



## **2022 Primary Election Report**

Tuesday's Primary Elections saw a record breaking amount of voter turnout for a midterm Primary Election in Georgia. While there are still ballots to be counted, the Secretary of State's office confirmed that this election will surpass the previous 2018 record of 1,162,000 voters. During this primary election, more than 850,000 Georgians submitted their ballot during the early voting period either in person or by absentee. Compared to early-voting turnout in recent primaries, this represented a 168% increase over 2018, the last Gubernatorial primary, and a 212% jump over 2020, the last Presidential primary year.

### **Federal Races**

#### **U.S. Senate**

Early into the night, Herschel Walker was declared the winner of the Republican Primary for U.S. Senate. Walker bested a six man field with nearly 70% of the vote. The second place finisher, Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black garnered just 13.36% of the vote. In November, Walker will go on to face U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock, who won his primary with 96% of the vote.

## **U.S. Congress**

Tuesday night boded well for Georgia's Congressional Delegation. All but one district re-elected their U.S. Representative in their respective primary, all of which garnered at least over 60% of the vote. The one exception was in Georgia's new 7th Congressional District where Rep. Lucy McBath and Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux was drawn into the same district following redistricting. While both McBath and Bourdeaux appeared as incumbents for this race on the ballot, the district consisted mostly of Bourdeaux's prior district. Despite these specifics, McBath soundly defeated Bourdeaux with over 60% of the vote.

There will also be two hotly contested and watched Republican Primary runoffs for U.S. House seats. The first being GA-06 with a runoff between Rich McCormick and Jake Evans, the winner favored to become the next Representative for the district. The second being between Mike Collins and former Democratic State Rep. Vernon Jones in GA-10. Jones, despite being formally elected as a Democrat, earned the endorsement of former President Donald Trump and finished strongly in second place with 21.57% of the vote.

## **State Constitutional Offices**

### **Governor's Race**

Governor Kemp took an early lead into election night and defeated former U.S. Senator David Perdue in the Republican Primary with over 70% of the vote. Governor Kemp will go into a 2018 rematch with former State Rep. Stacey Abrams who won the Democratic nomination unopposed.

### **Lt. Governor's Race**

Senator Burt Jones is leading the GOP field with over 50% of the vote. Senate President Pro-Tempore Butch Miller is in second place with 31.02% of the vote. This election is still too close to call. If Jones' percentage falters beneath 50%, Jones and Miller will head to a runoff.

On the Democratic side of the Lieutenant Governor's race, former Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall is unexpectedly leading the pack with nearly 30% of the vote. Former 2018 Democratic Attorney General candidate, Charlie Bailey, is in second place with 17.40% of the vote. This election is still too close to call. While Hall is expected to retain first place, the second place vote-getter could change with all counties reporting in.

### **Secretary of State**

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger defeated former U.S. Congressman Jody Hice by double digits in the Republican Primary. Hice was supported by former President Trump in the Primary, and this race received national attention.

On the Democratic side, Rep. Bee Nguyen led a five candidate field with over 44% of the vote. She is slated to compete in a runoff with former State Rep. Dee Dawkins-Haigler.

### **Attorney General**

Attorney General Chris Carr soundly defeated Trump-endorsed candidate, John Gordon with nearly 75% of the vote. He will be facing Senator Jen Jordan in November. Jordan defeated Christian Wise Smith with nearly 75% of the vote.

### **Commissioner of Agriculture**

Senator Tyler Harper won the Republican Primary unopposed, and Nakita Hemingway defeated two other candidates with over 55% of the vote. They will face each other in November.

### **Commissioner of Insurance**

Insurance Commissioner John King defeated two challengers earning over 70% of the vote. On the Democratic side, Janice Law Robinson leads the field with over 48% of the vote with Raphael Baker in second with 33.11% of the vote. Rep. Matthew Wilson missing the runoff in third place is seen as a surprise as he led in fundraising and spending.

