GEORGIA 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION

The State of Georgia held its primary elections on Tuesday, May 22. Below you will find a recap of statewide races, races for open Senate and House seats and closely watched contests. The runoff election is July 24. There will be a lot of new faces at the Gold Dome next year.

STATEWIDE RACES

GOVERNOR

Republican
This highly contested race is headed to a July 24th runoff between the current Lieutenant Governor, Casey Cagle, and current Secretary of State, Brian Kemp. Cagle received 39% of the vote while Kemp was just shy of 26%.

Democrat
Former House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams cruised to an easy victory over Stacey Evans by winning 76% of the vote. Abrams will now get a 9 week head start on her yet to be determined GOP opponent. Abrams is both the first female and African American major party candidate for Governor in Georgia’s history.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Republican
Lieutenant Governor Cagle’s bid for higher office opened up this seat and saw former Senate President David Shafer narrowly miss avoiding a runoff with 49%. Former House member Geoff Duncan edged out Rick Jeffares for the second spot to face Shafer.

Democrat
Sarah Riggs Amico was supposed to be the Democrat’s choice for this race but faced a tougher than expected test in defeating a relatively unknown candidate in Triana Arnold James with 55% of the vote.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Republican
In the surprise of the night, former House member Brad Raffensberger lead the way with 35% and will face former Alpharetta Mayor David Belle Isle in a runoff. Raffensberger threw in $750,000 of his own money in the last weeks of the race.

Democrat
Former Congressman John Barrow has been out of politics since losing his reelection bid in 2014 but reemerged to defeat Dee Dawkins-Haigler and Rakeim “RJ” Hadley by winning 51% of the vote.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Chris Carr (R) is the incumbent and will run against Charlie Bailey (D) in November. They did not have contested primaries.
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Gary Black (R) is the incumbent and will run against Fred Swann (D) in November. They did not have contested primaries.

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

Republican
Jim Beck easily defeated Jay Florence and Tracy Jordan by securing 57% of the vote.

Democrat
Janice Laws defeated Cindy Zeldin by securing 63% of the vote.

STATE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Republican
Former State School Superintendent John Barge decided to launch a campaign to reclaim the office he vacated in 2014 versus the current Incumbent Superintendent Richard Woods. Woods cruised to victory with 60% of the vote.

Democrat
Sid Chapman and Otha E. Thornton Jr. are headed to a runoff. Thornton secured 44% of the vote to Chapman’s 36%.

COMMISSIONER OF LABOR

Republican
Incumbent Commissioner of Labor Mark Butler did not have a contested primary.

Democrat
Richard Keatley squeaked by Fred Quinn winning 51% and the right to face Butler in November.

STATE SENATE

State Senator, District 5
The incumbent Senator, Curt Thompson (D), lost his reelection bid 68-32% to newcomer Sheikh Rahman. There is no GOP opponent so Rahman will assume the seat next January.

State Senator, District 6
Leah Aldridge defeated John Gordon and will run against incumbent Jen Jordan (D) in the general.

State Senator, District 16
Incumbent Senator Marty Harbin encountered a tough bid for reelection but beat Tricia Stearns 62-38%.
State Senator, District 27
Greg Dolezal (R) won the Republican primary for this seat securing 59% of the vote. He will face Steve Smith (D) in November. This seat was formally held by Sen. Michael Williams who resigned to run for Governor.

State Senator, District 29
Randy Robertson (R) and Valerie Haskins (D) won their respective primaries last night and will face each other this fall for former Sen. Josh McKoon’s seat. McKoon resigned to run for Secretary of State.

State Senator, District 41
Incumbent Senate Minority Leader Steve Henson (D) barely edged out Sabrina McKenzie (D) by 115 votes. McKenzie has not yet decided on whether or not to request a recount.

State Senator, District 47
Incumbent Frank Ginn (R) cruised to victory over Scott Howard (R).

State Senator, District 54
Incumbent Chuck Payne won the right to return for his second term after narrowly defeating Scott Tidwell 53-47%.

State House

State Representative, District 1
Incumbent John Deffenbaugh (R) lost to Colton Moore (R). Moore does not have general opposition this fall.

State Representative, District 7
Speaker David Ralston easily beat his opponent Margaret Williamson in his primary race by securing 74% of the vote. Speaker Ralston does not have general opposition this fall.

State Representative, District 8
Incumbent Matt Gurtler (R) defeated Mickey Cummings (R) to keep his seat. He does not have general opposition this fall.

State Representative, District 15
Mathew Gambill (R) easily won his race against Allan Levene (R) securing 87% of the vote to replace Paul Battles.

State Representative, District 17
Martin Momtahan won the Republican primary to replace Howard Maxwell in this Dallas seat. Momtahan will face Ralph Meers (D) in the general election.

