



STATE NAVIGATE POLL BRIEFING

GEORGIA

2026 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

Governor: Keisha Lance Bottoms (D) vs. Rick Jackson (R) · Lt. Governor: Josh McLaurin (D) vs. Greg Dolezal (R)
Plus the State House generic ballot · Statewide likely-voter survey

AT A GLANCE



ELECTION DATE

November 4, 2026



FIELD DATES

July 10–13, 2026



EARLY VOTING BEGINS

July 28, 2026



MARGIN OF ERROR

± 4.6%

n = 448 likely voters · Georgia · Weighted by party ID, age, gender, race, education, race by education, and region

METHODOLOGY

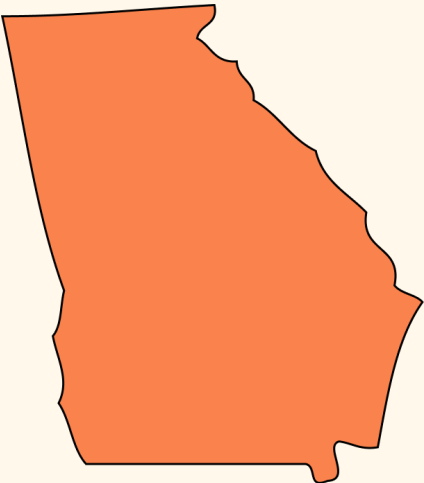
This survey was fielded from July 10–13, 2026, among 448 likely voters across the state of Georgia. Respondents were contacted via a text-to-web methodology and completed an online survey designed by the State Navigate Polling Team. Results were weighted by party identification, age, gender, race, education, race by education, and region, with benchmarks derived from the voter file and prior election results. The margin of error is ±4.6% at a 95% confidence level. This survey was conducted by State Navigate, a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization, and was not sponsored by any party, candidate, or candidate's committee.

STATE DNA • GEORGIA (LV)



STATE OF GEORGIA

16 electoral votes • ~7.4 million registered voters • A premier 2026 battleground



WHERE A FEW VOTES MATTER

~57%

of Georgia voters will decide the state's top offices this November.

RECENT ELECTION RESULTS

2024 President (Trump +2.2)



2022 Governor (Kemp +7.5)

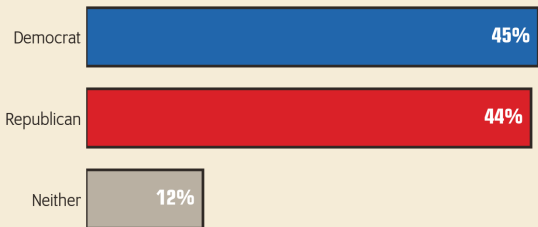


2022 U.S. Senate — General (Warnock +0.9)

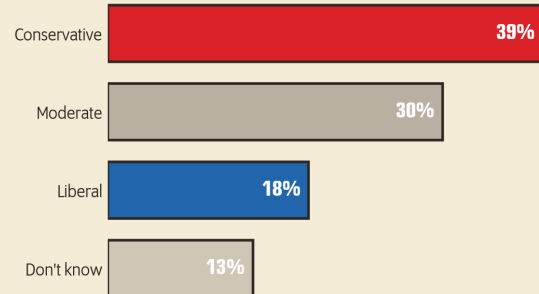


STATE DNA • SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS (LV)

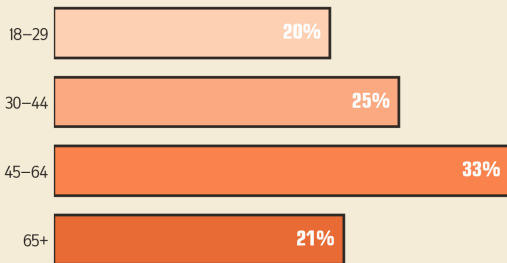
PARTY IDENTIFICATION



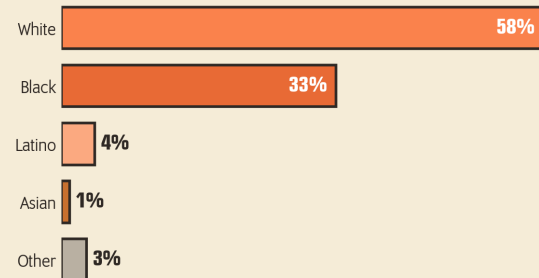
IDEOLOGICAL SELF-ID



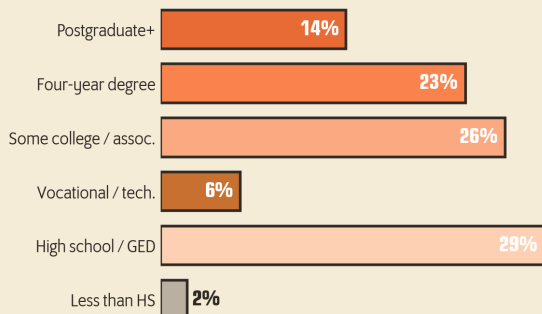
AGE



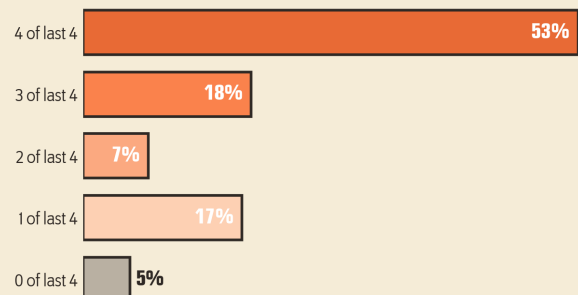
RACE / ETHNICITY



EDUCATION



VOTING HISTORY (LAST 4 GENERALS)

