

# Georgia insight

Sue Ella Deadwyler  
www.georgiainsight.org  
"She hath done what she could."  
Mark 14:8a  
"...and having done all ... stand."  
Ephesians 6:13c

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## Primary Run-Off Election July 24<sup>th</sup>

### State-Wide Candidates

**Governor**  
L.S. "Casey" Cagle  
Brian Kemp\*

**Lieutenant Governor**  
Geoff Duncan  
David Shafer\*

**Secretary of State**  
David Belle Isle\*  
Brad Raffensperger

### Why I Can't Vote for Raffensperger

H.B. 33, introduced in 2017 by Representative Raffensperger, prompted two critical questions:

*Will someone who is not a U.S. citizen be allowed to govern in Georgia?*

*Should U.S. citizens or Georgia citizens be governed by someone who is not a U.S. citizen?*

The answer to the first question above would have been "yes" if H.B. 33 had passed, because it (a) added a new section to three Georgia Codes – Titles 36, 45, 50 – to (b) allow non-citizens to hold public office in counties, municipal corporations and other governmental entities that make policy, spend public money, levy taxes, or assess, impose, or collect fees or charges.

H.B. 33 would have allowed non-citizens to serve in local government authorities, school districts, commissions, councils and boards. Such non-citizens are (a) U.S. *nationals* (b) *lawful permanent residents*, (c) *aliens with lawful status* in the U.S., (d) *legal residents of Georgia*, (e) *active members of the U.S. military*, and (f) *members of the soldier's immediate family*.

### Definitions

<i>Alien</i>	Someone who is <i>not a U.S. citizen</i> or a U.S. national.
<i>U.S. National</i>	Someone whose sole allegiance is to the U.S., including <i>non-U.S. citizens</i> , as well as U.S. citizens
<i>U.S. Citizen</i>	Someone born in the U.S.; a person whose parent is a U.S. citizen; a former alien naturalized as a U.S. citizen; individuals born in Puerto Rico, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands.
<i>Lawful Permanent Residents</i>	Non-citizens with legal permission to live in the U.S. permanently
<i>Legal Residents</i>	Non-citizens with legal permission to live in the U.S. for a period of time

Thankfully, after ramifications of the bill were discussed with Representative Raffensperger, he allowed H.B. 33 to die in committee without further action.

### Run-Off Election Ballots Differ

Polling places in Georgia counties opened Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> for early voting in the July 24<sup>th</sup> Primary run-off election but closed for July 4<sup>th</sup>. However, early voting resumed July 5<sup>th</sup> and ends July 20<sup>th</sup>. Ballots differ according to party and district, but each includes non-partisan candidates. Some list run-off candidates for Congress, superior court, and area-specific races. Registered voters that did not vote in the Primary or voted non-partisan *are eligible to vote*.

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\*My Picks

July 2018

## Only Republicans Have Run-Off in Three State-Wide Offices

Republicans have run-off candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and six state House districts – 19, 36, 907, 102, 105, and 141. Democrats have run-offs for U.S. House districts 6 and 7, the state school superintendent, and House districts 111 and 144.

Although Democrats selected their candidate for governor in the Primary, Republicans will choose their gubernatorial candidate – either Lt. Governor Casey Cagle or Secretary of State Brian Kemp – in the July 24<sup>th</sup> run-off.

**Republican Race for Governor:** According to data revealed in the June 29<sup>th</sup> report of an Alabama-based national research firm, the governor’s race is a dead heat for Republican candidates – 44 percent for Casey Cagle and 43 percent for Brian Kemp. Further analysis of those results showed Cagle with a three-point advantage (45 to 42) among men, but women are evenly split at 42 percent for each candidate. While Cagle leads by 15 points among voters over 70 years old, voters between age 55 and 69 favor Kemp by 10 points.

