

Agreed Principles for Georgia's 2020 Runoff Elections for the U.S. Senate

The U.S. Senate candidates for Georgia and political party representatives agree that these principles will govern their conduct and behavior during the Georgia 2020 Runoff Election for the U.S. Senate. The candidates and political parties agree to act in the utmost good faith in abiding by these principles and to encourage their supporters to do likewise.

The principles

The Senate candidates and political party representatives recognize and agree that democratic elections require that voters have the opportunity to make an informed choice and to vote freely, without being subject to disinformation, domestic or foreign interference, fear, undue influence and intimidation.

The Senate candidates and political party representatives recognize and agree that, under Georgia law, voters have the right to cast their ballots by mail, through early in-person voting, or through in-person voting on the January 5 runoff date.

The Senate candidates and political party representatives recognize and agree that, to ensure that all votes are reported and counted accurately, the counting and canvassing processes will be open to accredited party poll watchers and monitors who will conduct themselves professionally and in accordance with applicable Georgia law. The counting of ballots at tabulating centers and precincts also are open to the public and to nonpartisan observers.

The Senate candidates and political party representatives thereby agree to encourage respect for these principles by:

- taking decisive efforts to prevent party leaders, officials, candidates, and party members from acting contrary to these principles;
- encouraging all eligible voters to register and to vote, and avoiding steps to inappropriately disenfranchise currently registered voters;
- encouraging voters to select the option for casting a ballot that best suits their needs, so as to encourage maximum participation by Georgians in these elections;
- reassuring voters that all voting procedures authorized by law, including voting by absentee ballot, are safe, secure, and reliable, and have built-in checks and controls to ensure integrity of the elections; and
- allowing the media to cover all aspects of candidates' election campaigns and the elections.

The Senate candidates and political party representatives further agree to:

- avoid the spread of disinformation on social media, including from both domestic and foreign sources;
- organize and conduct the campaign in a manner that contributes to a congenial and peaceful atmosphere during the campaign, polling, counting, and the postelection period;

- avoid using language, symbols, memes and gestures that are inflammatory, defamatory or constitute hate speech;
- disassociate their campaigns from threats or acts of violence in any form against any person or group of persons, including looting and vandalism directed against public or private property;
- actively denounce any and all acts of violence and/or threats of violence;
- act with a sense of responsibility and dignity toward others, and discourage supporters from acting in a manner that intimidates or harasses those supporting their opponents;
- refrain from any action that disrupts or interferes with peaceful and orderly polling;
- respect complete freedom for voters to exercise their right to vote without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction;
- train their poll watchers on their roles, responsibilities, and obligations at polling sites and other election offices, including to refrain from behaviors that have the effect of intimidating or harassing others who are lawfully present;
- ensure the safety and security of electoral officials before, during, and after the polling;
- comply with all rules and regulations of the Georgia Secretary of State and other authorized election officials;
- cooperate fully with election officials, law enforcement, and the court system;
- submit only complaints that are legally and factually supported; and
- accept the outcome of the elections after the results have been certified and all complaints have been resolved.