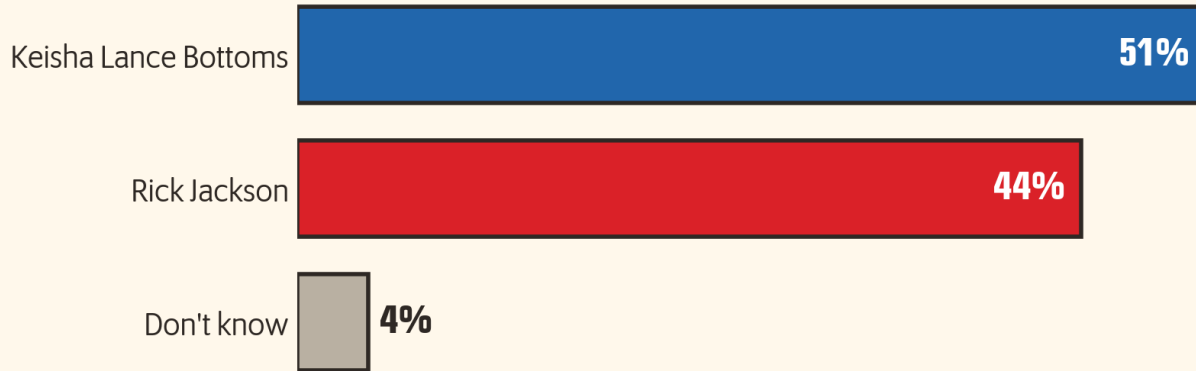




THE SNAPSHOT • GOVERNOR

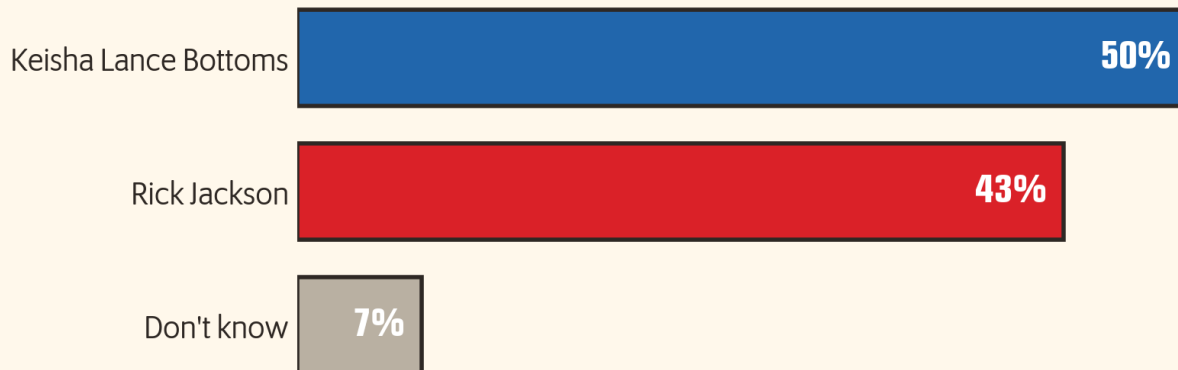
THE HORSERACE • WITH LEANERS

The Horserace (with leaners)



NO LEANER PUSH

No Leaner Push



Keisha Lance Bottoms (D) leads Rick Jackson (R) 51%–44% with leaners, with just 4% undecided. Bottoms, the former Atlanta mayor, holds a durable mid-single-digit edge over Jackson, the self-funding healthcare businessman.

GOOGLE SEARCH RETEST • GOVERNOR

This diagram traces how individual respondents moved between their initial ballot and their ballot after seeing each candidate's top Google search results. The initial (before) results appear on the previous page; percentages are weighted.

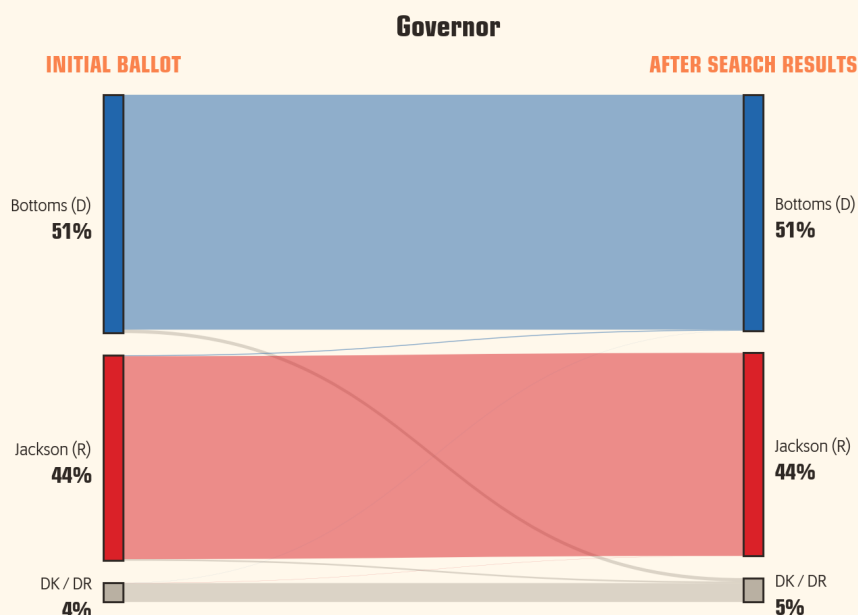
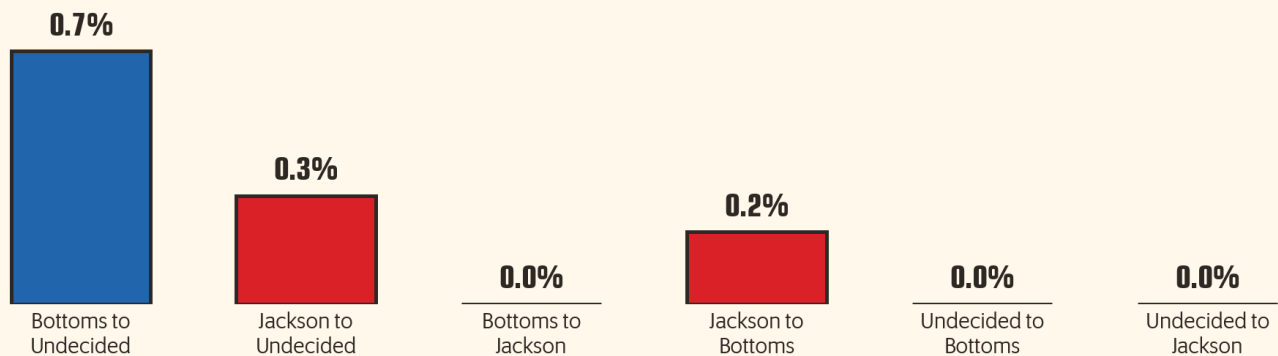
BALLOT AFTER SEARCH RESULTS

