



March 31, 2020

The Honorable Brad Raffensperger
Secretary of State
214 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Secretary Raffensperger:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding your current plans to hold the 2020 General Primary and Presidential Preference Primary on May 19th. We encourage you to use all available flexibility and legal authority to delay the primary to the latest possible date in order to ensure the health and safety of Georgians.

As you know, Governor Kemp has declared a State of Emergency for the entire state of Georgia in response to the ongoing dangers of COVID-19. Additionally, President Trump granted Georgia's request for a Major Disaster Declaration on March 29th and on the same day encouraged all Americans to follow The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America until at least April 30th.

If the election were to be held on May 19th, the legally mandated early voting period would be required to begin on April 27th in direct contradiction to the CDC's recommendations that all Americans avoid large gatherings. As you yourself have said, the average poll worker in Georgia is over the age of 70, a group that medical experts have indicated is especially vulnerable to this virus. Moving forward with an election date that requires early voting to begin during a time when every public health agency has stated that "if you are an older person, stay home and away from other people" is irresponsible. Keeping the status quo unnecessarily exposes Georgia's poll workers to dangerous health risks and creates the possibility of severely understaffed voting locations if those poll workers follow the guidance of federal, state, and local authorities.


We are also concerned about the potential cost to the state and to local entities. If the state moves ahead with the schedule as you have laid it out only to be forced to delay it again, costs incurred would be irrecoverable, forcing Georgia and local counties to spend unnecessary resources at a time of great budget uncertainty. Additionally, if an infected person does decide to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right to vote, local governments, libraries, schools, community centers, and other facilities that regularly serve as polling places would be exposed to expensive sanitization costs. Furthermore, some of the facilities used as voting locations may

not be open at all given the various actions local governments have taken to combat the spread of this disease.

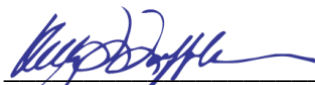
The right to vote is a fundamental right that should be guaranteed to each and every eligible Georgia citizen. Georgia voters should not be asked to choose between exercising that right and following the guidance of federal, state, and local officials to keep themselves, their families, and our communities healthy. In light of those points, we ask that you delay the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary and General Primary to the latest date possible in order to ensure the safety of Georgia voters and the poll workers that make elections possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to ensuring all Georgia elections are conducted in a fair and open manner.

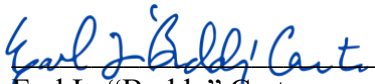
Sincerely,




David Perdue
United States Senator




Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator



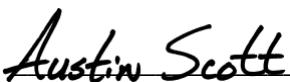
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



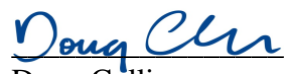
A. Drew Ferguson IV, DMD
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



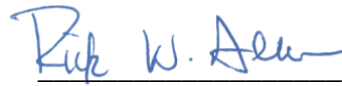
Doug Collins
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Tom Graves
Member of Congress