

GA Primary Voters Pick Scandal Laden Candidates

ATLANTA, GA – Georgia gubernatorial candidates who won the 2018 Primary and Runoff elections were the most scandal burdened of any in the field according to **independent watchdog groups** and news sources. Democratic voters selected House Minority Leader [Stacey Abrams](#) over Stacey Evans while Republican voters selected Secretary of State (SoS) [Brian Kemp](#) over a half dozen other candidates. Abrams and Kemp join Libertarian [Ted Metz](#) in the November General Election.

During the May primary, William Perry, founder of [Georgia Ethics Watchdogs](#), posted a [report](#) citing **ten separate ethical deficiencies** that plague Stacey Abrams. His report is based on complaints and evidence his organization filed including various supporting news sources. Perry, the former Director of Common Cause Georgia, included allegations that Abrams:

- Reimbursed herself \$84,000 in un-itemized expenses from her campaign
- Used campaign resources to sell her book for personal profits
- Paid herself \$427,000 for two years of part time voter registration work
- Loaned her campaign \$50,000 while still owing the IRS \$54,000 in taxes
- Has \$13,000 in four business liens for unpaid unemployment contributions

Also during the May primary, Brian Kemp was the subject of [criminal complaints](#) filed by [VoterGA](#) members for several potential **violations of Georgia law** during his SoS tenure. News sources identified more integrity issues and now Kemp is faced with his own list of ten ethical failings. The list includes assertions that he:

- Illegally added promotional ballot language to a 2012 transportation tax referendum (TSPLOST) in an attempt to get the TSPLOST passed
- Illegally used the SOS web site for campaign purposes
- Was criminally negligent in allowing Georgia's election data to be exposed on the internet, failing to ascertain who may have hacked into the data, not ensuring the data was backed up and permitting it to be destroyed
- Reneged on his part of a \$700,000 personal loan guarantee for which he is now being sued
- Accepted \$300,000 in illegal donations that he was forced to return
- Was named in a State Senator's request for a federal investigation into his failure to take action in 25 of 26 sexual molestation cases against massage parlors he regulates including one owned by a campaign fundraiser

VoterGA consolidated a [list](#) of ethical failures and evidence on both candidates.