

# Georgia Governor

## THE ISSUES

**STACEY  
ABRAMS**

DEMOCRAT



**BRIAN  
KEMP**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



| See <a href="#">guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources.   | <a href="https://staceyabrams.com">staceyabrams.com</a>   | <a href="https://briankemp2022.com">briankemp2022.com</a>  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>ABORTION</b><br>Ban or Legal?  | Legal. <a href="#">“As a woman, I am enraged by the continued assault on our right to control our bodies + our futures.”</a> <a href="#">“I will defend the right to an abortion and fight for reproductive justice.”</a>   | Ban. <a href="#">“I believe that we need to protect the unborn.”</a> <a href="#">Signed a bill banning abortion once fetal heartbeat is detected, at roughly six weeks.</a>  |
| <b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b><br>Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy? | Yes. Calls voting <a href="#">“our most powerful tool to defeat” climate change.</a> Her SEAP organization published an <a href="#">extensive plan</a> with carbon-reduction proposals. Proposes <a href="#">incentives and programs for businesses and individuals to adopt “clean energy and low-carbon innovations.”</a> | Mixed. Supports state investment in two electric vehicle companies; <a href="#">“both are committed to making a greener world.”</a> Called the Inflation Reduction Act, which contains <a href="#">\$369 billion in climate and clean energy provisions</a> , <a href="#">“another reckless tax and spending spree,”</a> and <a href="#">“a new disaster.”</a>                             |
| <b>EDUCATION</b><br>Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?   | No. Opposes <a href="#">“private school tax credits and vouchers.”</a> <a href="#">“Public dollars should go to public schools.”</a>  | Yes. <a href="#">Signed</a> a bill expanding <a href="#">state tax credits to donors to private school scholarships.</a> Signed a bill <a href="#">expanding a school voucher program for special-needs and “at-risk” students.</a>  |
| <b>EDUCATION</b><br>How to address teaching of issues around racism and gender identity?  | <a href="#">“Our children deserve a complete and honest education without threats to school funding. Some topics like slavery, segregation or the Trail of Tears are difficult, but our children must be given age-appropriate lessons and context.”</a>  | Signed a bill to limit how teachers talk about <a href="#">“divisive topics” such as race and gender identity</a> , to keep <a href="#">“woke politics out of the classroom.”</a> <a href="#">Much of its language was drawn from</a> a 2020 Trump executive order on <a href="#">“race and sex stereotyping and scapegoating.”</a>  |
| <b>EDUCATION</b><br>Increase funding for K-12 and higher education?   | Yes. Supports <a href="#">raises for teachers and an overhaul of state’s school funding to invest in every child “from cradle to career.”</a>   | Yes. In 2022 <a href="#">raised teacher salaries and restored funding to K-12 schools, after earlier making pandemic-era austerity cuts.</a>   |
| <b>ENVIRONMENT</b><br>Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?  | Mostly tighten. Will protect Georgia waters from <a href="#">“environmental contaminants.”</a> <a href="#">Environmental plan</a> focuses on new funds, incentives, and programs rather than new regulations.   | Loosen. Supports <a href="#">“fact-based efforts”</a> to address the environment, but <a href="#">doesn’t believe that “government red tape is the answer.”</a> Promised to <a href="#">“chainsaw”</a> government regulations.   |
| <b>GUN RULES</b><br>Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?  | More. Supports <a href="#">repealing concealed carry and campus carry. Will expand background checks to gun shows. Supports “extreme risk protection orders” and restrictions of domestic violence perpetrators.</a> As of 2018 supported <a href="#">a ban on assault weapons.</a>   | Less. <a href="#">Signed</a> a law <a href="#">allowing concealed gun carry without a permit</a> and a law <a href="#">allowing gun licenses to apply across state lines.</a> <a href="#">“I will be on the frontlines fighting for our gun rights.”</a>   |
| <b>HEALTH CARE</b><br>Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid, limiting drug prices, or promoting COVID safety? | Yes. Would <a href="#">fully expand Medicaid</a> , <a href="#">“our first mission in the state of Georgia,”</a> and establish <a href="#">a safety-net emergency insulin program.</a> Would <a href="#">create a COVID outreach protocol and a long-COVID recovery plan.</a>  | Mixed. <a href="#">“Obamacare is an absolute disaster.”</a> Would <a href="#">have the private sector, rather than government, do outreach under the Affordable Care Act.</a> Would partly <a href="#">expand Medicaid to the poor but only if they meet a work requirement.</a> Instituted a <a href="#">reinsurance program to subsidize insurers’ costs in order to lower premiums.</a> |