Ballot After Search Results



HOW VOTERS MOVED • % OF ALL VOTERS

How Voters Moved



The Governor ballot barely moves after the retest. The undecided pool ticks up about a point; cross-defections between the two candidates are negligible. Voters' impressions were largely locked in before they saw the search results.



THE SNAPSHOT • LT. GOVERNOR

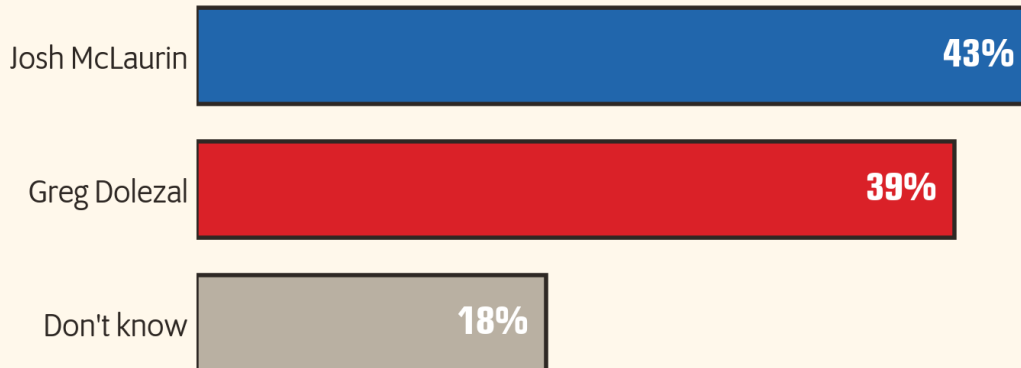
THE HORSERACE • WITH LEANERS

The Horserace (with leaners)



NO LEANER PUSH

No Leaner Push

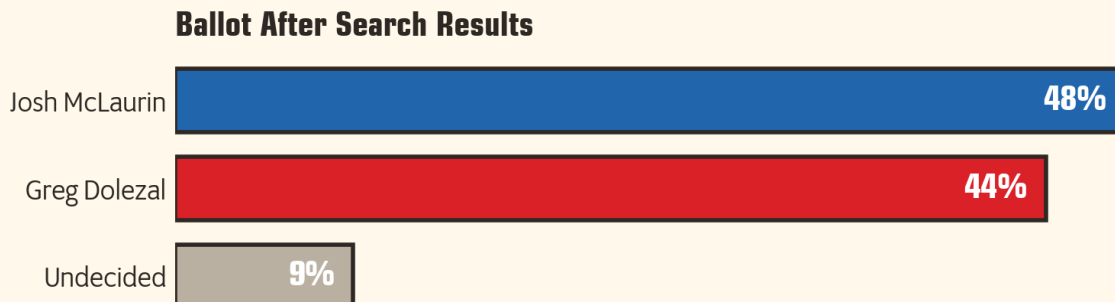


Josh McLaurin (D) leads Greg Dolezal (R) 48%–44% with leaners, with 9% undecided. This down-ballot contest is closer and less defined than the top of the ticket — nearly one in five voters is undecided on the no-leaner ballot, leaving real room to move.

GOOGLE SEARCH RETEST • LT. GOVERNOR

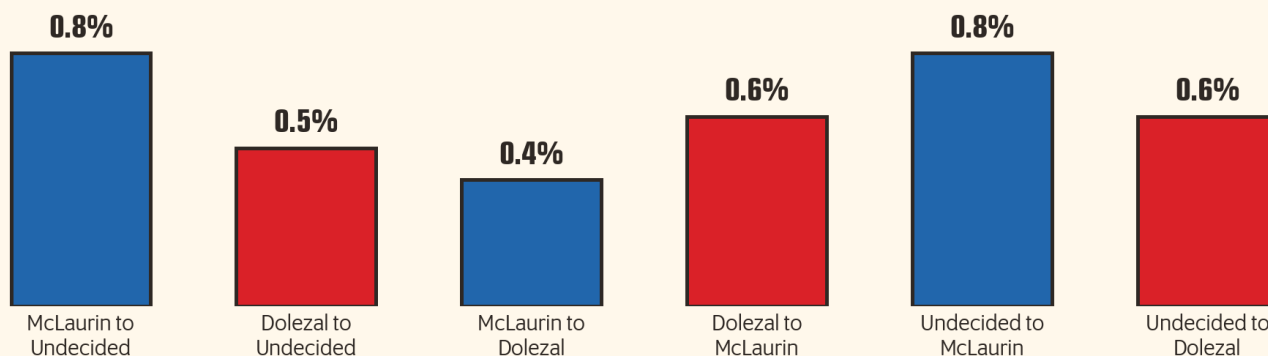
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BALLOT AFTER SEARCH RESULTS

