

# The KEMP MEANS BUSINESS Plan



SAFE Elections.



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*Secure, Accessible, Fair Elections.*

## **A GUARDIAN OF OUR ELECTIONS**

The foundation of our democracy, of our entire way of life, is the election process. At the ballot box, our voices are heard every year. Change from one political party to another can happen at any time and without bloodshed or chaos.

The reason we have the strongest democracy on earth is because we have faith in our elections. Even the side that loses an election can walk away knowing they had a fair shot to be heard.

Some argue that voter fraud does not exist or that the occasional indiscretions by different interest groups or rogue campaign workers are not a big deal. Who cares if some petitions are forged? Who cares if some absentee ballots are fraudulent? What is the problem if a small group of non-citizens vote?

They make excuses and trivialize these violations usually to advance their own political agenda, but what they are actually doing is undermining our entire way of life.

It only takes one thrown election. It only takes a small handful of fraudulent votes to tip a close election. It just takes that one time...before people lose faith.

When citizens no longer believe their voice is fairly heard and when voters no longer believe their vote is fairly recorded, our common faith in our government and our civic institutions breaks down.

This is not some hypothetical, philosophical, political theory. It is a reality found every day in countries around the world.

The outcome of failed elections and lost faith is violence and chaos.

As Secretary of State I will do all that is possible to ensure the absolute integrity of our elections process. To anyone, Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal, who seeks to undermine that process and rig the results, I have a simple response.

Not on my watch.

As your Secretary of State, I will promote citizen involvement, encourage voter registration, and stand as the vigilant guardian of a fair, impartial, non partisan elections process.

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# The Kemp SAFE Plan for Secure, Accessible, Fair Elections

## **NON PARTISAN IMPROVE GEORGIA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

As Secretary of State, I will convene a non-partisan Improve Georgia Elections Commission comprised of Republicans, Democrats, independents, members of the Judiciary, local and state office holders, election experts and local elections superintendents.

The Commission will hold a series of town hall style meetings across the state to solicit ideas to improve voter access, expand early voting, improve voter registration efforts and better accommodate third parties.

The Commission will then create a non-partisan package of legislative proposals to make the elections process more transparent and accessible for citizens and candidates. Once drafted and approved, Brian Kemp will propose these changes to the Governor and General Assembly and work for their passage.

## **STREAMLINE CANDIDATE FILINGS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY & REDUCE COSTS**

Working with local elected officials, the State Ethics Commission, and the General Assembly, Kemp will propose requiring all candidate filings be submitted online to one source. Consolidating reporting and requiring electronic submission will make campaign compliance easier and remove a significant burden from county governments and local taxpayers. This effort will reduce service duplication, improve transparency and accessibility

to the general public, and save tax dollars by reducing overall government bureaucracy.

## **UPGRADE VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASES**

Currently, Secretary Handel is pursuing a comprehensive upgrade of the databases that maintain our voter registration records. These databases ensure voters receive the proper ballot when they vote and also allow campaigns to contact voters directly. Handel's efforts are the first step to fully integrating statewide databases to create the most accurate voter rolls possible from removing felons and citizens who have died to accurately transferring registrations when voters move. Kemp will continue Secretary Handel's efforts and work to ensure our voter registration lists are accurate and efficiently maintained as we move forward.

## **INSURING THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTRONIC VOTING**

One of the most sensitive topics concerning elections today is the process of electronic voting and the lack of any verifiable "paper" trail to ensure the integrity of the voting machines.

Kemp supports transitioning to a consistent, statewide system that allows for some form of paper verification of votes; however this must be done in a fiscally responsible manner. The federal government paid for the current electronic voting machines at a cost of tens of millions of dollars. Any transition to a new system must have federal government funding or must be done in a manner the state can afford within the current budget.

The non-partisan Improve Georgia Elections Commission will review all the reasonable alternatives and propose the best course of action to the General Assembly.

Kemp will also continue the wide range of election security efforts, some of which are highly

confidential, that Secretary Handel has put in place to safeguard the elections process from surprise security checks at polling locations to ongoing security testing of voting machines.

