
Power Of One Vote Evident in Georgia Run-Off

Less than one vote per precinct decided the Republican gubernatorial candidate.

If you are tempted to think your vote doesn't count, consider the enormous value of each of the 579,031 ballots cast August 10th, when 6/7th of a vote per precinct made Deal the candidate.

Deal & Barnes, Candidates for Governor: Which Reflects Your Values? Abortion

Nathan Deal has voted consistently to *protect* human life from its earliest stages; to *stop* interstate transport of minors to get abortions; *make it a crime* to harm an unborn fetus during the commission of a crime; to *ban partial-birth abortion* except to save the mother's life; and to *forbid human cloning* for reproduction and medical research. (Source: Congressional Votes)

Roy Barnes aligned his human life position with that of the National Governors Association whose stance on abortion was based on the Equal Rights Amendment that would have removed all barriers to abortion if it had passed. Proof: The New Mexico State Supreme Court ruled in 1998 that the State ERA requires funding for abortion. (Source: OnTheIssues.org)

Civil Rights

Nathan Deal voted to constitutionally define marriage as between one man and one woman; ban same-sex marriage; ban gay adoptions in D.C.; prohibit flag desecration; protect the Pledge of Allegiance; and end preferential treatment by race in college enrollment.

Roy Barnes adopted the National Governors Association stance on civil rights as embodied in the Equal Rights Amendment, that was never ratified. However, ERA is *not* about civil rights. It's about sex. *ERA deems males and females to be the same* physically, emotionally and psychologically. ERA requires males and females to be *treated identically in all situations*.

Immigration

Nathan Deal voted FOR building a fence along the Mexican border, FOR preventing tip-offs to Mexicans about the Minuteman Project and FOR reporting illegal aliens who receive hospital treatment. He voted AGAINST extending immigrant residency rules and AGAINST additional skilled worker visas. He co-sponsored a bill requiring government services in English only and co-sponsored another bill declaring English as the official language of the U.S.

Roy Barnes adopted as his immigration position the National Governors Association policy on legal and illegal aliens. That position would have the states and federal government share in the cost of *legal* immigration. For *illegal aliens*, it would have allowed deportation without prisoner consent and prohibited reentry into the U.S. Those caught reentering the U.S. would serve the balance of their original sentence. It would require consideration of economic incentives for countries to take back their criminal citizens; would place INS officials in state and local facilities for early ID of deportable aliens, upon the governor's consent; and install a farm labor plan based on the farm worker agreement between Canada and Mexico.

Five Proposed Constitutional Amendments on the November Ballot

The following questions will appear on the November 2 ballot as they are numbered here. Following the question is the number of the bill that authorized it and my brief analysis.

1. *Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to make Georgia more economically competitive by authorizing legislation to uphold reasonable competitive agreements?*

[Authorized by H.R. 178 to modify Article III, Section VI, Paragraph V of the Constitution that, currently, does *not* allow the General Assembly to authorize contracts or agreements that could lessen or defeat competition. This would modify that by empowering the General Assembly to allow judges to (a) enforce contracts or agreements that restrict or regulate competition in six categories of entities or individuals and (b) limit the duration, geographic area, and scope of prohibited competitive activities to (c) determine whether they are reasonable.]

My comment: Competition is the bedrock of a free market and capitalism drives the U.S. economy. The definition of “reasonable” can vary from judge to judge.

My question: Why should judges be authorized to squelch competition by deciding who competes?
➤ **VOTE NO.**



2. *Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to impose an annual \$10.00 trauma charge on certain passenger motor vehicles in this state for the purpose of funding trauma care?*

[Authorized by S.R. 277 to require an added \$10.00 annual charge on each passenger vehicle – pickup truck, motorcycle, sport utility vehicle and passenger van – that’s registered in Georgia. There is no exemption for antique cars or show cars that are seldom, if ever, driven. The \$10.00 added tax would be collected on them, as well as on the passenger vehicle driven by the owner. Those who refuse to pay the new tax will not be issued tags or decals.]

My comment: This does not exempt seldom-used vehicles, such as antique vehicles and show cars, although their owners can drive only one vehicle at a time, while others sit in storage.