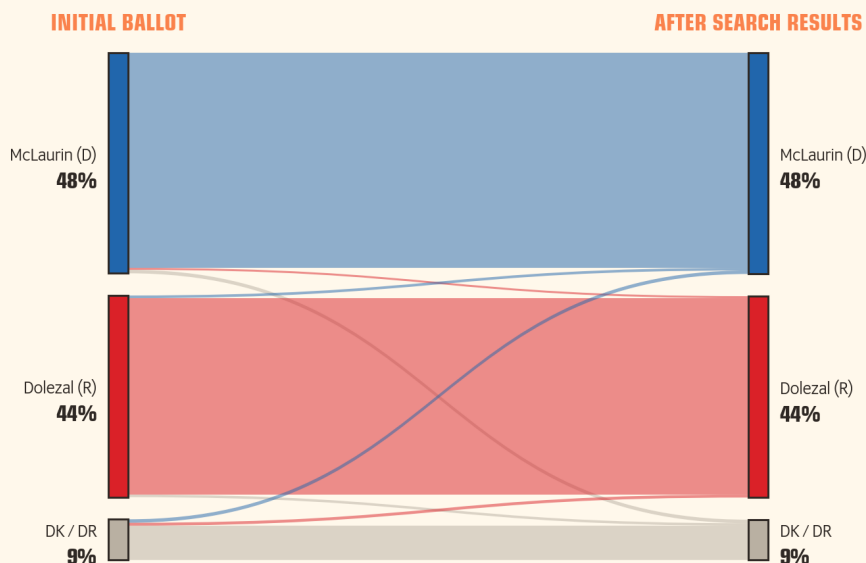


HOW VOTERS MOVED • % OF ALL VOTERS

How Voters Moved



Lieutenant Governor



The Lt. Governor ballot is also stable, with small, mostly offsetting moves in and out of the undecided pool and near-zero net change between the two candidates.



THE SNAPSHOT • STATE HOUSE

THE GENERIC BALLOT • WITH LEANERS

The Horserace (with leaners)



NO LEANER PUSH

No Leaner Push

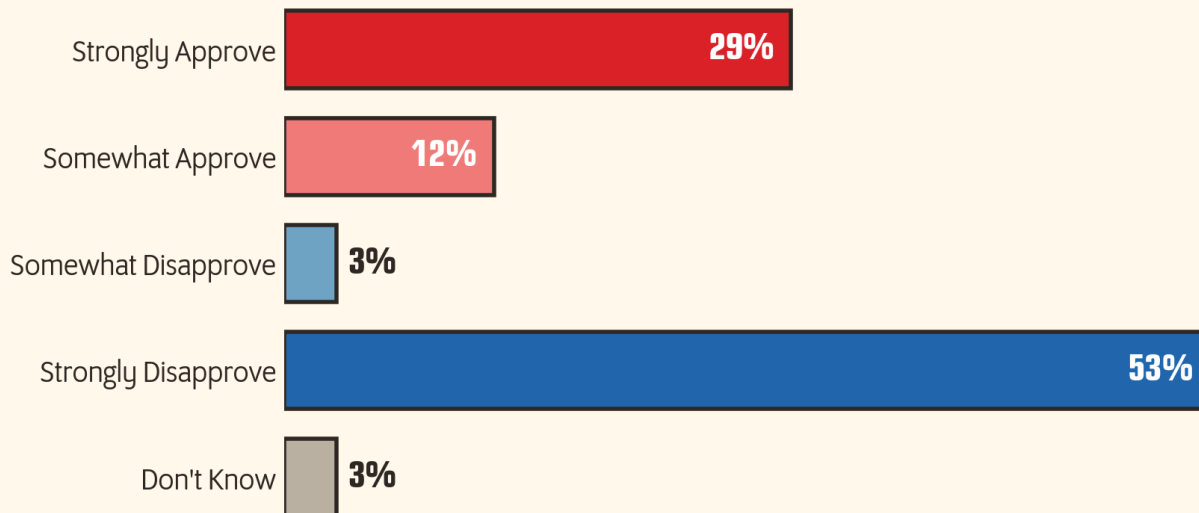


Democrats lead the State House generic ballot 51%–43% with leaners. The generic-ballot margin runs slightly ahead of the top-of-ticket races, though Georgia's district lines mean a statewide generic-ballot edge does not translate directly into seats.

ON THE ISSUES

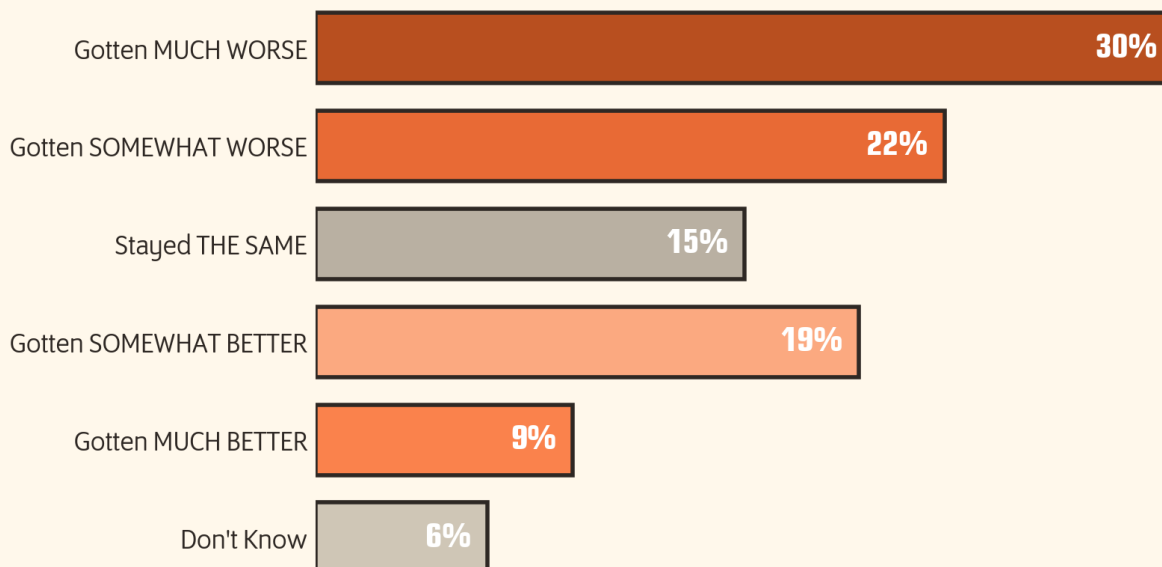
PRESIDENTIAL JOB APPROVAL

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?



