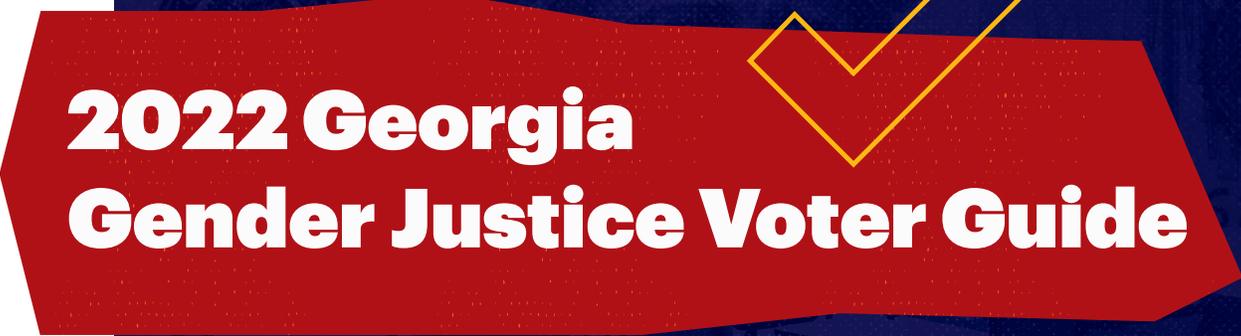




NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
LAW CENTER  
ACTION FUND



**2022 Georgia  
Gender Justice Voter Guide**

## **We are at a crucial point in our democracy.**

The approaching 2022 midterm elections are shaping up to be some of the most consequential for gender justice.

## **To meet the moment, 9to5 Action Fund and the National Women’s Law Center Action Fund are teaming up.**

Since our last midterm election, we have seen our democracy pushed to the brink: a devastating Supreme Court term featuring an extremist majority handpicked to steal our guaranteed freedoms; insurrectionists, and their sympathizers, who continue to hold office while failing to deliver economic relief to everyday households and families; and dangerous politicians across states who have rolled back voting rights, silenced communities by unfairly redrawing district lines, banned books, endangered LGBTQ+ students, restricted access to critical care including abortion and contraception, and dismissed the pressing concerns of

parents afraid for their children’s safety in the face of rising gun violence. And now, extremist Georgia lawmakers have enacted one of the most regressive abortion bans in the country, as well as some of the most draconian voter suppression laws.

## **But Georgians are poised to overcome. It is time that our country and our elected officials show up for us. Our fundamental rights are at stake, but with our collective power, we can change things.**

Women and gender justice activists have a track record of organizing and action, and there is no time when we have needed it more. **We delivered Georgia in 2020—and we can do it again.** Activate your family, friends, and community members and **make certain that everyone exercises their vote.**



# REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM & HEALTH EQUITY

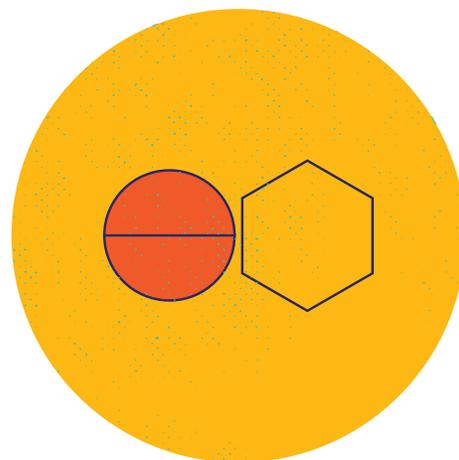
Abortion is an essential part of reproductive health care. Meaningful access to abortion is also fundamental to pregnant people’s liberty, equality, and economic security. One in four women will need an abortion in her lifetime. Everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, should have access to abortion when they need it in their communities without stigma, shame, or barriers.

But abortion access is in an unprecedented crisis moment because, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court callously took away our federal constitutional right to abortion—a right that has been fundamental to our society for nearly 50 years. The impact of overturning our right to abortion has been immediate: within days of the decision, multiple states enacted total bans on abortion, and anti-abortion extremist lawmakers in other states proposed laws to criminalize those who provide abortions, those who seek them, and anyone who helps another person obtain one as well as restrict travel to access abortion care. Since June, 17 million women and counting have lost access to abortion. Nearly half of states have or are expected to ban abortion.

Banning abortion will ultimately mean that some people will not be able access abortion care and will be forced to carry their pregnancies to term. There will be lifelong consequences for them and their families. Denying a pregnant person an abortion creates economic hardship and

insecurity as well as health consequences that lasts for years. These impacts will be felt most by women of color, those who have low incomes, and people who already face challenges in accessing health care—the people who often lack job security and paid leave. This is especially key for Georgians. Georgia has one of the highest maternal mortality rates—and it is only getting worse—especially for Black women. It has never been more critical that lawmakers act boldly and swiftly to guarantee reproductive freedom.

