



October-November, 2022 Election Voting Guide
Statewide and Local Offices, Referenda and Constitutional Amendments
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Our thoughts on why positions affect environmental issues and our suggestions for the strongest climate/environment candidates after considering environmental justice, policies to decrease greenhouse gas emissions/pollution, and equity and voting access. We also looked at referendums/statewide amendments and put our thoughts at the bottom.

We recognize that voting access, environmental justice, equity for individuals of all identities and conflicts of interest/corruption are all intertwined. We are not affiliated with any party and are completely volunteer; you can take our opinion or leave it-your choice! **Anything underlined is a hyperlink to more information.**

First, some voting suggestions.

1. **Pledge to vote EARLY!** Why? Unlike Election Day, you do not have to vote at an assigned polling location during early voting; you can vote at any early voting location within your county. This means less chance of having a provisional ballot. Those may or may not be counted. Some areas have also been redistricted as well, so *early voting is your best bet to have your votes counted.*

See locations at [the Secretary of State's website](#) by county of residence. Early Voting in Person: October 17 - November 4 (Monday-Friday). Saturday Voting on October 22 and 29 are mandatory across the state, but counties have the option to add additional Sunday voting on October 23 and 30. *Go early and encourage others to do the same!*

2. **Absentee can be a problem.** Last day to submit an absentee ballot application: October 28. Strict time limits on when you can request and return an absentee ballot and what kind of identification you must provide have changed.

3. Look up your sample ballot. **If your local candidate is not on this chart, we suggest finding out who is endorsed by Georgia Conservation Voters**, a non-partisan group with a focus on climate justice/environment. Another good source is branch.vote and Wikipedia if you want a quick synopsis of the candidate bio.



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Position	Position’s Impact on the environment	Republican and/or Libertarian	Democrat and/or Green Party	Strongest climate candidate
<p>Governor</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> <u>AJC published Oct, 22</u> <u>and another from 2018</u> <i>and</i> the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy site which profiled both Kemp, and Abrams.</p>	<p>--BIG IMPACT on climate/sustainability. As an example, Governor Inslee of Washington state set the state on a pathway to a carbon neutral electrical grid by 2030 and to be powered by 100 percent clean electricity by 2045. Governor dispenses funds as well.</p> <p>-Georgia hasn’t yet set statewide clean energy goals</p>	<p>Kemp</p> <p>Nothing on website about climate/ resilience</p> <p>-doesn’t believe “government red tape is the answer” to climate change</p> <p>- condemned the new federal law (the IRA) as an exercise in overspending.</p> <p>-has promoted electric vehicles and plants, such as Rivian and has expanded some large scale solar.</p> <p>Shane Hazel (L)</p>	<p>Stacey Abrams website <u>position on the environment</u></p> <p>-In favor of the newly enacted federal climate change and tax measure aimed at spurring green energy initiatives</p>	<p>Stacey Abrams; More resilience and climate mitigation plans on website and has a plan to set statewide clean energy targets.</p> <p>-We support the recent federal legislation which will significantly decrease greenhouse gasses, so the fact that she supports it is a key decider.</p> <p>-Also has energy efficiency on the website as a solution, which is a big need.</p> <p>-We were also disappointed that Governor Kemp did not promote a free and fair election regarding</p>



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				redrawing district maps for the Public Service Commission election that boxed out a candidate who was already running (see here). This commission has a huge impact on if we can have clean energy generation
<p>US Senate</p> <p>The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy site has information for Walker and Warnock.</p>	<p>--BIG IMPACT on climate/sustainability. <i>The US Senate passed a climate bill earlier this year, but that only gets us part way towards our Paris Climate Agreement goals</i></p>	<p>Walker Talks about energy <u>independence only</u>. As far as we can decipher, Walker doesn't really consider environmental issues seriously and it's very difficult to understand what he says when he speaks about these issues. Chase Oliver (L)</p>	<p>Warnock Information on his website for <u>environmental issues</u>. Sponsored electric school bus legislation and solar manufacturing in the US bill and believes in the moral imperative to act for climate.</p>	<p>Warnock.</p>