THE STATE OF GEORGIA'S ECONOMY

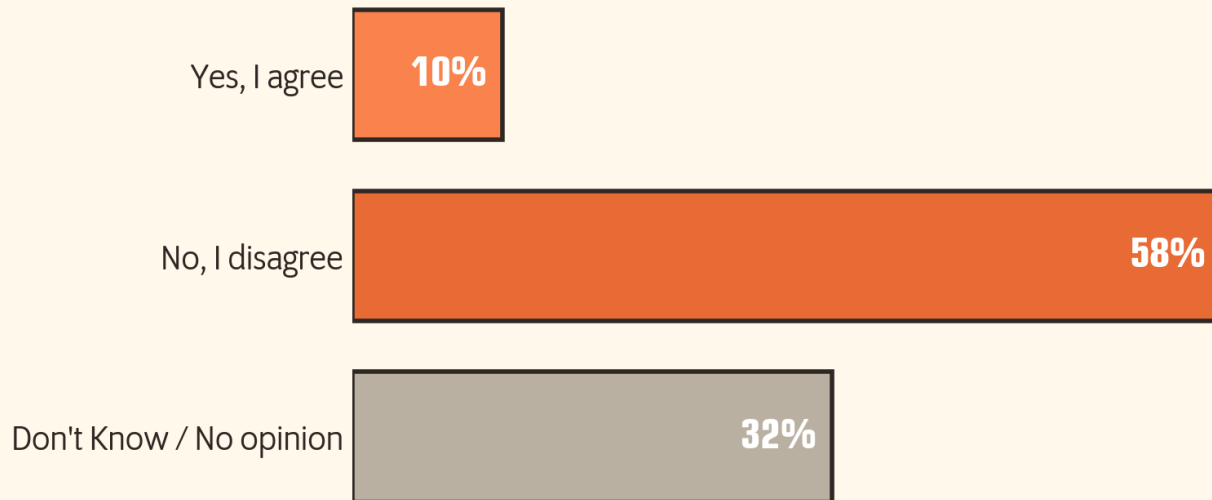
Would you say that over the past year, Georgia's economy has...



ON THE ISSUES

DIVIDED GOVERNMENT

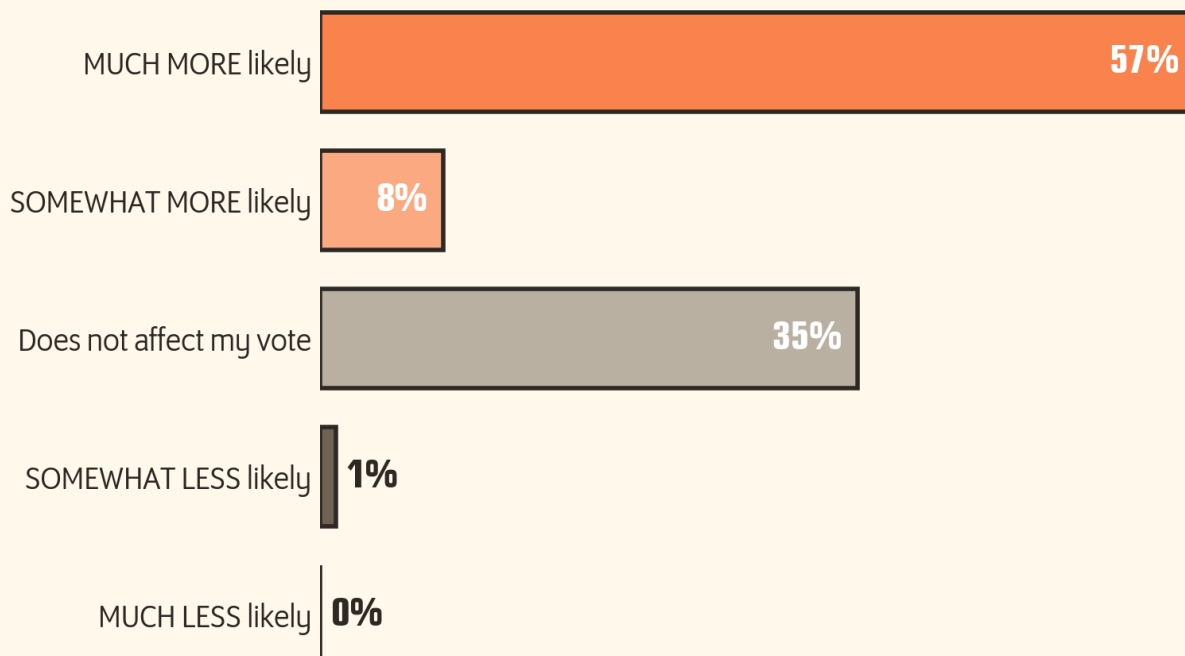
Do you agree: “I prefer when one political party controls the governorship and the other controls the state legislature.”



A majority (58%) reject deliberately splitting control; only 10% prefer divided government.

GEORGIA HOUSE FORECAST & TURNOUT

In the Georgia House of Representatives, Republicans hold a 55% majority of seats. Republicans have a 75% chance of holding their majority and a 25% chance of losing it in the upcoming November election. Knowing this, are you more or less likely to vote?





TEAM NOTES & ANALYSIS

The following analysis from the State Navigate polling team examines the survey's regional patterns, its likely-voter universe, and how the weighting choices shape the top-line results.

MARY RADCLIFFE • ON THE LIKELY-VOTER UNIVERSE

Less-frequent voters break toward Bottoms.

As we saw in our Virginia polling last year, less frequent voters appear to be more likely to be supporting Bottoms than those that go to the polls for every election. Among voters who have participated in all 4 of the most recent 4 general elections (just over half the sample), Bottoms leads by 2 percentage points, with just 2% undecided. Among all other voters, Bottoms leads by 12 percentage points, with a larger share (8%) undecided. In our final Virginia survey last year, voters who had voted in fewer than 4 of the last 5 general elections supported Spanberger by 16 percentage points, while those who had voted in 4 or 5 of the 5 elections gave her a 12 point lead.

