

## **GEORGIA GROUP FOUNDED BY STACEY ABRAMS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SEEKING OUT-OF-STATE, DEAD VOTERS BROOKE SINGMAN, FOX NEWS**

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has launched investigations into several groups, including one founded by former Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, for seeking to "aggressively" register "ineligible, out-of-state, or deceased voters" before the state's Jan. 5 Senate runoff elections.

Raffensperger's office on Wednesday said the investigations are into groups including America Votes, Vote Forward and The New Georgia Project – which was founded by Abrams and previously chaired by Democratic Senate candidate Raphael Warnock.

Raffensperger for weeks has issued warnings against efforts to register individuals who are ineligible to vote in Georgia's runoff elections or to encourage people to come to Georgia with the sole purpose of casting ballots.

"I have issued clear warnings several times to groups and individuals working to undermine the integrity of elections in Georgia through false and fraudulent registrations," Raffensperger said in a statement Wednesday. "The security of Georgia's elections is of the utmost importance."

Raffensperger said Wednesday that his office has "received specific evidence that these groups have solicited voter registrations from ineligible individuals who have passed away or live out of state."

"I will investigate these claims thoroughly and take action against anyone attempting to undermine our elections," he vowed.

Raffensperger said earlier this week that America Votes "is sending absentee ballot applications to people at addresses where they have not lived since 1994."

Vote Forward, he said, "attempted to register a dead Alabama voter, a woman, to vote here in Georgia." He also than isolated mistakes spotlighted The New Georgia Project, "who sent voter registration applications to New York City."

ANALYSIS BY ANECDOTE Suggests, without evidence, that these incidents were part of a larger pattern of intentional fraud rather

The secretary of state also pinpointed "Operation New Voter Registration Georgia, who is telling college students in Georgia that they can change their residency to Georgia and then change it back after the election."

Raffensperger's office also has 23 investigators working on 250 open investigations into "credible claims of illegal voting" and election law violations, he said.

According to the Georgia Code, false registration, i.e. someone who registers to vote knowing that they do not possess the qualifications required by law, is a felony and can be punished by between one and 10 years in prison and/or up to a \$100,000 fine.

Raffensperger's office on Wednesday detailed several instances in which the Abrams-Warnock associated group, The New Georgia Project, have allegedly solicited voters living out of state and people who have passed away. Warnock was chairman of the group until January.

Raffensperger's office referenced one Fulton County resident who reported receiving five postcards from The New Georgia Project soliciting a registration "for the same dead person" and a Cherokee County resident who received a voter registration solicitation from The New Georgia Project for his spouse who is ineligible to vote. A third person, according to Raffensperger's office, said The New Georgia Project sent a voter registration solicitation to his daughter who is not registered to vote in Georgia and had not lived in a different state for five years, while a fourth individual reported receiving a "package of postcards" at her home in New York City from The New Georgia Project encouraging people to register to vote in the Georgia Senate runoffs.

Another effort, according to Georgia election officials, **Operation New Voter Registration GA, encouraged** Emory students to register fraudulently to vote in the Jan. 5 runoffs. A flier from the group told students that "Your current residence can be another state. You are simply changing your state of residence now; and it can be switched back for future elections (your option)."



## OMITTED **KEY FACT**

**ONE-SIDED** NARRATIVE

**Offers no comments** 

from representatives

of any of these groups, which have

categorically denied

these allegations

Any college student with a valid Georgia mailing address is a legal resident and is therefore eligible to vote in Georgia

Meanwhile, Vote Forward, a nonprofit organization, sent a letter to a longdeceased Alabama resident, encouraging her to register to vote, while America Votes, which calls itself "the coordination hub of the progressive community," sent two absentee ballot applications in one week to an individual at an address where they had not resided since July 1994.

The current balance of power for the next Senate coming out of this month's elections is 50 Republicans and 48 Democrats. That means Democrats must win both of Georgia's runoff elections to make it a 50-50 Senate. If that occurs, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris would be the tie-breaking vote, giving her party a razor-thin majority in the chamber.

In Georgia, where state law dictates a runoff if no candidate reaches 50% of the vote, GOP Sen. David Perdue narrowly missed avoiding a runoff, winning 49.75% of the vote. Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff trails by roughly 87,000 votes.

In the other race, appointed Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler captured nearly 26% of the vote in a whopping 20-candidate special election to fill the final two years of the term of former GOP Sen. Johnny Isakson. The Democratic candidate in the runoff, Rev. Raphael Warnock, won nearly 33% of the vote in the first round.

## **RED INK KEY**

- Misleading anecdote Framing of an isolated incident as representing an occurrence or trend that is more widespread than it actually is.
- Author's unattributed opinion Making unfounded assumptions about how someone mentioned in the article is feeling or thinking
- Omitted key fact Leaving out crucial contextual information
- One-sided narrative Overemphasizing one side of a two-sided story
- Biased sourcing Citing biased sources to support a biased narrative
- Twisted context Quoting someone without providing all the information necessary to understanding that person's intended message
- Outdated stats Using outdated information or statistics to argue a point—e.g., making a point about health care access using information published in 2018, which collected data from 2017.
- Biased labeling When a reporter fails to correctly label a source "liberal" or "conservative" when citing it. Or, when a reporter labels a person or group with positive or seemingly nonpartisan labels, such as "an expert" or "advocacy organization", when it is a lobbying, party or industry organization.
- Shaky statistics Mathematically incorrect sourcing of statistics—e.g., saying "10 percent increase" when they mean a "10 percentage point increase".
- Shaky statistical interpretation Using legitimate statistics, but coming to an unfounded conclusion
- Questionable anonymous sourcing Over-reliance on anonymous sourcing in an article or giving vague attribution when more specificity is required.
- Questionable statistical sourcing Citing a biased or unreliable source of statistics
- Misleading headline When the headline presents a sensationalized or otherwise inaccurate overview of what is actually written in the article