

Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America

PROGRESSIVE VOTER GUIDE



June 2022 Primary Runoff Edition

Thank you for using our voter guide for Georgia's June 2022 runoffs! This guide focuses on Democratic Primaries statewide and in the Metro-Atlanta area. This guide features responses from our 2022 Candidate Survey. To view the full, raw responses to the survey, including custom responses from candidates, visit atldsa.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.

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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 is that we need a 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.

June Runoffs addendum: The first round of primary results show that working people strongly support progressive stances in Democratic primaries across the Atlanta area, with many candidates ranked “A” or “B” either winning their elections outright or advancing to runoffs. The Republican Primaries, however, show that the GOP continues to push oppressive, reactionary, and anti-worker policy. With abortion and voting rights in jeopardy across the country and the prices of housing, food, and gas skyrocketing, we must demand principled, progressive policy from elected officials.

Key Voting Information

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 Runoff Date: June 21

Early Voting: All counties must start early voting no later than **June 13th** for the runoff. 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 elections we listed in this guide. You can also find what district you reside in in the MVP page linked above.

[GA State House Map](#)

[DeKalb County Board of Education Map](#)

Statewide Offices

Lieutenant Governor

The Democratic Primary runoff for Lieutenant Governor will be between Kwanza Hall and Charlie Bailey, neither of whom responded to our survey. 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.

Both Kwanza Hall and Charlie Bailey have taken progressive stances on various issues. During his brief tenure in Congress, Hall sponsored legislation calling to end qualified immunity and to restore voting rights to former prisoners. Bailey has called for expanding funding for education and for cracking down on corporate fraud.

Despite receiving only a little more than half of Hall’s votes during the May primary, Bailey holds a considerable fundraising advantage, raising over \$1 million compared to Hall’s \$150,000. Bailey has also received an endorsement from Stacey Abrams, having been the Democrat candidate for Attorney General during her 2018 run for Governor. At the [Atlanta Press Club’s runoff election debate](#), only Bailey attended, while Hall did not show up.

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	Y	N*	Y	Y
William K. Boddie, Jr.	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 Butler is retiring this year, his record shows why we can’t afford more officials controlled by the capitalist class.

Nicole Horn responded favorably to our questionnaire and holds a considerable fundraising advantage to William Boddie, raising \$521,742.92 to his \$318,185.72. However, Boddie has received endorsements from the Georgia AFL CIO, as well as Stacey Abrams.

Insurance Commissioner

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Raphael Baker	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Janice Laws-Robinson	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Insurance Commissioner holds responsibility for regulating insurance companies in the state, and has been the subject of considerable scandal in recent years. Last year, Republican Insurance Commissioner Jim Beck was convicted on 37 counts of fraud and money laundering, and removed from office as a result. We believe it is paramount for the next Insurance Commissioner to not only avoid explicit corruption, but also stand up to the corporate interests in the state who are responsible for health insurance premiums rising 66% from 2010 to 2020.

Raphael Baker responded favorably to our questionnaire. He currently trails Janice Laws-Robinson in fundraising, with Laws-Robinson raising \$20,809.71 to Baker's \$3,580.00. At the [Atlanta Press Club's runoff election debate](#), only Laws-Robinson attended, while Baker did not show up.

Secretary of State

The Democratic Primary runoff for Secretary of State will be between Bee Nguyen and Dee Dawkins-Haigler, neither of whom responded to our survey.

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 the Republican Party making false allegations of voter fraud 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.

Bee Nguyen holds a massive fundraising advantage over Dee Dawkins-Haigler, having raised \$1,301,611.99 to \$35,088.13. Nguyen has also received an endorsement from Stacey Abrams, and with her considerable lead in the May Primaries, is the likely favorite for this contest. However, we note that as a delegate for Joe Biden at the 2020 Democratic National Convention, Nguyen voted against adding Medicare For All to the Democratic Party platform.

Georgia Legislature

House District 39

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana	
Monica Evette DeLancy	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y
Terry Cummings	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Monica DeLancy responded favorably to our questionnaire, and has had a long history as a renters' rights advocate, having helped lobby for and pass HB 346, which banned retaliation from landlords against tenants for reporting maintenance complaints. Her opponent, Terry Cummings, did not respond to our survey, but has publicly expressed support for a \$15 minimum wage, rent control, and Medicare for All.

House District 61

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

While Kemp responded favorably to our questionnaire, we note his background as a staff organizer in a charter school advocacy organization. Charter schools have historically been a means to effectively defund and privatize public education and weaken the rights of teachers and other school workers. Although we did not include the issue in our candidate survey, we believe that support for charter schools is a deeply

concerning stance. Rep. Bruce did not reply to our survey, but has voted in the past against legislation to expand charter schools.

House District 90

Candidate	Grade	\$15 Wage	Labor Rights	Medicare 4 All	Green New Deal	Abolish ICE	Rent Control	Prisoner's Vote	Donation Ethics	Broadband	Marijuana
Michelle Schreiner	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Saira Draper	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Michelle Schreiner has been endorsed by Bentley Hudgins, the other candidate for this contest who scored an “A” grade in our voter guide for the first round of primary elections in May.

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
Candice D. McKinley	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Whitney McGinniss	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

We note that unlike the contests listed previously, this is not a Democratic Primary, but a nonpartisan general election. Candice McKinley responded favorably to our survey, while Whitney McGinniss did not respond. For a more comprehensive comparison between the candidates, [a full Q&A can be seen here](#).

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, 56 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.dsausa.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.