### **PREVENT ABSENTEE BALLOT FRAUD**

The area of Georgia elections most ripe for voter fraud is the absentee ballot process. Currently, it is a felony to commit voter fraud with absentee ballots. As Secretary of State, Kemp will aggressively enforce this law.

Kemp will also propose new efforts to ensure the integrity of absentee balloting. Currently, any voter who votes in person at a polling location must show a valid ID to vote.

To help prevent absentee ballot fraud, Kemp will propose new legislation requiring a copy of a valid, official ID be submitted with all absentee ballots.

### **GA ELECTIONS SCORE CARD**

To promote public awareness of election reforms and to encourage additional efforts with state and local leaders, Secretary Kemp will create a Georgia Elections Score Card with objective criteria to measure our success in improving the elections process in Georgia. After each election, the Elections Division staff will create the scorecard based on objective criteria. The scorecard will then be presented to the General Assembly and the public both online and in public appearances across the state.

### **ENCOURAGE EARLY VOTING**

Brian Kemp is a strong proponent of the early voting process. As part of the Improve Georgia Elections Commission, Kemp will develop proposals to expand early voting locations and encourage early voting participation. Improving the voter registration databases is key to these efforts to prevent duplicate voting and ensure accurate ballots for voters at early voting locations.

### **PROMOTING VOTER REGISTRATION**

As Secretary of State, Kemp will personally promote voter registration drives. Kemp will identify low registration demographic groups and focus registration efforts toward them. He will also personally encourage election participation among younger voters to help promote lifelong voting habits.

### **DEFEND COMMON SENSE VOTER ID EFFORTS FROM PARTISAN ATTACK**

Secretary of State Brian Kemp will not back down to Democrat or Republican attempts to water down common sense efforts to protect the integrity of the voting process. Requiring a valid, government issued ID to vote and proof of citizenship to register to vote are reasonable and common sense approaches to election security. Despite efforts by a partisan and out of control Justice Department, Brian Kemp believes Georgia's Secretary of State can and should implement a fair, reasonable, impartial process to verify the validity of voter registrations that appear suspect. Kemp will work with election experts to devise a common sense, impartial system and will vigorously defend it, with legal action if necessary, against partisan attacks.

### **PERSONAL VOTING ASSISTANCE FOR ELDERLY AND LOW INCOME VOTERS**

Once elected, Brian Kemp will install a dedicated phone line in the Secretary of State's office and promote that number to elderly and low income voters who need help voting. Kemp will cross reference the voter registration roles with DDS records to find voters who do not have a drivers license and then personally contact them to see if they need a state issued ID card. If they need assistance with securing a state issued ID card, Kemp will personally help them obtain one and provide them with any information they need to vote.

## **OPPOSING DRIVERS LICENSES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

Because a drivers license is the primary form of ID for most activities in Georgia, including voting, Brian Kemp will continue his strong opposition to allowing illegal immigrants to obtain a drivers license in Georgia.

## **ESTABLISH OFFICIAL VOTER FRAUD WEBSITE & HOTLINE**

As part of his campaign, Brian Kemp has established StopVoterFraud.us and 877.55U.VOTE to help citizens report suspicious election activities or voter fraud. Once elected, Kemp will establish an official website and hotline telephone number to allow citizens to report voter fraud or suspicious activity directly to an official in the Secretary of State's office. Notices with information on these sites and numbers will be posted in every voter

registration office and voting location.

## **PROMOTE ONLINE VOTING FOR OVERSEAS MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Since Georgia has a runoff election in close proximity to our primary and general elections, military personnel stationed overseas often end up disenfranchised. In the time it takes to request, print and mail an absentee ballot overseas, the election is often times already over.

As Secretary of State, Brian Kemp will work with Department of Defense officials to establish secure online voting for military personnel overseas. Using secure military communications networks, we can and we will ensure that Georgians protecting our freedoms overseas have their right to vote honored at home.

