

Gray v. Sanders
372 U.S. 368 (January 1963)

**APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN REGION
OF GEORGIA**

Appellant: James H. Gray et al.

Appellee: James O'Hear Sanders

Location: Georgia State Capitol

Facts of the case: In 1962, James O'Hear Sanders, a voter in Georgia's Fulton County, brought suit against representatives of the Georgia State Democratic Executive Committee and the Secretary of State of Georgia.

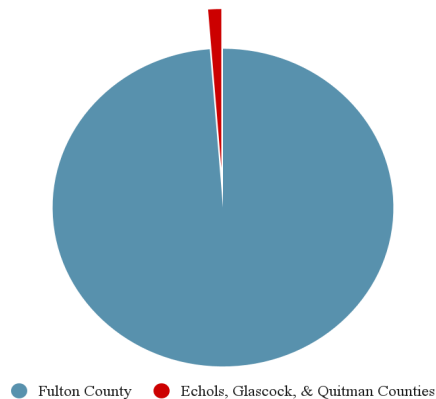
Sanders claimed that the *county unit system* violated the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] as well as the [REDACTED]. Sanders claimed his vote had less of an influence on the nomination of candidates than that of a rural voter.

COUNTY UNIT SYSTEM IN GEORGIA

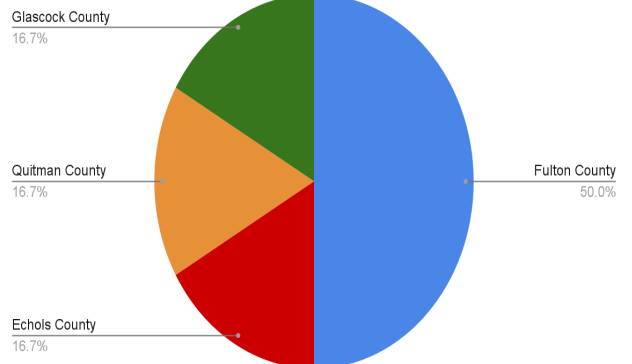
Each of the 159 counties in the state was classified as urban, town, or rural according to their population. The 8 most populous counties (urban) received six unit votes each, the next 30 most populous (town) received four, and the remaining 121 (rural) received two. The disproportionate distribution of unit votes to population size encouraged heavy campaigning in the rural counties.

Census Data 1960

By Population



County Unit Votes



Fulton County: Population 556,326
Echols, Glascock & Quitman Counties Population: 6,980