

★ 2022 ELECTIONS /
Georgia Senate

Brothers of the Seventh District

“GEORGIA’S ON OUR MIND” as we approach the Senate Run-Off!!!!

The 7th District VREM Committee in support of Georgia commits to the strategies listed below:

1. Promote “Early Voting”!!!! Early voting will begin in all counties on Monday, Nov. 28. through Sunday December 4th.
2. Brothers post an “Early Voting” narrative on social media.
3. Influence our partners, the League of Women Voters, SCLC, NAACP, D9, Ministerial Alliances, Civic and Social Groups to promote “Early Voting”
4. Encourage Black Men from the ages of 18-35 to Vote during the Run-Off.
5. Develop a mobilization campaign with community partners during Early Voting and the day of the Run-Off.
 - Partner with Local Churches to use Buses/Vans to Mobilize Voters for Early Voting and the Run-Off Election Day.
 - Partner with the League of Women Voters, SCLC, NAACP, D9, Ministerial Alliances, Civic and Social Groups for this mobilization effort.

If you do not live in Georgia:

1. Encourage (call directly) Family members and friends, who are eligible to vote in Georgia, to Vote during the Run-Off.
2. Vote during “Early Voting” preferably, but **VOTE DURING THE RUN-OFF!!!!**

Brothers with our collective efforts, we can close out the Mid Term Elections with a VICTORY in Georgia!!!

**7th District VREM Committee (AL., FL., GA., MS.)
FIETTS**



The history of Georgia's runoff election system

Today, Georgia is one of only two states — Louisiana is the second — that requires a runoff election to be held when no candidate receives a majority of the vote. In the Peach State, the top two vote-getters advance to the second election. The other 48 states have plurality, or winner-take-all, voting, in which a candidate can win with less than 50% of the vote. This election system dates back to the Jim Crow-era and was approved by the Georgia legislature in the 1960s. While legislation was introduced in the 1980s to repeal the majority-vote requirement and instead adopt a plurality system, those efforts were unsuccessful.

In 1990, the Justice Department filed a lawsuit challenging Georgia's voting requirement, marking the first statewide challenge to a majority-vote system brought by the U.S. under the Voting Rights Act. John Dunne, the assistant attorney general for civil rights, said the practice has a "demonstrably chilling effect on the ability of Blacks to become candidates for public office."

Critics of the process contended that Black candidates who won a plurality of the vote against multiple White candidates often went on to lose in runoffs, since White voters would coalesce their support behind the remaining White candidate. Dunne noted that 35 Black candidates had lost recent county elections once they reached the runoff stage, according to a New York Times story at the time.

The Times noted that one of the chief proponents of the 1964 law that established the system, state Rep. Denmark Groover, said it was intended to "prevent the Negro bloc vote from controlling the elections."

The Justice Department unsuccessfully argued in its suit that the provision was unlawfully adopted and maintained "for racially discriminatory purposes," saying it denied Black citizens an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect their chosen candidates.

At that time, Georgia was one of nine Southern states with a majority-vote requirement to win election to public office, with Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas. And today, primary runoffs are still common largely in the South, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, with 10 states requiring a candidate to garner a majority of the votes to win their primary.

How will the Georgia runoff work?

Under Georgia law, the two candidates with the highest number of votes advance to the runoff election. Warnock led Walker by more than 48,700 votes after Tuesday's election, with 99% of votes tallied. If one of the candidates who is eligible to advance withdraws, dies, or is found to be ineligible, the remaining top two vote-getters move to the runoff.

Last year, the Georgia legislature passed a voting law that, among other changes, shortened the gap between the general election and runoff from nine weeks to 28 days.