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<p>Secretary of State</p>	<p>--Weirdly has a BIG IMPACT on climate/sustainability but indirectly because they regulate how our Public Service Commission is elected (and they in turn regulate our electricity and natural gas sourcing), see below...)</p>	<p><u>Brad Raffensberger</u></p> <p>Ted Metz (L)</p>	<p><u>Bee Nguyen</u></p> <p>Lots of endorsements on the website</p> <p>Parents are Vietnamese immigrants</p> <p>Promotes more registration access, wants to facilitate registration with more language access and opportunities to register</p>	<p><u>Nguyen.</u></p> <p>Raffensberger stood up to Trump, but he did not support a free and fair election for the Public Service Commission, which has a HUGE impact on climate (see below for the long version of the story).</p> <p>Under Raffensberger, absentee voting is more difficult, which we are concerned about because it may disadvantage those that are disabled or otherwise homebound.</p>
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<p>Public Service Commission (PSC)</p> <p>This is not directly on the ballot in Nov, but the roles that control how Commissioners are elected are!</p>	<p>Who are the Public Service Commissioners? These are 5 elected officials that regulate the power and natural gas companies that provide for about 2/3 of the state’s electricity. This has a HUGE impact on if we have clean energy, and they regulate our bills. The power/gas companies have a monopoly and the only people that basically regulate them are these 5 people.</p> <p>How are the Public Service Commissioners (PSC) elected? The PSC’s five seats are voted on statewide, but candidates are required to live in one of five districts for 12 months prior to the general election.</p> <p>Why is the PSC race not on the ballot this fall? There were supposed to be two public service commissioners on the ballot this year, but the US Supreme court ruled that the current election system for this office needs to be re-evaluated because it currently dilutes the power of Black citizens. So, no election for this office in 2022.</p> <p>Why do we think the election was unfair? While the above court cases were ongoing (which is itself a big issue), there was another problem. Patty Durand had started to run for the Public Service Commission against Tim Echols. However, the current Public Service Commissioners (including Tim Echols, her opponent) and the legislature changed the district map and Governor Kemp approved this, so her geographic location was excluded while she was already in the midst of running. There were also text messages from the PSC commissioners to each other acknowledging that this was intentionally going on.</p> <p>What did Secretary Raffensberger and Governor Kemp have to do with this? They allowed the process to box out Patty Durand. She <u>sued Raffensberger</u> (and his department) and won her case.</p> <p>In the end, no one is running because the election is on hold. The AJC did a story also criticizing <u>the way this process was unfair to Patty Durand</u> as did some other news outlets.</p>
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<p>Attorney General <u>Oct, 22 article in AJC</u></p>	<p>--Impacts environmental justice.</p> <p>Where industrial plants are placed harm people of color and other disadvantaged people.</p> <p>The societal cost of carbon is used to estimate in dollars all economic damage that would result from emitting one ton of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.</p>	<p>Chris Carr Against Biden’s use of the societal cost of carbon” in the certification process for natural gas development.</p> <p>Libertarian <u>Martin Cowen</u></p>	<p>Jen Jordan Voting rights are a high priority and she specifically talks about environmental justice on the website.</p>	<p>Jen Jordan. Issue of environmental injustice is very important. There are many costs of fuel extraction/industrial processes so the societal cost of carbon is important to vulnerable communities</p>
<p>Lieutenant Governor</p>	<p>--Moderate to BIG IMPACT on climate/sustainability. Important for any state legislation to be passed.</p>	<p>Burt Jones. Works with his family owned business, Jones Petroleum. Per the JP website, <u>It is a full-line fuel wholesale distributor and retailer.</u> “Some of our</p>	<p>Charlie Bailey He was endorsed by Georgia Conservation Voters but it is difficult to find his positions online.</p>	<p>We are concerned that Jones has a conflict of interest with his petroleum company connections and were concerned that he was reprimanded by fellow Republicans regarding the</p>



