishers tested out the new PDF-deposit/harvest process. After the success of the pilot project, the GNP is seeking more publishers for born-digital preservation services. After an agreed upon embargo period, current newspapers are added to the online newspaper archive. The [online archive](#) is free and open for public use and includes over 2.8 million Georgia newspaper pages between 1763 and 2022.

Newspaper publishers may access the [Publisher's Information Packet](#) to learn more about born-digital preservation services offered by the GNP. The packet contains a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement and details of file delivery and participant responsibilities. Contact GNP supervisor Rashaun Ellis at rashaun@uga.edu directly to sign up for the service or get further information.

<https://www.libs.uga.edu/gnp>