

Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America

PROGRESSIVE VOTER GUIDE



May 2022 Primary Edition

Thank you for using our comprehensive voter guide for Georgia's May 2022 Primary elections! This guide focuses on Democratic Primaries in the Metro-Atlanta area, and includes select general and nonpartisan elections. Throughout this guide are compiled responses from our 2022 Candidate Survey, which was sent to candidates running in key elections in the Metro area. To view the full, raw responses to the survey, including custom responses from candidates, visit atlds.org/votedata.

We recommend voting early and making a plan to vote. You can use mvp.sos.ga.gov to find your polling place, see what elections you're voting in, preview your ballot, and confirm that your voting address and information are up-to-date. Last year, local elections saw long lines through the early voting period, and we expect that to still be the case this year.

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Introduction

America's electoral system is deeply flawed and undemocratic, especially so in Georgia. Thanks to racist voter suppression, voter turnout is lower than almost any developed democracy in the world and thousands of working people remain disenfranchised. On top of this, the political establishment neglects the basic needs of the public to cater to the privileges of the wealthy elite.

Georgia has been run by the Republican Party for the last 20 years, which has used its authority to limit the local decision-making of liberal and majority Black municipalities such as Atlanta. However, the corruption in Georgia politics is not limited to Republicans, as even local Democrats such as former Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and current Mayor Andre Dickens have collaborated closely with the Republican state leadership on issues such as the recent “Cop City” development project and general increases to the scale of policing.

In the long run, the only way to challenge these political institutions is to build a mass working class movement to upend the political system from below. DSA’s perspective, as approved by working-class delegates at the 2021 National DSA Convention, is that we need a new socialist political party to organize the working class, defeat the ruling capitalist class, and establish a new democratic society defined by popular control of our society and economy.

Unfortunately, there is still much work to be done to build such a party. In the meantime, elections are an important and consequential location of class struggle, and they provide a means to advocate for progressive values and the interests of the working-class. To this end, we present the following voter guide for the 2022 primaries, which assesses candidates according to their stance on pressing political issues.

Key Voter Education / Info

To find **all the info you need to vote** (ballot info, your voting districts, polling location, early voting locations, vote by mail applications, etc), you can go to **Georgia's My Voter Page** and login with your name, birthday, and county of residence. The link is below:

<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>

Primary Election Dates

May 2 - Early voting begins

May 7, 14 - Required Saturday voting

May 13 - Last day to apply for Vote-by-mail ballot

May 24 - Election Day

Primary Runoff Dates

If no candidate in an election receives a majority (more than 50% of votes), then the top two candidates in the race will go to a runoff on June 21st.

May 23 - Deadline to register to vote for the Federal runoff only (the deadline for statewide races was April 25th for both the primary and the runoff)

June 10 - Last day to apply for Vote-by-mail ballot

June 13* - Latest date for early voting to begin

June 21 - Election day!

***Note:** The date listed above is the final deadline for counties to begin early voting for a runoff. Due to the new election laws, it's difficult to know when early voting will begin for the runoffs. Please refer to your county's election office (linked below) to get accurate info for runoff early voting. [GA County Election Office Finder](#)

Maps of Districts

Below are links to maps for each chamber we listed in this guide, so you know which districts you reside in. You can also find what district you reside in in the MVP page linked above.

[US Congressional Map](#)

[GA State Senate Map](#)

[GA State House Map](#)

[DeKalb County Board of Education Map](#)

[Fulton County Commission Map](#)

[Gwinnett County Commission Map](#)

Methodology

This voter guide is built from a survey constructed by Atlanta DSA's Electoral Committee, sent to candidates running in the metro-Atlanta area at all stages of government. The Republican Party is deeply hostile towards the working class, so we have prioritized contacting candidates running in Democratic Primaries and nonpartisan elections. In total, 55 candidates responded to our survey. The full set of responses can be viewed at atldsa.org/votedata. We provide a comprehensive look at notable competitive races where candidates responded to the survey.

The survey asked 10 questions focused on issues ranging from the minimum wage to climate change to universal broadband. Candidates were given the option of answering "yes," "no," providing a custom response, or simply not answering. Below is our key for how we compiled these responses into a single grade ranging from A to F, as well as an "I" score for candidates who did not respond.

Key	Meaning
Y	Yes
N	No
N*	Unsatisfactory "Other" response
1/2	Partial credit "Other" response
-	No response

Key	Meaning
A	100%
B	90 - 99%
C	80 - 89%
D	70 - 79%
F	69% or below
I	Incomplete, No Response

Issue Guide

Our survey included the following ten survey questions:



Do you support raising the minimum wage to \$15/hr for all workers, indexed to inflation?

Millions of Georgians risk their lives for poverty wages at work. The skyrocketing cost of living has crushed working families while the billionaire class gets richer than ever. Every worker deserves at least \$15 per hour! Visit atldsa.org/15 to get involved in the fight for \$15.



Do you support creating a single payer health care system that is free at the point of service and inclusive of a person's unconditional right to an abortion?