MARY RADCLIFFE • ON THE 2024 RECALLED BALLOT

The recalled 2024 ballot leans bluer than the likely electorate.

The 2024 recalled ballot in our survey is Harris +6, about 8 percentage points bluer than the actual 2024 electorate. This is perhaps a bit optimistic for Democrats in Georgia, a state where, for the most part, the last 4 general elections have been decided by less than 3 percentage points. However, it's not surprising that the 2026 likely voter universe is more Democratic than the 2024 electorate; in Virginia's 2025 gubernatorial election, exit polls show voters' 2024 recalled ballot at Harris +9, compared to the actual 2024 election results of Harris +6.

MARY RADCLIFFE • ON A RECALL-WEIGHTED STRESS TEST

Even on a tougher electorate, Democrats stay ahead.

To double check that the recalled 2024 ballot wasn't driving the results of our poll too much, we ran an experiment. We replaced our weight on party identification with a 2024 recalled ballot weight reflecting a similar 3-point swing as we saw in Virginia last year, forcing a Harris +1 electorate. Under this new weighting scheme, Bottoms leads by 4 percentage points, McLaurin by 3, and a generic Democrat for the state legislature by 5: slightly less rosy than the actual poll results, but still a decent single-point lead for Democrats across all races.

MICHAEL FOLEY • ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE RACE

Bottoms' lead is concentrated in metro Atlanta and Macon-Columbus.

Bottoms leads in Inner Atlanta (Fulton and DeKalb Counties), Suburban Atlanta and the combined Macon-Columbus TV markets. Jackson leads in the rest of the state. When looking at the area code of the respondents' phone, the same regional patterns generally persist. Those without a Georgia area code - transplants - are much more likely to be undecided. Bottoms leads 49-43%, with 9% undecided among transplants, compared to 4% undecided statewide.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE • ON TIMING & NONRESPONSE BIAS

Fielding this early likely inflates the Democratic lead.

This is the furthest from an election that State Navigate has conducted a poll: we're still over 100 days from Election Day in Georgia and around the country. As such, while we had few undecided voters, we did have difficulty reaching rural white voters who skew Republican. This is a common occurrence in the Summer of each election year, where Democrats typically have an inflated lead due to nonresponse bias from non-college, rural voters that skew Republican who don't want to be bothered answering a poll before it's even Labor Day.

TEAM NOTES & ANALYSIS

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE · ON THE STATE HOUSE GENERIC BALLOT

The State House generic is Democrats' strongest result.

The best result for Democrats in our poll is easily the generic ballot for the Georgia House of Representatives. If the popular vote reflected our November survey, Democrats would likely capture a narrow majority in the Georgia House, marking the first time in a quarter-century that Democrats have won the chamber. The Georgia House may be more in play than our forecast for the chamber suggests.

NICHOLAS GOEDERT · ON REPUBLICAN ELECTORAL DIFFICULTIES FOR 2026

Republicans lack a clear mathematical path to a 2026 majority.

Republicans will have a difficult time finding a mathematical path to winning majorities in the top statewide elections in Georgia this year, and potentially the popular vote in the Georgia House. Across the board, Democrats have a slightly higher percentage of voters who say they're definitely voting Democratic than those who say they're definitely voting Republican; there's not much "soft" support for Republicans to peel off – to add insult to injury, 53% of voters strongly disapprove of President Trump, including 64% of Independents (12% of the electorate in our survey). The percentage of voters favoring a split ticket for Georgia's state government is surprisingly low, suggesting that only a small proportion of voters would intentionally split their vote, and thus that a strong lead for Bottoms is more likely to translate into Democratic victories down-ballot.

KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS — GOOGLE TOP RESULTS

RICK JACKSON — GOOGLE TOP RESULTS

S★R STATE NAVIGATE · GEORGIA 2026 STATEWIDE POLL

APPENDIX • GOOGLE RESULTS (LT. GOVERNOR)

After taking the standard ballot, respondents were shown the top Google search results for each candidate (reproduced below) and then asked the ballot question again. The before/after retest results are on the Google Search Retest pages.

JOSH MCLAURIN — GOOGLE TOP RESULTS

Google "Josh McLaurin" "Georgia" "Lieutenant Governor"

Josh McLaurin
Member of the Georgia State Senate

Overview
Joshua Ivan McLaurin is a member of the Georgia State Senate in the state of Georgia. McLaurin represents the 14th district in the state Senate, a seat once held by 39th president of the United States Jimmy Carter. [Wikipedia](#)

Birth January 17, 1988 (age 38 years), Georgia
Education Yale University, University of...
Party Democratic Party
Office Member of the Georgia State Senate
Candidate for 2026 Lieutenant Governor of Georgia general election
Previous campaigns 2024 Georgia State Senate election - See more
Previous office Georgia State Representative (2019–2023)

Profiles
Facebook Instagram LinkedIn YouTube

People also search for
Nathalia Parkes Jason Estaves Derrick Jackson Greg Dolezal

Latest posts from Josh McLaurin

Facebook · WYFF News 4 · 4 reactions · 4 weeks ago
Josh McLaurin wins Democratic nomination for lieutenant...
Josh McLaurin wins Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor in Georgia. [FULL ELECTION RESULTS](#)

Georgia Recorder · 2 days ago · 1 comment
Georgia Lieutenant Governor (Democratic) | Voter Guide
Georgia Lieutenant Governor (Democratic). Term Length: 4 years, Salary: ... Josh McLaurin of Sandy Springs will face Nathalia Parkes, a consultant and... [Read more](#)

Atlanta News First · 1 day ago
Josh McLaurin wins Democratic lieutenant governor's runoff
Jun 16, 2025 — Josh McLaurin defeated former state senator Nathalia Parkes on Tuesday to win the Democratic runoff for lieutenant governor. Georgia's lieutenant... [Read more](#)

