

High school students could decide the Senate election (and our future).

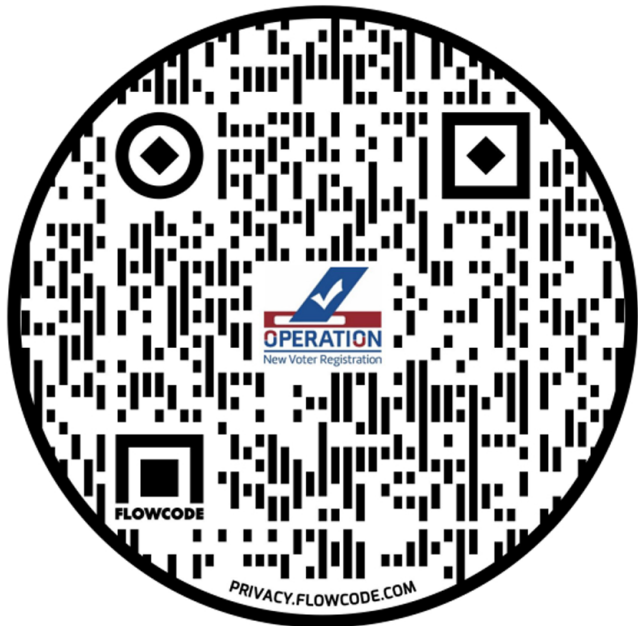
## Here's what you need to know:

- ✓ Students who will be 18 by Jan. 5 can register to vote in the Jan. 5 GA Senate election
- ✓ Dec 7 is the deadline
  - [Register HERE](#) if you have a driver's license
  - If you don't have a driver's license, go to [this link](#) for instructions.
- ✓ You can vote early starting on Dec. 14, or vote on Jan. 5 (or download an absentee ballot [here](#) and email, mail or deliver it to your county (after you've [confirmed](#) you're registered)

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# Georgia's Jan. 5 Senate Runoff Races Will Decide if the US Senate is Controlled By Democrats or Republicans



Kelly Loeffler  
**Republican**

Raphael Warnock  
**Democrat**

Who Will Fill  
These Last  
Two Open  
Senate Seats  
???????????



David Perdue  
**Republican**

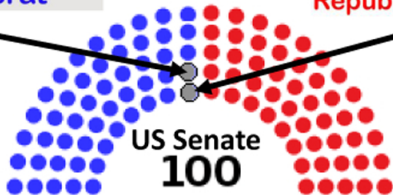
Versus



Jon Ossoff  
**Democrat**

Special, interim 2 year term as prior Georgia Senator, Johnny Isakson, left position early due to health reasons

Normal 6 year term as David Perdue up for re-election



US Senate  
**100**

Currently 50 Seats Republican, 48 Seats Democratic: If either filled with Republicans, then Senate **Republican** Controlled

If both filled with Democrats, then Senate **Democratic** Controlled as 50-50 tie and Vice President is the tie-breaker, **Kamala Harris**

## Overview of Voting Rights in the United States: For Decades Not Everyone Allowed: Page 1

**“Don’t Overlook This Vital Opportunity; It’s Your Responsibility to Vote and Have Your Voice Heard”**

- **1789:** U.S. Constitution originally signed into law in Philadelphia
- **1790:** Constitution grants states the power to set voting rights. Generally, states limited right to property-owning or tax-paying white males that only accounted for about 6% of population

### Minorities (non-white men) and Non-Property Owners Ability to Vote

- **1870:** Fifteenth Amendment prohibited states from denying citizens voting rights based on race.

However Southern states began tactics to suppress black and poor white voters through local/state laws and discrimination tactics including:

- poll taxes** that poor people couldn’t afford
- literacy tests** with bias/untruthful grading along with exemptions for property owners

### Women’s Ability to Vote

- **1869-1920:** Some states allow women to vote, Wyoming being the first in 1869. Susan B. Anthony was a leading advocate for women’s voting rights (suffrage).
- **1920:** Women guaranteed the right to vote by the Seventeenth Amendment; however, many poor and non-white women also hindered/suppressed by tactics mentioned above under minorities.

Source: Ballotpedia, Federal Judicial Center, Google Docs, Wikipedia



## Overview of Voting Rights in the United States: For Decades Not Everyone Allowed: Page 2

- **1957:** Civil Rights Act passed enforcing 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment guaranteeing Blacks the right to vote.
- **1965-1966:** Voting Rights Act spearheaded by President Johnson requiring states with history of racism to “preclear” voting laws with federal officials before taking effect. For example, in 1965 only 5% of Black Mississippians voted. Two years later it had increased to 60%.
- **1972:** Voting Age dropped from 21 to 18 years of age.
- **2010:** States begin (Vermont) allowing 17 yr-olds to vote in primary if they turn 18 before the election

### Controversial State Laws that Exist Today that can be “Viewed As Voter Suppression”:

- Purging Voter Records: Registered mail is sent to voters often in “selected areas”. If the mail is returned “undeliverable” then these voters (without their knowledge) are deleted from list. When these people show up to vote, they are denied.
- Strict Voter Identification requirement of a government-issued photo ID when voting in person
- Limiting Early Voting: Eligibility limited to needing a “reason”, and limited time period

**“Don’t Overlook This Vital Opportunity; It’s Your Responsibility to Vote and Have Your Voice Heard”**