The same survey revealed that Cagle’s vote had increased 4.78 percent since the Primary, but Kemp’s was up 19.1 percent. Cagle and Kemp are within 0.4 percent of each other in the Atlanta media market, which covers 64 percent of the state, but Cagle has a strong lead of 10 percent in the state’s second biggest media market, that covers 10 percent of the state.

**Republican Race for Lieutenant Governor:** Both run-off candidates for lieutenant governor served in the Georgia General Assembly. David Shafer, first elected in a February 2002 special election, served Senate District 48 for 16 years, and is immediate past president pro tem of the Senate. Although Senator Shafer remained in the Senate, he resigned as speaker pro tem in 2017. Geoff Duncan represented House District 26 from 2012 until September 18, 2017, when he resigned to run for lieutenant governor.

**Republican Race for Secretary of State:** In the run-off, candidates for secretary of state are David Belle Isle, who was mayor of Alpharetta for the past six years, and Brad Raffensperger, who has represented District 50 in the Georgia House of Representatives since February 2015.

**Supreme Court Justices:** All nine justices on the State Supreme Court are gubernatorial appointees. Justice Robert Benham, a 1989 appointee, has seniority. After being appointed, justices who wish to remain on the Court must run as incumbents every six years. In 2016 Governor Nathan Deal made the three latest Supreme Court appointments – Michael Boggs, Nels Peterson, and Britt Grant. To qualify for the Supreme Court of Georgia, judges must be (a) residents of Georgia and (b) admitted to practice law for at least seven years.

### Non Partisan Judges

- Trial court judges (state and superior court) are elected to four-year terms in non-partisan races.
- State court judges are elected by county in non-partisan races.
- Superior<sup>1</sup> court judges are elected by judicial circuits in non-partisan races.

### Partisan Judges

- Probate court judges *are* elected in partisan races.
- Magistrate court judges *may be*, elected in partisan races.

<sup>1</sup> EXAMPLE: DeKalb County ballots include candidates for Judge of Superior Court, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit.

## Finally: Channel One Stops Daily Broadcast into Schools

*“In-school Newscast’s Cancellation Celebrated”*

– David Roach, Baptist Press, July 14, 2018

**In a 1999 resolution**, the Southern Baptist Convention outlined the unacceptable content of Channel One News with this paragraph:

“Channel One advertising includes promotion of junk foods; chat rooms and ‘Personal Ads’ message boards; movies such as Eddie Murphy’s ‘Holy Man’ and Adam Sandler’s ‘The Water Boy,’ both of which are age-inappropriate for the students who see these ads; movies with sexually suggestive content such as ‘Never Been Kissed;’ movies with ultra-violent themes such as ‘The Mummy Quest;’ television shows like Stephen King’s ‘The Shining’ and ‘Buffy the Vampire Slayer;’ sexualized magazines like *Seventeen*; and has broadcast the music of groups known for ... violent and sexually explicit lyrics such as the satanic rock band, Marilyn Manson.”

In 2000, Channel One gave Southern Baptists partial credit when it announced it would begin screening ads for PG-13 movies to determine their appropriateness for high school audiences.

“In-school Newscast’s Cancellation Celebrated” was a July 14, 2018 article recounting the end of 28 years of broadcasting youth-specific news and commercials into public schools. The 12-minute segment was comprised of ten minutes of news and two minutes of commercials.

**The project’s goal** became obvious when former Channel One President Joel Babbitt bragged, “The advertiser gets kids who cannot go to the bathroom, who cannot change the station, who cannot listen to their mother yell in the background, who cannot be playing with Nintendo.” Meaning, Channel One took advantage of the captive-audience status of children in school. By 1990 that captive audience included about 40 percent of all 11- to 18-year-old students who were watching the ten-minute version of news Channel One created solely for young people to view in school classrooms, plus two minutes of commercial advertisements.

**Channel One News agreed** to provide the programming and all required technology including a 19-inch television set installed and maintained in classrooms for each 23 students. Also included were a TV set for a “Monitor,” a satellite dish, and other technological necessities.