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		<p><u>lines include BP, Chevron, Marathon, and Shell”</u></p> <p>On January 19, 2021, Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan stripped Jones of his chairmanship and membership of the state Senate Insurance and Labor Committee <u>because Jones was among 16</u> Republicans who participated as alternate electors in a bid to help then-President Donald Trump overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election in Georgia.</p>		<p>2020 election, so we favor Charlie Bailey.</p>
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		<u>Ryan Graham (L)</u>		
<p>Commissioner of Agriculture <i>-high impact on climate because agriculture significantly contributes to pollution, emissions</i> <u>AJC profile of both candidates.</u></p>	<p>--BIG IMPACT on climate/sustainability. -regulates businesses that grow, breed or process agricultural products. -markets Georgia agricultural products domestically and internationally -also weirdly regulates gas prices</p>	<p><u>Tyler Harper</u> Promotes rural broadband, food safety, training for farmers/new technology, voted for hemp farming in the past</p> <p><u>Voted in the past to limit the ability of nearby residents to complain about farm noise, pollution, etc.</u></p> <p><u>David Radabaugh (L)</u></p>	<p><u>Nakita Hemingway</u> proponent of hemp farming as a <u>climate solution</u> (this seems to be a real thing) - programs to address ending hunger -addresses human trafficking in agricultural sector</p>	<p><u>Nakita Hemingway</u>, we like the program to reduce hunger and addressing human trafficking. Reducing food waste is a high priority climate solution as well per the well respected GA Drawdown project.</p>



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<p>Commissioner of Insurance <u>October, 2022</u></p> <p><u>Has a lot to do with the risks of climate change</u> https://insurancenewsnet.com/inarticle/insurance-commissioners-posed-by-more-intense-weather-events</p>	<p>-Intersects somewhat with environmental justice issues because of the fact that there are more natural disasters now.</p> <p>- regulates insurance companies; investigates insurance fraud, works with fire prevention issues</p>	<p>John King <u>Has a military</u> background, strongly aligns himself with Kemp.</p> <p>Talks a lot about combating insurance fraud and a few news stories talk about how he has worked to decrease insurance fraud after Hurricane Ian. Has worked to decrease rate hikes by insurance companies, specifically Allstate.</p>	<p>Janice Laws Robinson <u>Owns her own insurance company</u> that she says she will sell if elected.</p> <p>Most concerned about high auto insurance rates.</p>	<p>No strongest climate candidate.</p> <p>Some of our group favored John King due to concern for conflict of interest for Robinson (has an insurance company).</p> <p>You decide.</p>
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<p>State School Superintendent</p>	<p>Could influence how we teach young people about climate science This website details how schools can interact with <u>climate related issues</u>.</p>	<p><u>Richard Woods</u></p>	<p><u>Alisha Thomas Searcy</u></p>	<p>No clear climate candidate, but we favor Richard Woods because Searcy has no public school experience and has shown less support for public schools. We emailed both about climate education and didn't get a response from either.</p>
<p>Commissioner of Labor</p>	<p><i>-Important for clean energy jobs potentially</i> -Creates workforce development and training programs</p>	<p><u>Bruce Thompson</u>, Currently a GA state senator. <u>One thing to note is that he has a campaign finance complaint against him.</u></p>	<p><u>Will Boddie Junior</u> In his current position, as a member of the GA House of Representatives, Boddie sponsored the GA HR1292 bill- Need for responsible stewardship and prudent management of natural resources in Georgia. From Ballotpedia - https://www.ballotpedia.com/billdetail/1482474</p>	<p>Based on legislative history, Will Boddie acknowledges the reality and dangers of climate change and has sponsored bills as well as voted for bills that protect the environment and vulnerable communities and support renewable energy.</p>