Georgia’s women and all pregnant people, especially those of color, need elected leaders who work to address systemic poverty, expand and protect access to abortion care and contraception, and safeguard high-quality care before, during, and after pregnancy.

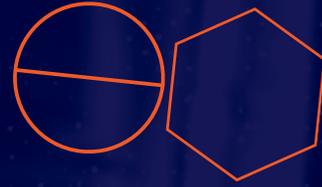


## Policies candidates & lawmakers should support:

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- Guarantee the right to reproductive freedom, which includes the right to make and carry out decisions without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, abortion, prenatal care, and childbirth, in-state and nationwide.
- Ensure that everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, has access to health care—including abortion care, contraceptives, and maternal health care—that is free from stigma, barriers, and restrictions, when they need it, in their communities.
- Make sure quality low- or no-cost pregnancy supports are culturally competent and accessible for all—including protections and supports, like doula access, that promote the health outcomes of Georgia’s pregnant people, especially Black women.





## Questions to ask candidates:

- ❑ Given the Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and extremist politicians' will to further ban abortion, how have you—or how will you—work to create and expand access to abortion?
- ❑ Will you commit to protecting pregnant people and those who help them, including abortion providers, abortion funds, and others?
- ❑ What will you do to guarantee our policies and budgets ensure affordable and available reproductive health care, including birth control, abortion care, and pre- and postpartum care?
- ❑ How have you advocated for women and pregnant people in Georgia? Will you commit to advancing policies and programs that improve the health outcomes of Georgia's women and pregnant people, especially Black women, without undermining access to other reproductive health care?
- ❑ What are you doing to learn about what is happening in Georgia for people who are seeking reproductive health care and those who are trying to support them? How are you making sure their needs are being reflected in the policies you support?

# FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

We need an economy and tax system that works for everyday women and families—where working people are paid sustainable wages, where everyone can make ends meet in safety and with dignity, and where communities have the resources to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination and harassment. Unfortunately, our current tax code concentrates wealth in the hands of the privileged few while perpetuating racial and gender wealth gaps and depriving our communities of revenues that could be put toward public investments that benefit us all.

If politicians unrig our economy by ensuring that corporations and the very wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, we will have more to invest in people-powered prosperity, including access to quality child care, paid leave for all Georgians, better infrastructure, enforcement of anti-harassment and anti-discrimination protections, and other policies that center women and families.

Politicians and lawmakers need to prioritize policies that provide Georgia's women and families with the supports they need to thrive. We need gender economic justice for Georgia's working women.

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## Policies candidates & lawmakers should support:

- Make millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share of taxes.
- Help families with the rising cost of child care by investing in high-quality, affordable child care.
- Establish universal paid family and medical leave.
- Protect women, especially women of color, and all workers from discrimination and harassment in the workplace.
- Pay workers fairly, including ensuring equal pay for all and raising the minimum wage to at least \$15/hour for all working people.

## Questions to ask candidates:

- Governor Kemp recently changed Georgia's income tax to a flat tax so that the wealthy end up paying less. How will you ensure that corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes?
- Have you developed policy, advocated for programs or investments, or passed laws that help families meet their needs, including finding and affording the high cost of quality child care? Please be specific. How do your plans support the workforce that provides this care?
- Have you advocated for the passage of comprehensive paid family and medical leave for all? Will you commit to ensuring that all working people have access to paid time off to care for themselves and loved ones?
- Have you advocated for and/or passed legislation that strengthens anti-discrimination protections, including protections against harassment and pay discrimination? How will you specifically address the especially large race and gender pay gaps for Black women, Indigenous women, and other women of color?
- People working to support their families should be able to make ends meet, including paying for housing, health care, child care, transportation, and other basic needs. Have you advocated for raising the minimum wage to one fair wage of at least \$15 per hour for all workers before tips, including youth, workers with disabilities, and others? How will you ensure that anyone who works gets paid at least \$15 an hour, before tips?



# SAFE & HEALTHY SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS

In every school in Georgia, all students—of every race, gender, disability, and identity—should be able to learn with safety, dignity, and equality. In every school, educators should collaborate with students and families to build healthy environments rich with opportunity, imagination, and belonging. Instead, extremist politicians in the state have passed bills to ban books, prevent schools from teaching the complicated history of race and gender in this country, push out educators, exclude and police students of color, and shame and endanger LGBTQI+ students. Instead of creating safe and educational spaces for our children, some radical politicians in Atlanta have weaponized schools to

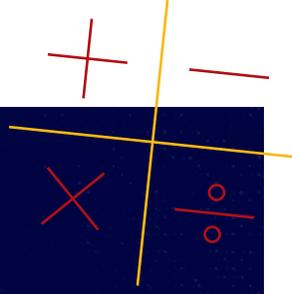
exert control and further discrimination. These extremists are pushing unpopular policies that exploit divisions and restrict our freedoms so they can take and hold on to power and money. And at the same time, these politicians are refusing to take critical action to keep students safe from harassment and gun violence in schools.