### **State School Superintendent**

State School Superintendent Richard Woods defeated former State School Superintendent John Barge with over 70% of the vote. Woods will be facing former Rep. Alisha Thomas Searcy, who bested a four person field in the Democratic Primary, in November.

### **Commissioner of Labor**

Senator Bruce Thompson won the Republican primary with over 60% of the vote. On the Democratic side, Rep. William Boddie and Nicole Horn will advance to a runoff.

### **Legislature**

During this primary cycle, no incumbent legislator lost to a challenger. However, legislators that were drawn into the same district did result in two legislators not returning to the Gold Dome in 2023. Among them were House Majority Caucus Chairwoman Bonnie Rich, Rep. Rebecca Mitchell, and Rep. Robert Pruitt.

Rep. Bonnie Rich was defeated by Rep. David Clark. Rep. Rich is the Chairwoman of Redistricting in the House and a strong ally to the Speaker. Rep. Clark is known for being adversarial to not only Speaker Ralston but other House leadership, and caused controversy for missing the majority of the 2022 Legislative Session and for not complying with House COVID-19 protocols.

Rep. Rebecca Mitchell, a freshman Democrat, was defeated by Rep. Shelly Hutchinson. Both Rep. Mitchell and Rep. Hutchinson flipped Republican districts in Gwinnett County before facing each other in this primary.

Rep. Robert Pruitt was defeated by Rep. Danny Mathis. The new district contained large amounts of both of their previous districts, but slightly favored Rep. Mathis.

Some of Tuesday's elections decided their next legislators in the primary election. Some races lacked a qualified candidate from both parties meaning that a winner of one primary will go on to be unchallenged in November. This included a few candidates who were being closely watched. Among them were former State Rep. Colton Moore who is succeeding former Senate Rules Chairman Jeff Mullis in the Senate. Moore was known for being adversarial to Speaker Ralston in the House, and lost a primary election to Mullis in 2020. This also included Nabilah Islam who unexpectedly bested Rep. Beth Moore to become the Democratic nominee in a heavily Democratic Gwinnett County based district. Islam is a community activist, former Congressional candidate, and garnered attention when she referred to herself as "the Georgia AOC."

One caveat of election day included just one incumbent legislator being forced into a runoff. Rep. Roger Bruce failed to garner over 50% of the vote and is now headed to a runoff with Rashaun Kemp in the Democratic Primary.

## **Governor Kemp - Signed and Vetoed Legislation**

- Vetoed
  - SB 473: redistricting the Sumter County Board of Education
    - Gov. Kemp vetoed this bill at the request of the sponsor of the bill.
  - SB 616: compensation change for the solicitor-general of the State Court of Chattooga County
    - Gov. Kemp vetoed at the request of the sponsor of the bill
  - HB 1538: Annexing certain parcels of land from unincorporated Cobb County into the City of Smyrna
    - Gov. Kemp vetoed this bill after finding that it would cause significant detriment to the property value of the land and would violate the landowners due process rights.

- Signed
  - AIA
    - HB 469: “Historic Tax Credit”
    - HB 476: “The Georgia Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Board”
    - HB 586: “Georgia Economic Recovery Act”
  - Agriculture
    - HB 1150: “Freedom to Farm Act”
    - HB 1175: “Raw Dairy Act”
  - Education
    - HB 1178: “Parents’ Bill of Rights”
    - SB 226: Harmful Materials in Schools
    - HB 1084: Divisive Concepts in Schools
    - SB 514: “Unmask Georgia Students Act”
  - COVID
    - SB 345: Prohibiting the Mandating of Vaccines
  - Healthcare
    - SB 338: Postpartum Health Care Coverage
    - SB 164: HIV Modernization in Georgia
    - SB 403: “Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-responder Act”
    - HB 1013: “Mental Health Parity Act”
  - Local Government
    - HB 934: TSPLOST Bill
  - Social Issues
    - SB 319: “Constitutional Carry Act”

To read the Governor’s official veto statements, click [here](#)

To read more about all of the Governor’s signed legislation, click [here](#)