Healthcare is a human right. All Georgians deserve free, unconditional access to medicine, abortion, and gender-affirming care. Learn more at medicareforall.dsausa.org



Do you support the provisions of the PRO Act, including repealing right-to-work laws?

The [PRO Act](#) would ban anti-union scare tactics and make it far easier to start unions by repealing Jim Crow "right-to-work" laws nationwide. Learn how to organize for better pay and safer work conditions at workerorganizing.org



Do you support ending the statewide ban on rent control?

Gentrification is pushing thousands of Atlantans out of their homes and onto the streets. We need to rent control policies that limit landlords' ability to increase rent. Cities are currently banned by the state from passing local rent control rules.



Do you support abolishing ICE?

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has committed horrific acts of torture and abuse against undocumented immigrants, including forced sterilizations at the Irwin County Detention Center here in Georgia. ICE is a tool used by capitalists to oppress and exploit immigrants for profit. The only way for the entire working class to be free is through abolishing ICE.



Do you support the right to vote for people currently in prison?

Voting is our most basic democratic right, but the prison industry strips this right from millions of Americans. Georgia criminalizes drug addiction, mental illness, and homelessness, then prevents oppressed people from voting out the corrupt politicians. Every Georgian should have an unconditional right to vote in public elections.



Do you support a Green New Deal to provide a jobs guarantee, full employment, and the achievement of 100% carbon-neutral energy by 2035 at the latest?

Carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 to prevent global disaster. The Green New Deal is a policy proposal that would overhaul our energy grid, create millions of union jobs, and put control of the power grid into the hands of ordinary working people. Learn more at ecosocialists.dsusa.org



Do you commit to rejecting donations from for-profit corporations or industry special interest groups and do you commit to rejecting any political endorsement by labor groups whose mission is primarily to organize and represent police officers?

Georgia's oligarchic government is controlled by corporate money. Police unions cover up abuse and violence by intimidating politicians. We need candidates who are accountable to working people, not the powerful elite.



Do you support creating municipal broadband networks to provide affordable, quality, and guaranteed internet to every Georgia resident?

With the rise of online work and school, having reliable, high-speed, free internet is as essential as having working electricity. Pricing and access must be controlled by working people, not private monopolies like Comcast.



Do you support statewide marijuana legalization?

Millions of Americans recreationally use marijuana in a safe and harmless way. Cannabis possession is criminalized in Georgia for no other reason than oppressing working people, especially Black and Hispanic people. Anti-drug laws originate from racist fearmongering intended to attack the civil rights and anti-war movements.

Statewide Offices

Lt. Governor

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Renitta Shannon	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dr. Jason T. Hayes	B	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tyrone Brooks Jr	F	Y	Y	N*	Y	N*	Y	N*	N*	Y	Y
Derrick Jackson	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erick Allen	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R. Malik	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kwanza Hall	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tony Brown	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, beyond being next in line for Governor, controls the structure of state Senate committees, such as those overseeing redistricting, budgets, and other state functions. Many candidates from this notable contest have responded to our survey, however only State Rep. Renitta Shannon provided unqualified support towards all key policy stances we put forward.

Labor Commissioner

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Nicole Horn	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Thomas Dean	F	Y	N*	N*	Y	N*	N*	Y	N*	Y	N
William K. Boddie, Jr.	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lester G. Jackson	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadia Surrency	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Georgia Labor Commissioner oversees the processing and distribution of unemployment benefits—a critical line of support to working-class families. Incumbent

Republican Mark Butler has served in this role since 2011, and has opposed increasing the minimum wage. He came under fire in 2020, at the height of the COVID recession, for illegally slowing disbursement of unemployment benefits, with only 12.7% of claimants receiving a response within three weeks. While Mr. Butler is retiring this year, his record shows why we can't afford more officials like him controlled by the capitalist class.

Secretary of State

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
John Eaves, PhD	F	Y	N*	Y	Y	N*	N*	1/2	N*	Y	N*
Floyd Griffin	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Michael Owens	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dee Dawkins-Haigler	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bee Nguyen	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Secretary of State oversees state elections and the issuing of licenses and registrations of businesses. This office has become a frequent target of far-right attacks in recent years, with dubious allegations of voter fraud from the Republican Party after Joe Biden's narrow victory, despite incumbent Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger himself being a Republican. Brian Kemp, during his tenure as Secretary of State from 2010 to 2018, notably delayed 53,000 voter registration applications weeks before his own election as governor, 70% of which were from Black voters. Atlanta DSA previously endorsed Michael Owens in his 2020 campaign for Georgia's 13th Congressional District.

Education Superintendent

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Currey Hitchens	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
James Morrow Jr.	C	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y	Y
Jaha Howard	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alisha Searcy	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Education Superintendent contest has taken a high profile given the Republican fearmongering and culture wars around “critical race theory”. At a time when teachers face steep rises in cost of living and inadequate pay, the next Superintendent must prioritize providing well-funded, quality education to all Georgians, and reject attacks on academic freedom and attempts to defame and target teachers.