| ISSUES   | ABRAMS (D)   | KEMP (R)   |
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| <b>IMMIGRATION</b><br>How to handle immigration?<br>Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children? | Would balance <a href="#">“safety with the need to create a pathway to citizenship for individuals who are in this country.”</a> Wants <a href="#">“pathways for DACA recipients to access higher education in Georgia.”</a>   | Wants to <a href="#">see a border wall and target gangs, crime, and human trafficking.</a> Calls sanctuary cities a <a href="#">“safe haven for criminal aliens.”</a> In 2017 wanted to <a href="#">end DACA, which “provides amnesty for illegal immigrants.”</a> Calls the border influx an <a href="#">“invasion.”</a>  |
| <b>LABOR</b><br>Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?   | Easier. Collective bargaining is <a href="#">“democracy in action in the workplace.”</a> Supported <a href="#">efforts by Alabama Amazon workers to unionize.</a> Labor <a href="#">“has been at the core of Georgia’s evolution.”</a>   | Harder. Opposed <a href="#">tax credits for union-made electric vehicles, claiming an unfair advantage over non-union labor.</a> Signed a <a href="#">bill prohibiting localities from regulating employee hours and output.</a>   |
| <b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b><br>Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?   | Expand. Supports <a href="#">marriage equality and new housing and workplace protections, and legal protections for “LGBTQ+ parents.”</a> Would restructure <a href="#">the Georgia equal opportunity commission into a human rights commission.</a>   | Mixed. Signed a <a href="#">bill giving an athletics committee the authority to bar transgender youth from playing on sports teams.</a> Signed a <a href="#">bill extending hate-crimes protection to LGBTQ people.</a>  |
| <b>MARIJUANA</b><br>Should recreational marijuana be banned or legal?  | Legal. In 2018 supported <a href="#">decriminalization and, with a strong substance abuse network, recreational legalization.</a> No more recent position found.   | Ban. As of 2018 <a href="#">opposed recreational use.</a> No more recent position found.   |
| <b>MINIMUM WAGE</b><br>Keep or raise state minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour? If raise, how much?  | Raise. Seeks <a href="#">a raise in the federal minimum</a> and says that <a href="#">Georgia ranks 50th in state minimum wage.</a> In 2015 called for a <a href="#">raise to \$15 per hour.</a>   | No position found.   |
| <b>POLICE AND COMMUNITY</b><br>How to address police use of force?   | <a href="#">“Decriminalize poverty” and increase “law enforcement accountability.”</a> <a href="#">Raise base pay for state police and corrections officers, with grants for local police raises.</a> <a href="#">Expand police training and mental health supports; add crisis officers.</a>                            | Signed a bill <a href="#">limiting how much local governments can cut police budgets.</a> Signed a bill <a href="#">increasing the number of trained mental health teams for emergency response.</a> Has <a href="#">pushed for multiple police pay increases.</a> Says it is unfair to <a href="#">“condemn and demonize”</a> police officers.  |
| <b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b><br>Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?  | Yes. <a href="#">Promised students to find new ways to relieve their student debt. “Our leaders must be willing to tackle...the crippling effect of educational loans.”</a>  | Yes for specific groups. Signed <a href="#">a bill authorizing loan forgiveness for students in mental health professional programs.</a>   |
| <b>TAXES</b><br>Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?  | More. <a href="#">“The Republican tax bill rigged the system against working people.”</a> <a href="#">“I worked across the aisle to make sure companies paid their fair share and families didn’t subsidize corporate schemes.”</a>  | Less. Signed into law a tax cut that <a href="#">replaces a graduated income tax, where higher earners pay higher tax rates, with a flat tax,</a> where all income levels pay the same rate.   |
| <b>VOTING RULES</b><br>Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?                   | No. Called the 2021 Georgia election bill <a href="#">“Jim Crow 2.0”</a> and sees Georgia election legislation as <a href="#">“a deliberate attempt to suppress minority vote.”</a> Supports <a href="#">election day registration and improvements in registration security and county-level voting infrastructure.</a> | Yes. <a href="#">Signed a 2021 bill imposing limits</a> on absentee voting, ballot drop boxes, out-of-precinct voting and distributing food or water at the polls. <a href="#">The new law added new voter ID requirements, while also adding early voting opportunities.</a> It also <a href="#">allows the State Election Board to take over county election boards</a> that it deems to be underperforming. |

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