WABE · 1 day ago
McLaurin, Dolezal to face off in Georgia lieutenant...
Jun 16, 2025 — Democratic Georgia state Sen. Josh McLaurin will face Republican state Sen. Greg Dolezal in the race for Georgia's next lieutenant governor. [Read more](#)

Ballotpedia · 1 day ago
Josh McLaurin
Josh McLaurin currently holds the office of Georgia State Senate, District 14 and January 11, 2027. Candidate for Georgia Lieutenant Governor in 2026... [Read more](#)

GREG DOLEZAL — GOOGLE TOP RESULTS

Google "Greg Dolezal" "Georgia" "Lieutenant Governor"

Greg Dolezal
Member of the Georgia State Senate

Overview
Gregory Robert Dolezal is an American politician who is currently serving as the Georgia state senator for the 27th district in Cumming, Georgia. He is a member of the Georgia Freedom Caucus. Dolezal is the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor of Georgia. [Wikipedia](#)

Birth October 1, 1978 (age 47 years)
Education North Park University (1997–2001)
Office Member of the Georgia State Senate
Party Republican Party
Candidate for 2026 Lieutenant Governor of Georgia general election
Previous campaigns 2024 Georgia State Senate election - See more

Profiles
Facebook X (Twitter) Instagram LinkedIn

People also search for
Steve Gossch David Clark Blake Tiberry Bill Cowart

Latest posts from Greg Dolezal

Wikipedia · 1 day ago
Greg Dolezal
Dolezal is the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor of Georgia. He... "Georgia State Senator Greg Dolezal" Georgia State Senate. Retrieved... [Read more](#)

CBS News · 1 day ago
State Sen. Greg Dolezal wins Republican nomination for...
Jun 16, 2025 — State Sen. Greg Dolezal has won Georgia's Republican runoff for lieutenant governor. CBS News projects. Dolezal defeated former state Sen. [Read more](#)

Videos
Greg Dolezal discusses lieutenant governor campaign and...
Greg Dolezal solidifies his positions ahead of runoff | FOX 5...
Atlanta Press Club | Georgia Lt. Governor - Republicans |...

Ballotpedia · 1 day ago
Greg Dolezal
Greg Dolezal defeated John Kennedy in the Republican primary runoff for Lieutenant Governor of Georgia on June 16, 2025. Candidate, % Votes... [Read more](#)

Democracy Docket · 2 weeks ago
Greg Dolezal, GOP nominee for Georgia Lt. Gov., said he...
Jun 23, 2025 — Georgia state Sen. Greg Dolezal, the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor, has built his campaign around distrust of the states... [Read more](#)

Facebook · WYFF News 4 · 22 reactions · 2 weeks ago
Greg Dolezal wins Republican nomination for lieutenant...
AP: Greg Dolezal wins Republican nomination for lieutenant governor in Georgia. [FIND FULL RESULTS](#)

Georgia Recorder · 1 day ago · 1 comment
Georgia Lieutenant Governor (Republican) | Voter Guide
Who are you running for lieutenant governor? Greg Dolezal (R). I want to fight for the Georgian families who feel they have been left... [Read more](#)

WABE · 1 day ago
McLaurin, Dolezal to face off in Georgia lieutenant...
Jun 16, 2025 — Democratic Georgia state Sen. Josh McLaurin will face Republican state Sen. Greg Dolezal in the race for Georgia's next lieutenant governor. [Read more](#)

Atlanta News First · 1 day ago
State Sen. Greg Dolezal wins GOP lieutenant governor's...
Jun 16, 2025 — Greg Dolezal won GOP lieutenant governor's runoff. The winner of... Georgia State Patrol trooper injured in crash on Georgia 400. [Read more](#)

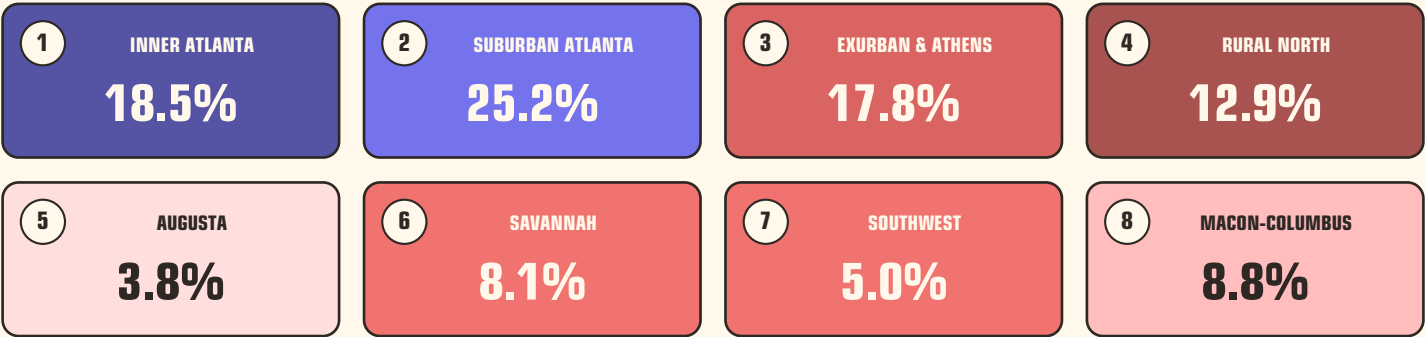
San Mateo Daily Journal · 1 day ago
Greg Dolezal wins Republican nomination for lieutenant...
WASHPOST/12/16/25 — Greg Dolezal wins Republican nomination for lieutenant governor in Georgia. Copyright 2025 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