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			<p>He also has a history of voting yes on bills that support clean energy and environmental protection, and voting no on bills that loosen environmental regulations on companies. Voting track record here: https://www.billtrack50.com/public/scorecard/legislator/clpX-l6o4UqOem-23OPJ7A/22383/embed</p>	
<p>US House of Representatives, district 5</p>	<p>--BIG IMPACT on climate/sustainability. We need congress to act for any federal legislation</p>	<p><u>Chris Zimm</u> Nothing about environmental issues on the website.</p>	<p><u>Nikema Williams</u> supports clean energy goals, public transit, and clean energy jobs.</p>	<p>Nikema Williams</p>



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<p>State House of Representatives, District 82</p>	<p>--BIG IMPACT on climate/sustainability. We need state congress to act to get statewide clean energy goals</p>	<p>Jeanine <u>Milum</u>. Nothing about environmental issues on the website.</p>	<p><u>Mary Margaret Oliver</u> She co-authored a bill to clean up coal ash (which is a very harmful substance that gets into the water supply) She is on the board of the Altamaha Riverkeepers.</p>	<p>Mary Margaret Oliver.</p>
<p>DeKalb Water Conservation District Supervisor <i>Important for the environment!</i> <i>Non-partisan position</i></p>	<p>--BIG IMPACT on climate/sustainability. Leads water/soil conservation issues, including erosion control, reviews land-disturbance</p>	<p><u>Carol Hayes</u> and Paige Penland</p>		<p>Carol Hayes has worked with watersheds. Paige Penland is a travel writer. Not much on the internet about her.</p>



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Referendums and Constitutional amendments:

<p>Referendum B, House Bill 498. If this referendum is passed, farms that produce dairy and eggs would not have to pay taxes on specific equipment and products for the farm, like tractors.</p> <p>The act only applies to "merged" farms, which means that only farms that are a combination of two or more farms that used to be owned by individual families can get the tax exemption. Individual family farms are not included. Right now, farms that produce livestock, crops, fruit, nuts, plants, and Christmas trees are already exempt from the tax.</p> <p><u>Good explanation</u> of the resolution.</p>	<p>This bill would probably allow farmers to share equipment (probably better for the environment when you have to build less equipment). We suggest voting YES.</p>
<p>Amendment: Provides for temporary local tax relief after disasters.</p> <p>If passed, the Georgia state constitution would be changed to give local governments the power to temporarily waive property taxes on properties that were damaged or destroyed in a disaster for properties considered a nationally declared disaster area.</p> <p>State Rep. Lynn Smith (R) sponsored the constitutional amendment after an EF-4 tornado hit Coweta County in March 2021. Coweta County homeowners had to pay property taxes on 1,726 homes that were destroyed or damaged. Rep. Smith said officials in the city of Newnan "wanted to be able to give some tax relief in 2021" but were not able to do so." The amendment was passed unanimously by both chambers of the Georgia State Legislature.</p>	<p>We suggest voting YES. Climate disasters may disproportionately affect people on the coasts and seems fair to give them another potential for some relief after a disaster.</p>



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Referendum A, House Bill 997. If passed, loggers would not have to pay property taxes on certain equipment used for timber harvesting. This equipment includes wood cutters, chippers, loaders, dozers, debarkers, and delimiters. Motor vehicles are not included. The timber itself would still be taxed.

An explanation is found [here](#).

This bill passed overwhelmingly in the House and Senate.

We emailed several state lawmakers who felt that this wasn't a controversial bill and would not increase logging overall, but would consider timber equipment similar to other agricultural business equipment. The reasons not to vote for it would be if you think this is not worth the taxpayer money.

Some of our group were worried that this could incentive logging so suggested voting no, but on the flip side, this also might incentivize the companies to purchase and use more energy efficient equipment. You decide.



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Amendment: This would suspend the compensation of the Governor, Secretary of state, state school superintendent, commissioner of insurance, commissioner of agriculture, labor or any member of the general assembly while such individual is suspended from office following indictment for a felony?

Suggest voting YES. We think if you are accused for a felony, the taxpayers shouldn't be paying for your salary