**Schools agreed** to show Channel One News and commercials in class 180 days per school year, specifically, on days the largest number of schools are open nationwide. The entire daily newscast was shown students in grades six and above when students were present and seated in a homeroom or classroom, but not before school, after school or during lunch. Schools were required to provide at least one designated equipment operator at all times

Because of opposition<sup>1</sup> to Channel One, a U.S. Senate Education Subcommittee hearing was arranged by Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), who said, “We cannot afford to waste a minute, let alone five full class days per year on educationally insignificant infomercial television. ... I believe [children] need a greater dose of reading, writing and arithmetic. Moving away from traditional studies is not preparing our children to compete. In fact, it’s causing them to fail dangerously behind.”

<sup>1</sup> Opposition to Channel One: The Mississippi Christian Action Commission, Consumers Union, National PTA, National Education Association, Eagle Forum; Action for Children’s Television, American Association of School Administrators, New York State Board of Regents, Council of Chief State School Officers, American Family Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the National Association of State Boards of Education.

## Supreme Court Okays Gerrymandering

*Legislators elected in November will take office for two-year terms in January 2019 and will serve through 2020. Those elected and reelected in 2020 will draw new district lines in 2021.*

Since the constitution does not mandate straight district lines and the census was implemented to provide equal representation for voters, creative maneuvering was used to outline district boundaries. By 1812 district lines were so erratic that the word “gerrymandering” was coined to describe Massachusetts districts that were drawn to defeat the Federalist Party. Those boundaries were so crooked they were compared to a salamander, which is a mythical lizard. “Gerrymandering” combines the Honorable Mr. Gerry’s name with the last two syllables in the word “salamander.” The finishing touch was adding “ing,” and a new word was born.

*The court decided Georgia’s lines for the 2000 census.* Georgia’s 2001 new district maps were not finalized until 2004, although then-Governor Roy Barnes convened two special sessions in 2001 to get it done. The legislature convened and did the work, but Barnes rejected the maps. Three lawsuits filed during those years were thrown out on February 10, 2004. Then, the court appointed a redistricting committee, which was ordered to produce new maps by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Those maps won federal approval at the end of March, just in time for the 2004 elections.

**Why is this important?** (a) Last month, on June 18<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 9 – 0 ruling sidestepped the gerrymandering issue and let current maps stand. (b) The party in power in the governor’s office and the General Assembly at census time will dominate reapportionment. (c) That party *can, and probably will*, draw lines to improve their chance of winning elections. (d) Therefore, with reapportionment on the horizon, conservatives must win every election!

## Supreme Court Upholds Life and Speech

On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Supreme Court overruled a California law that (a) forced medically licensed pro-life centers to post, in a conspicuous place in their waiting rooms, signs in 22-inch font or distribute forms advertising that the state offers free or low-cost abortions. (b) Also, the law required pro-life centers dedicated to ending abortion to put a phone number on that sign to refer women to abortion centers, such as Planned Parenthood.

(c) The law forced religious pro-life centers that are not medically licensed by the state, to post in waiting rooms and advertisements a disclaimer, in up to 13 different languages, that they are not a medical facility. (d) Penalties for non-compliance were \$500 fines for the first violation and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

During the hearing, Justice Kennedy asked, “What would happen if an unlicensed entity, unlicensed center, just had a billboard that said ‘Choose Life.’ Would they have to make the disclosure?” The answer was “yes.” That center would have to post a disclaimer on that billboard, in the same size font as “Choose Life,” in up to 13 different languages, which would completely drown out the pro-life message. The bottom line: The California law mandated compelled speech, which is unconstitutional.

Alliance Defending Freedom won the case for pro-life centers, when the Supreme Court, by a 5 to 4 vote, upheld two constitutional rights – the right to life and the freedom of speech. New York, Texas, and Maryland have invalidated laws similar to California’s law, but Hawaii and Illinois currently have such statutes on their books.

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