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From: Lauren Groh-Wargo, Campaign Manager

To: Interested Parties

Re: Georgia 2022 Primary to Date, Key Takeaways

Date: May 22, 2022

Early in-person voting has concluded in Georgia for the May 24 primary. Despite Democrats not having a competitive primary for Governor or US Senate, primary election turnout for this election has been quite high. While it is important to remember that primaries are very different from general elections, and that primary election turnout is not determinative for general election outcomes, by looking at the people who are turning out in each party's primary, we can learn about the coalition each party is building heading into the general election.

- 1. Democrats are on track to break records.** In 2018, 555,089 voters turned out in the Georgia midterm Democratic primary, the most to date. Voting thus far in the 2022 Democratic primary has exceeded the pace of the 2018 record. Roughly 370,000 Democrats voted early in person or by mail in this Democratic primary, which is more than double those who voted early in person or by mail in the 2018 Democratic primary. By the time Election Day votes and remaining mail ballots are counted, Democrats will have demonstrated an unmistakable interest and enthusiasm in this election that flies in the face of doom-and-gloom narratives.
- 2. Those “crossover” Democratic voters are voting Democratic in November.** In addition to the 370,000 Democrats who have already cast ballots in the Democratic primary, we have identified nearly 35,000 voters who we expect to vote for the Democratic ticket in November but who cast Republican ballots for the primary. Media outlets have sought out these “crossover” voters – and every one of them has said they will vote Blue in November. Thus, of the 860,000 Georgia voters who have cast ballots in the May 24 primary (Democratic, Republican, nonpartisan), roughly 400,000, or about 46.5 percent, are Democrats, while about 455,000, or 52.9 percent, are Republicans. This is a remarkably close margin considering Georgia Republicans, unlike Georgia Democrats, have competitive top-of-ticket races garnering outsized media attention and in which millions of dollars are being spent to turn out voters for the primary specifically.
- 3. Democrats are bringing in new people to the political process** without expending the resources normally required to do so. More than 160,000 Georgians, or 45 percent of total Democratic primary turnout to date, who have voted in the Democratic primary so far did not vote in the 2018 primary election. About 42,000 Democrats, or over 11 percent of Democratic primary voters to date, who have already cast their ballots in the primary did not vote in the 2018 general election. Stacey Abrams came up less than 55,000 votes short of victory in 2018; the 42,000 new Democratic midterm voters account for more than three-quarters of that gap, and these voters have been motivated to come forward on their own prior to Georgia Democratic organizing operations taking off in earnest.

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GOVERNOR

4. **Democrats are drawing support from an incredibly diverse coalition of voters that looks like Georgia.** More than 100,000 Black voters who didn't vote in the 2018 primary – when Stacey Abrams had a primary opponent – have turned out this year. Democrats have also already added more than 40,000 new white voters and have doubled the number of AAPI and Latino voters that voted early in this Democratic primary compared to the respective turnout for each group in the 2018 Democratic primary. In contrast, 96 percent of Republicans with race listed on the voter file are white. National narrative assertions that voters of color are not motivated to support Democrats this year or that the GOP is making significant inroads among voters of color are strongly refuted by primary turnout data.
5. **“High turnout means SB 202 caused no harm” narratives are false, illogical, and self-serving.** Some on the Republican side have attempted to spin a narrative that Senate Bill 202 has been validated because turnout is high. However, modern-day voter suppression and voter turnout are not correlated. Further, we've barely scratched the surface on the impacts of SB 202, yet already we know that mail ballot rejection rates are higher than they were in previous elections. It is shameful that Brian Kemp and others who brought us this anti-voter law would manipulate what should be cause for celebration for all – high voter turnout – and use democratic participation as a means to justify erecting barriers to that participation.
6. **Democrats are on track to win in November.** Despite our lack of competitive primary elections at the top of the ballot and despite making only modest investments of time and resources to mobilize voters, Democrats are on pace to hit an all-time high for midterm primary turnout. To do this, Democrats have drawn support from a diverse group of Georgians that are non-traditional primary voters. In the coming months, Democrats will continue to build on the successes of the primary and of preceding elections by engaging voters all over the state, meeting people where they are, and spreading our message and vision for One Georgia. Our coalition will keep growing, and we will mobilize our majority in this state to win in November.