My question: Why should owners of multiple vehicles have to pay more trauma tax than others pay?
➤ **VOTE NO.**



3. *Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to allow the Georgia Department of Transportation to enter into multiyear construction agreements without requiring appropriations in the current fiscal year for the total amount of payments that would be due under the entire agreement so as to reduce long-term construction costs paid by the state?*

[Authorized by S.R. 821, this provides the Department of Transportation new power over its budget. DOT and other agencies are funded by appropriations from the General Assembly.]

My comment: This gives a 13-member board control over the DOT budget. DOT board members are not elected by the voters, but by legislators in their congressional district. Result: less voter influence over the money used for DOT projects.

My question: Should voters transfer DOT budgetary decisions from 236 legislators to 13 officials?
➤ **VOTE NO.**

Proposed Constitutional Amendments (continued)

4. *Shall the Constitution be amended so as to provide for guaranteed cost savings for the state by authorizing a state entity to enter into multiyear contracts which obligate state funds for energy efficiency or conservation improvement projects?*

[This question was authorized by S.R. 1231. It would give new power to state government agencies, departments and other state entities to enter ten-year contracts that could be terminated if funds were insufficient.]

My comment: This plan could bring massive debt to Georgia.

My question: How can energy providers or contractors guarantee cost savings during volatile times?
➤ **VOTE NO.**



5. *Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to allow the owners of real property located in industrial areas to remove the property from the industrial area?*

[This affects only Jeff Davis County and Chatham County by providing the same constitutional privilege now enjoyed by other counties and islands. If this passes, owners of property in industrial areas in Jeff Davis and Chatham counties could choose to remove their property from the industrial area, as now occurs in other areas throughout the state. Also, when a removal certificate is filed in these counties, the property would be irrevocably annexed into the city providing water services, or if none, into the city providing fire services.]

My comment: Past constitutional amendments that exempted islands from industrial property restrictions did not allow exemptions for these two counties. This would rectify that situation.

My question: Shouldn't these counties have the same authority now enjoyed by other counties?
➤ **VOTE YES.**



One Question As State-Wide Referendum

Shall the Act be approved which grants an exemption from state ad valorem taxation for inventory of a business?

[Authorized by H.B. 482, and if approved by a majority of voters, would exempt from state ad valorem taxes all tangible personal property constituting the inventory of a business. Business inventory is now taxed annually. Result: inventory left from previous years is taxed again.]

My comment: This would benefit businesses by allowing them to reduce costs for inventory and/or supplies by buying in bulk, possibly sufficient for years, instead of weeks or months.

My question: In these global economic conditions, shouldn't tax breaks be provided businesses?
➤ **VOTE YES.**



Vote Wisely on the Questions

Constitutional amendments are extremely important, since they change the foundation of State government. State laws can be and are passed, annually. Then, committees write rules, policies and regulations to define them. But constitutional amendments require a two-thirds vote by 236 legislators and a majority vote in even-numbered-year General Elections. Therefore, proposed amendments should be carefully studied, then passed or rejected, based on their cultural effect.

Party Platforms Reflect Philosophy of Candidates

Abortion

Republican Party

“The unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to unborn children... oppose using public revenues for abortion and will not fund organizations which advocate it... oppose school-based clinics that provide referrals, counseling, and related services for contraception and abortion.”

Democrat Party

“The Democratic Party stands behind the right of every woman to choose, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, and regardless of ability to pay... will appoint justices to the Supreme Court who have a demonstrated concern for and commitment to the individual rights protected by our Constitution, including the right to privacy... support contraceptive research, family planning, comprehensive family life education....”

Family Values

Republican Party

“We further believe that legal recognition and the accompanying benefits afforded couples should be preserved for that unique and special union of one man and one woman, which has historically been called marriage.”

Democrat Party

“We support full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of our nation and seek equal responsibilities, benefits, and protections for these families.”

Right to Bear Arms

Republican Party

“We defend the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, and we affirm the individual responsibility to safely use and store firearms.”

Democrat Party

“...need to keep guns away from those who shouldn’t have them...need mandatory child safety locks...”

English As Common Language

Republican Party

“...English empowers. That is why fluency in English must be the goal of bilingual education programs. We support the recognition of English as the nation’s common language.”

Democrat Party

“We oppose language-based discrimination in all its forms, including in the provision of education services, and encourage so-called English-plus initiatives...”