Politicians and lawmakers should prioritize protecting every student against discrimination and harassment and ensure that schools have the supports they need to help students grow, thrive, and live full, dignified lives.

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## Policies candidates & lawmakers should support:

- Support students' ability to learn and be themselves by keeping them safe from discrimination and harassment in school.
- Oppose efforts to fuel divisions in our communities and reject efforts to vilify and exclude transgender students.
- Oppose censorship of schools' ability to teach truth, including about race and gender and how they have been used to divide us.
- Safeguard students' ability to live full, dignified lives free from gun violence without compromising their access to quality classroom time.
- Oppose school disciplinary policies that disproportionately push students of color and disabled students into the school-to-prison pipeline.



## Questions to ask candidates:

- ❑ How will you ensure that all students and their families, especially students of color, disabled students, and LGBTQI+ students, feel safe and able to thrive within their school communities? What policies or programs have you advanced or supported to protect and meet the needs of LGBTQI+ students, disabled students, and students of color?
- ❑ How will you work to ensure that transgender students are cared for and validated as they learn and play in their school communities?
- ❑ How will you work to ensure that Black, Indigenous, and other students of color, including girls of color, are protected from harmful and racist disciplinary practices that rob them of quality classroom time and opportunities?
- ❑ How will you champion educators' and students' freedom to teach, learn, and think critically about our nation's history and current events?
- ❑ How will you ensure that all students—particularly girls of color, disabled students, and LGBTQI+ students—can learn in spaces free from sexual harassment? And how will you hold perpetrators accountable for their actions?
- ❑ How will you ensure that schools are free from gun violence without instituting measures that push students into the school-to-prison pipeline?

# VOTING RIGHTS & FAIR COURTS FOR ALL

For our communities, it's nearly impossible to build and maintain structural power if we don't participate in the political process. Due to years of gerrymandering, partisan gridlock, and the sharp increase in extremist conservative activism in the courts, our democracy is increasingly of, by, and for the wealthy and the few. To fix this, Georgia voters must demand that our democratic systems are legitimate, that voter registration and participation are accessible to all, that elected leaders are accountable to the majority, and that voters have real impact on how our communities are governed. We can accomplish this by electing leaders who are committed to passing laws that will ensure everyone has equal access to register to vote, cast a ballot, and then have that ballot counted fairly. Georgia needs lawmakers who will promote the integrity of our elections instead of cheating the system

by picking and choosing whose votes matter and when.

And it isn't just lawmakers we need to keep accountable—it's judges too. We elect the president and senators who appoint and confirm federal judges and justices for lifetime seats on the courts, which are meant to equitably protect fundamental civil and constitutional rights. Georgia voters can use the power of our votes to reshape our courts so that our judges and justices support equal rights under the law for all, especially for women, families, and people of color.

Georgia's lawmakers must prioritize strengthening our democratic infrastructure and our courts to create a level playing field, restore fundamental protections and civil rights, and prevent future threats to our democratic systems.

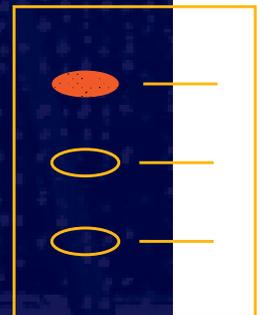
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## Policies candidates & lawmakers should support:

- **Protect and expand access to the ballot and restore the Voting Rights Act.**
- **Ensure all voters have equal access to the ballot box and their votes are counted fairly, including expanded early voting days, language access protections for Limited English Proficient (LEP) voters, and a district map that empowers all voters.**
- **Reshape the makeup of the federal judiciary by working with the U.S. Senate and the White House to support the nomination and confirmation of judges with a strong record of supporting gender and racial justice issues and who affirmatively declare they will uphold equality, opportunity for all, and the freedom to make personal decisions about our bodies and relationships.**

## Questions to ask candidates:

- Will you commit to actively supporting the full restoration of the Voting Rights Act?
- What state policies will you support to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to register to vote, cast a ballot, and have that ballot counted fairly? Will you commit to increasing funding and supports for impacted communities, particularly communities of color and immigrant communities?
- Have you recommended candidates to the White House and/or supported judicial nominees with a strong record on civil rights and gender justice? If not (because you are not an incumbent), will you commit to recommending and supporting judicial nominees with a strong record on civil rights and gender justice?
- How will you ensure that you recommend candidates for federal judgeships who are committed to equality, freedom, opportunity for all, and the right to make personal decisions about our bodies and relationships?



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