



A Special Report: The 2010 Georgia Primary Election

Congratulations to all of the candidates who won their Primary races. Both parties can boast experience, talent and high name recognition (at least regionally) among their statewide candidates. The Republican candidates are particularly experienced while the Democratic Party can boast of great diversity (three African American candidates for statewide office) and solid private and public experience among its candidates. With the races ahead settled, it is time to review the Primary election. A note to the Georgia Democratic Party and candidates: there is a storm cloud on the horizon.

Let's be clear, the stakes this year could not be any higher. Key issues such as these below will all be influenced by this year's winners and losers:

- Transportation (Governor)
- Redistricting (Governor/Attorney General)
- Implementation of health care (Insurance Commissioner)
- Wage, employment practices and developing Georgia's workforce (Labor Commissioner)
- Voting laws and regulations and business licensing (Secretary of State)

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Five Highlights

- The Republican Gubernatorial campaign was a race to the right. Candidates dueled over who was more conservative. If voters reflect the candidates, then the swing vote will become extinct this cycle.
- 285,032 **more** Republican ballots were cast than Democratic ones in the Primary
- 61% of all ballots cast in the Primary were Republican
- Every Republican statewide election in the **Runoff** had more ballots cast than **in any** Democratic Primary race
- More Republicans were cast in the major minority counties than Democratic ones in both the Primary and the Primary Runoff. Translation: **Republicans beat Democrats in the Democratic base**

As Democrats prepare for their convention, it is critical that they understand that the General Election will come down to one thing: **turnout**.

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