To: Interested Parties  
From: Sean McElwee and Dawn Milam  
Re: From Voting Rights to Clean Energy, Georgia Voters Favor Democratic Policy Priorities in Senate Runoff  
Date: 12/8/20

With control of the United States Senate hanging in the balance, new polling from Data for Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute shows that a bipartisan majority of Georgia voters are more likely to support Senate candidates who embrace Democratic policy priorities on a broad range of issues, including health care, clean energy, voting rights, and direct stimulus payments.

The polling also shows that Democratic voters are more motivated than Republicans by policy positions. Across the board, far more Republicans responded that a candidate’s position would not affect their decision: On each issue, a quarter to a third of Republican voters said a candidate’s position would not make them more or less likely to support the candidate. Conversely, on all but clean energy (where 20% were neutral), only 12-14% of Democrats said a candidate’s position would not affect their support.

On January 5, 2021, Georgia will hold a decisive runoff election for both its seats in the U.S. Senate, and the outcome will determine which party controls the chamber. Early in-person voting begins on December 14.

**Findings**

In a statewide poll, Data for Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute asked Georgia voters about specific policy items on President-elect Joe Biden’s agenda. For each issue, respondents were asked whether they were more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supported that issue.

- 50% of respondents said they were more likely to vote for a candidate supporting investing in clean energy technology to curb the impact of climate change and create good paying jobs. Only 27% said they would be less likely to support a candidate with this position, with 23% saying it would not affect their decision.

**President-elect Joe Biden's policy agenda includes many items that will likely require a Democratic Senate majority if they are to become law. For each of the issues listed below, if a candidate were to support them, would you be more or less likely to vote for them?**
Investing in clean energy technology to curb the impact of climate change and create good paying jobs.

- 61% of respondents, including 72% of Democrats and 51% of Republicans, said they were more likely to vote for a candidate who supported passing another round of stimulus, including direct payments to most Americans. Only 19% of respondents said they were less likely to vote for a candidate who supported this position.

Passing another round of stimulus, including sending direct stimulus payments to most Americans.
- 61% said they favored a candidate who endorsed making coronavirus-related medical care and doctor visits free, with just 20% opposed and 19% neutral.

Making coronavirus-related medical care and doctor visits free.
• 53% of respondents, including 72% of Democrats, 45% of Independents, and 37% of Republicans said they were more likely to support a candidate who favored passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to increase voting rights and access. 20% of all voters and 28% of Republicans said that it would not affect their choice.

Passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would restore federal oversight of many elections, make voting easier and more accessible, and protect equal voting rights for all Americans.
• 49% favored, with 22% neutral and only 29% opposed, the position that officials should appoint judges with experience representing vulnerable or marginalized people, like public defenders and civil rights lawyers, as opposed to prosecutors or corporate lawyers.

**Appointing judges who have backgrounds representing vulnerable and marginalized people, like public defenders or civil rights lawyers, as opposed to prosecutors or corporate lawyers, who typically represent the wealthy and powerful.**

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<th>MUCH MORE LIKELY</th>
<th>SOMewhat MORE LIKELY</th>
<th>WOULDN'T AFFECT MY CHOICE</th>
<th>SOMewhat LESS LIKELY</th>
<th>MUCH LESS LIKELY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topline</strong></td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Democrat</strong></td>
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<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Republican</strong></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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**Takeaways**

• Even on issues at or below 50% support, the net support (those supporting compared to those opposed or neutral) indicates that candidates fare better with voters by embracing these positions.

• Covid response is a critical issue for Black and African American voters, with 70% more likely to vote for a candidate who endorses free coronavirus-related medical care, and 66% more likely to vote for a candidate who supports additional stimulus, including direct payments.

• Covid response is also a core issue for voters under age 50, with 70% of voters ages 30-49 supporting free coronavirus-related medical treatment. 74% of voters ages 18-29 favored a candidate who endorsed additional stimulus, as did 61% of voters ages 30-39 and 74% of voters ages 40-49.
Methodology
From November 23 to December 1, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 777 likely voters in Georgia using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ±3.5 percentage points.