People also search for

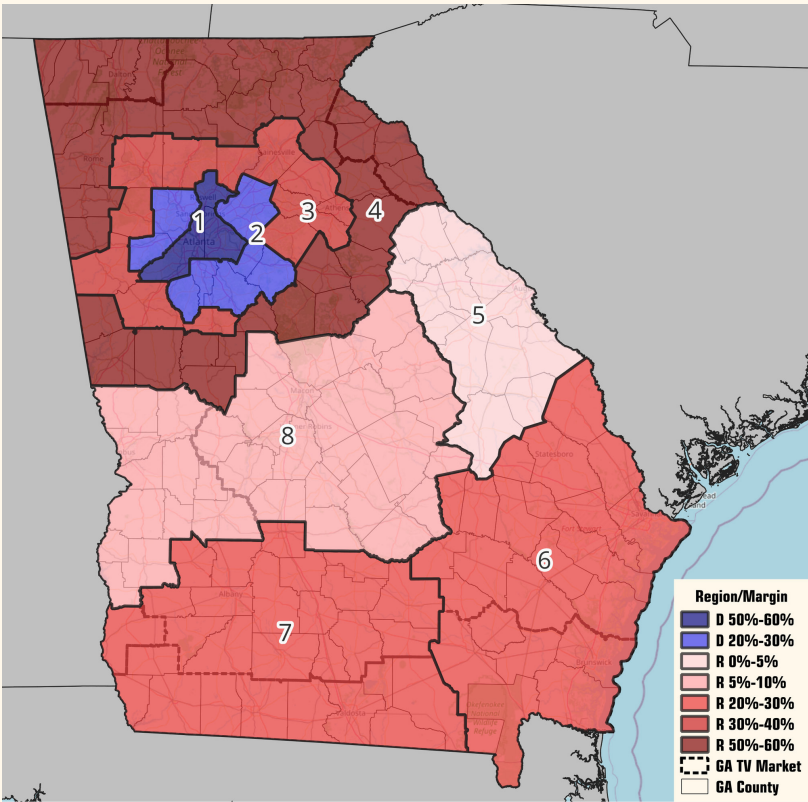
APPENDIX • REGIONS & WEIGHTS

State Navigate's eight Georgia analysis regions, numbered and shaded by 2024 presidential margin to match the map. Cards show each region's share of the weighted likely-voter sample; the panel at right shows the 2024 presidential result (D vs. R) in each region.

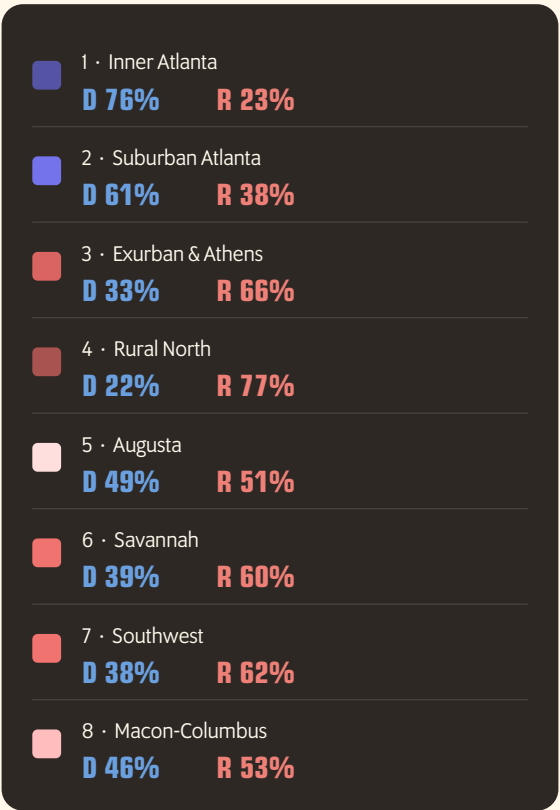
REGION WEIGHTS • SHARE OF WEIGHTED SAMPLE



GEORGIA REGIONS MAP • 2024 MARGIN



2024 PRESIDENTIAL RESULT BY REGION





State Navigate is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to becoming a compass for state legislatures everywhere. Our bipartisan polling team consists of alumni of FiveThirtyEight, political scientists, and polling experts. Last year, State Navigate was the most accurate pollster in the country for the 2025 election cycle. To learn more about our poll sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#)! Public polling on state governance, especially state legislatures, is rare, so we try to make our polling as affordable as possible for sponsors to help fill this gap.

OUR POLLING TEAM

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chaz was the Director of CAnalysis.com, the only website dedicated to state legislative election forecasting. He has successfully forecasted thousands of state legislative elections since 2017 during his senior year in high school. Chaz leads the polling team and works with them on survey design, field work, weighting, and written analysis.

MICHAEL FOLEY

ELECTIONS COORDINATOR

Michael is an expert in GIS technology and has experience in coding and scraping technology. He is a graduate of Fordham University and the University of Chicago Law School. In our polling, Michael conducts fieldwork, setting up surveys and texts, and exports/designs crosstabs.

MARY RADCLIFFE

DATA MANAGER

Mary Radcliffe is a mathematician and data analyst from Pittsburgh. She earned a PhD in Mathematics from the University of California, San Diego in 2012. Mary has previously worked as a Teaching Professor at Carnegie Mellon University and Researcher at FiveThirtyEight. In our polling, Mary helps with survey design, keeps our polling operations ethical, creates topline, and writes analyses of results.

G. ELLIOTT MORRIS

POLLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Elliott Morris is a data-driven journalist and author living in Washington, DC. He's the author of STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: How Polls Work and Why We Need Them. Elliott was most recently the Editorial Director of Data Analytics at ABC News, where he developed polling aggregation and election-forecasting models and managed the research and data visualization teams for ABC's data-journalism website FiveThirtyEight/538. In our polling, Elliott helps with survey design and writing weighting scripts.

NICHOLAS GOEDERT

POLLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Nicholas / "Nick" is an assistant professor of Political Science at Virginia Tech with expertise focused on legislative elections and American politics. He is the author of GROUND WAR: Courts, Commissions, and the Fight over Partisan Gerrymanders (Oxford, 2022). He served as an expert witness in the Wisconsin redistricting case Whitford v. Gill. He holds a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton and a J.D. from Georgetown Law. In our polling, Nick helps with survey design and gives academic feedback.

Your compass for state legislatures

PEACE OUT. THAT'S ALL.