State Representative, District 19
Incumbent Paulette Rakestraw (R) will head to a runoff with Joseph Gullett (R) to keep her seat. The winner of the runoff will face Alison Feliciano (D) this fall.
State Representative, District 25
Todd Jones (R) won his primary against Steven Grambergs (R) and will face Anita Tucker (D) in the general election.

State Representative, District 28
Incumbent Dan Gasaway (R) was defeated by Chris Erwin (R). Erwin does not have general opposition this fall.

State Representative, District 36
Ginny Ehrhart (R) will face Thomas Gray (R) in a runoff for Earl Ehrhart’s seat. The winner will face Jen Slipakoff (D) in the general this fall.

State Representative, District 40
Matt Bently (R) and Sandra Bullock (D) won their respective primaries and will face each other in the general to replace Rich Golick (R).

State Representative, District 44
Incumbent Don Parsons (R) easily won his primary race and will face Chinita Allen (D) in the general.

State Representative, District 48
Incumbent Betty Price (R) beat Jere Wood (R) in the primary and will face Mary Robichaux (D) in the general.

State Representative, District 50
Kelly Stewart (R) and Angelika Kausche (D) won their respective primaries and will face each other in the general to replace Brad Raffensperger.

State Representative, District 51
Alex Kaufaman (R) and Josh McLaurin (D) did not have primary opposition and will face each other in the general to replace Wendell Willard.

State Representative, District 60
Incumbent Kim Schofield (D) beat Jozmond Black (D) to keep her seat. Schofield does not have general opposition.

State Representative, District 83
Incumbent Howard Mosby (D) lost to Becky Evans (D). Evans does not face general opposition.

State Representative, District 87
Incumbent Coach Williams (D) lost his seat to Viola Davis (D). Davis does not face general opposition.

State Representative, District 97
Bonnie Rich (R) and Kipper Tabb (R) will head to a runoff for the republican candidate to replace Brooks Coleman. The winner of the runoff will face Aisha Yaqoob (D) in the general.
State Representative, District 102
Paula Hastings (R) and Zach Procter (R) will head into a runoff. The winner will face Gregg Kennard (D) in the general to replace Buzz Brockway.

State Representative, District 105
Robin Mauck (R) and Donna Sheldon (R) will head to a runoff and the winner will face Donna McLeod in the general to replace Joyce Chandler.

State Representative, District 107
Janet Mihoi (R) and Shelly Hutchinson (D) will face each other in the general to replace David Casas.

State Representative, District 131
Incumbent Johnnie Caldwell was defeated by Ken Pullin (R). Pullin will face Chris Benton (D) in the general.

State Representative, District 133
Vance Smith (R) easily won his race against Christopher Gyening (R) to serve in a seat he formally held. Smith does not face general opposition.

State Representative, District 138
Mike Cheokas (R) won his primary against Herschel Smith (R) to win back his seat he formally held. He will have to face Bardin Hooks (D) in the general this fall.

State Representative, District 141
Dale Washburn (R) and Gary Bechtel (R) will face each other in a runoff to replace Allen Peake in this Macon seat. The winner will not have general opposition.

State Representative, District 144
Gregory Odoms (D) and Jessica Walden (D) will face each other in a primary runoff. The winner will have to face Danny Mathis (R) in the general to replace Bubber Epps.

State Representative, District 153
Incumbent Darrel Ealum was defeated by Camia Whitaker Hopson (D). Hopson does not have general opposition.

State Representative, District 157
Incumbent Bill Werkheiser (R) defeated Delvis Dutton to keep his seat. Werkheiser does not have general opposition.

State Representative, District 178
Steven Meeks (R) defeated Franklin Rozier (R) by securing 63% of the vote. Meeks will face Greg Odriscoll (D) this fall.

State Representative, District 180
Incumbent Jason Spencer (R) lost to Stevenn Sainz (R). Sainz does not face general opposition.
Congress

Federal officials also stood for primary elections today.

Neither of Georgia’s U.S. Senators are up for election this cycle.

6th Congressional District
Congresswoman Karen Handel was unopposed in the Republican primary. There was a crowded Democratic primary for this seat. Lucy McBath will face Kevin Abel in a primary runoff on July 24.

7th Congressional District
Congressman Rob Woodall beat Shane Hazel (% to %) to win the Republican primary. There was a crowded field in the Democratic primary for this seat as well. David Kim will face Carolyn Bordeaux in a runoff on July 24.

Judicial races in Georgia are non-partisan, but judges do stand for election here.

Supreme Court of Georgia
Justice Boggs, Justice Grant, Justice Hunstein, Justice Melton, and Justice Peterson were all unopposed for their seats. Note that Justice Grant has her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee today for a seat on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, so that seat may be vacated in the near future.

Georgia Court of Appeals
There was one contested seat for the Court of Appeals. In that race, Ken Hodges beat out Ken Shigley. Judge Bethel, Judge Dillard, Judge Mercier Judge Miller, Judge Reese, and Judge Rickman all stood for election unopposed.