Public Service Commission District 3

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Shelia Edwards	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Chandra Farley	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	N*	Y	Y
Missy Moore	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Public Service Commission oversees decisions around electric and natural gas utility rates in the state of Georgia. Campaign finance ethics are a key issue that faces the office. For example, former [District 3 Commissioner Chuck Eaton received 21% of his donations from executives involved in industries the commission regulates](#).

Federal Offices

US. House of Representatives District 5

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Nikema Williams (I)	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Charlotte Macbagito	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Valencia Stovall	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

US. House of Representatives District 13

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Shastity Driscoll	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vincent Fort	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mark Baker	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
David Scott (I)	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Incumbent Representative David Scott has long been among the most conservative members of the Georgia House Democratic delegation, supporting both the Bush tax cuts and the Iraq War. Former State Senator Vincent Fort differed from Shastity Driscoll in his response to the question on abolishing ICE, where he wrote *"YES, but there needs to be an agency that takes over responsibilities and made to adhere to human rights"* which we did not interpret as a satisfactory Yes response. Note: Atlanta DSA previously campaigned for Vincent Fort during his 2017 run for Atlanta Mayor.

Georgia Legislature

Senate District 7 (Northern Peachtree Corners - Duluth)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Nabilah Islam	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beth Moore	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nabilah Islam previously received our endorsement for her 2020 bid for U.S. House of Representatives in Georgia's 7th Congressional District.

Senate District 10 (Stockbridge - Hampton)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Bruce B. Holmes	D	Y	N*	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Emanuel D Jones (I)	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Incumbent Senator and car dealership magnate Emanuel D Jones remains one of the only incumbent Democrat state Senators who has not cosponsored SB 24, which would raise the state minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Senate District 35 (Eastern Douglasville - South Fulton)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Whitney Kenner Jones	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nick Miller	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lula Gilliam	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1/2	N	Y	Y
Donzella James (I)	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nick Miller and Whitney Kenner Jones both supported all the positions listed in our questionnaire. We note that Ms. Jones, as of February 2022, has raised \$38,820, while Mr. Miller did not report raising any money as of the same filing deadline.

Senate District 36 (East/Southeast Atlanta)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Asa Smith	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chase Stell	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Nan Orrock (I)	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y

As of February 2022, Sen. Orrock had raised \$138,487.41 in contributions, compared to Mr. Stell's \$5,280, and no contributions or expenditures reported by Mr. Smith. Sen. Orrock has been endorsed by labor groups such as the Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council and United Campus Workers of Georgia. Chase Stell, who serves as President of the Young Democrats of Atlanta, is the only candidate in the race who we know publicly campaigned for Bernie Sanders for President in 2020.

Senate District 38 (Smyrna - South Cobb - West Atlanta)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Michael Carson	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Adam Petty	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horacena Tate (I)	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Melody Bray	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

House District 56 (Midtown - West Atlanta)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Keona Jones	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mesha Mainor (I)	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Will Chandler	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Mesha Mainor was one of the only Democrat state representatives to vote for HB 286, a reactionary Republican-sponsored measure that prohibits local governments from limiting the size of police budgets.

House District 58 (East Atlanta - Southwest Atlanta)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Park Cannon (I)	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brandon Tonge	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

House District 60 (West Atlanta)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana	
Sheila Jones (I)	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Steven D Lee	F	Y	-	Y	Y	N*	-	N	-	-	Y	Y

House District 62 (Grant Park - East Point - College Park)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana	
Josh Noblitt	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Tanya F. Miller	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thomas Calloway	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

House District 88 (Tucker - Stone Mountain)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana	
Billy Mitchell (I)	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y
Gabrielle Rogers	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

House District 90 (Southwest Dekalb)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Bentley Hudgins	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michelle Schreiner	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stewart Parnacott	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1/2	Y	Y
Peter Hubbard	C	Y	Y	1/2	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Saira Draper	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Bentley Hudgins and Michelle Schreiner both supported all the positions listed in our questionnaire. Bentley Hudgins has received endorsements from multiple labor groups, including the [Georgia AFL-CIO](#) and [IUPAT DC 77](#). As of February 2022, Schreiner led Hudgins in fundraising \$44,221.00 to \$8,742.86.

House District 92 (Southeast Dekalb - Southern Rockdale)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Rhonda Taylor (I)	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Demoine Kinney	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y

Other contests

DeKalb County Board of Education District 2

(Brookhaven - Druid Hills - Decatur)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Wendy Hamilton	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Candice D. McKinley	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Steven Bowden	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitney McGinniss	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Fulton County Commissioner District 5

(Southern Fulton County)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Marvin Arrington, Jr. (I)	D	Y	N*	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Robert H. Kelly	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andre R. Sales	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Gwinnett County Commission District 2

(Southern Gwinnett, East of I-85)

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Ben Ku (I)	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Jahangir Hossain	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-