

[View this email in your browser](#)

The Skidaway Island Democrats

August 2020 newsletter



The Democratic Convention is in the rear-view mirror following memorable and passionate speeches over four days. President & First Lady Obama, former Presidents Clinton and Carter, Secretary Clinton, and, of course, the BIDEN-HARRIS team really nailed all the issues facing us as we choose who to vote for in November. The BIDEN-HARRIS ticket is ratified, and now it is up to EACH OF US to make sure that we work to turn out the largest voter turnout EVER. As was said a number of times, "The future of this country depends on Joe Biden and Kamala Harris' leadership to mend the soul of our country."

Look for the September issue of the SID newsletter, in which Gwen Jordan and Marilyn Michaels will present a comprehensive list of action items to get us all involved to ensure this goal. In the meantime, Cubby Plonchak is heading a team to write postcards to encourage voting that will be mailed to registered Democrats in underserved and rural neighborhoods. If you can help with this effort, please let Cubby know: cubbyplonchak@gmail.com.



Save the Dates



Senate candidate Jon Ossoff to join Skidaway Democrats in a Zoom Town Hall
September 8 at 4:30 pm

Ossoff seeks to unseat Republican incumbent David Perdue.
We'll send an email with instructions for joining the meeting shortly before the event.

Hillary Holley, Organizing Director of **Fair Fight**, will update Skidaway Democrats on the challenges to a free and fair election in this most important year: **September 15 at 4:30 pm.**



Rev. Raphael Warnock will join Skidaway Island Democrats for a ZOOM Town Hall on **September 22 at 4:30 pm.** Rev Warnock is running in the 2020 Senate special election in Georgia for the seat currently held by Republican Kelly Loeffler.

"We need to do the work that's necessary to make sure that of the many things that will be passed on to our children, issues of race and class aren't included."

Candidates' Night — Skidaway Island Democrats is planning a very special ZOOM Town Hall for **September 30 at 6:30 pm** to hear once more from our favorite candidates prior to Election Day. Stay tuned for more information.

Dates and times are subject to change. Keep an eye on skidawaydemocrats.com for the latest updates.

And the winners are...



Skidaway Democrats congratulate Joyce Marie Griggs, who won the August 11 runoff election with almost 56% of the vote for the right to take on Republican incumbent Earl "Buddy" Carter to represent Georgia's 1st Congressional District in the U.S House of Representatives.

We also applaud Democratic Chatham County runoff election winners Derek J. Mallow (State House District 163), Tony B. Riley (County Commission District 2), Tanya Milton (County Commission District 5), and David Campbell (Coroner).

How to make sure your vote counts in November

Double-check that you're registered, find out where and when you can vote, make a plan, and tell your friends. Set a reminder on your calendar, and make sure you actually vote. Read more at [The Conversation](#).



Many voters are worried about casting their ballots in person this November because of the pandemic. They're also concerned that their mail-in ballots could be misplaced or delayed.

One voting option that's gaining popularity — and also attracting controversy — is the use of **drop boxes**, where voters can deposit their absentee ballots to be collected later by election officials. Read more from [NPR](#).

In Georgia, elections officials decided this year to use drop boxes for the first time, and more than 200 boxes have been set up across the state. The state rule required physical or camera security, and in one county, the video surveillance is monitored by the police department, said Jordan Fuchs, Georgia's deputy secretary of state.

Nearly every county in Georgia now has a drop box. The state is distributing up to \$3,000 in federal grants for each of its 159 counties so they can increase the number of boxes and take steps to make sure they are protected and monitored, Fuchs said. Read more in [The Washington Post](#).

Chatham County Drop Box Location
County Elections Office (outside)
1117 Eisenhower Drive, Ste E
Savannah, GA 31406

The League of Women Voters of Coastal Georgia tells us they are purchasing eight additional drop boxes to be positioned throughout Chatham County (locations will be posted on skidawaydemocrats.com when finalized).

The boxes will be donated to the Chatham County Board of Registrars by the League for use in this and future elections.

The County will install the boxes on government-owned properties throughout the county. Each will have 24-hour video surveillance. The County will oversee the collection of the ballots and maintain the surveillance video for the requisite 30 days.

If you would like to support this effort, click here: <https://www.lewvga.org/join-the-league/donate> to make a tax-deductible donation. Call 917-656-9152 for more information.



In addition, the League reports at least **five satellite polling places** for early voting will be open for three weeks, October 12-30, including two weekends (both Saturday and Sunday), Oct 17/18 and Oct 24/25 (locations to be posted when announced).

"People should vote in person if they possibly can," the League advises. "Absentee ballots won't be counted until after the polls close on the 3rd. It could take a week — or more — to count them all."



Georgia's State Election Board unanimously voted to approve a rule authorizing an online absentee ballot request form portal. The online portal, which is currently undergoing testing, will make it easier for both Georgia voters to request absentee ballots in the future and for county officials to process the dramatic increase in absentee ballots seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. [\[More...\]](#)

Please note that **September 15 is the earliest date** for a registrar to mail an absentee ballot for the November General Election under state law.

Fair Fight Action reminds you...

1. Eligible voters — even those marked as inactive — are ALLOWED to vote in the general election.
2. It is critical for all voters to regularly check their registration status to make sure it is up to date. Check your status at myp.sos.ga.gov
3. Please share these tips!



Background: The **Atlanta Journal-Constitution** reports that tens of thousands of Georgia voter registrations are on track to be changed to inactive status because absentee ballot applications mailed to them in the spring were undeliverable. These voters will still be able to vote in November's presidential election, but moving them to inactive status is a step toward canceling their registrations. In December, state election officials canceled 287,000 voter registrations. See [AJC](#) for more.

Who should I vote for?



Check out the **2020 Voters Guide** from the League of Women Voters of Coastal Georgia. The aim of a Voters Guide is to provide a comprehensive listing of candidates and the issues relevant to an election in a strictly nonpartisan way. Each listing is carefully checked, edited for style and usage, and must be approved by the candidate or his or her staff in order to ensure accuracy and consistency and fairness.

Take action today!

Today's call for action from the Indivisible Georgia Coalition:



The cynical move by the president's administration to **slow down the US Postal Service** is destructive to our economy, our health, our communities. We have two distinct asks of you today even though you will be calling the same offices. One is to ask for funding, the other is a consumer complaint. [Please share widely.](#)

- **We need funding for the post office to be included in any relief or stimulus package.** Call both of your senators: U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 they will connect you.

"This is #name# from #city/zip#, and I'm calling to demand that #congressperson# provide at least \$25 billion in stimulus funding for the Postal Service so that it can fulfill its critical mission of delivering the mail on time. The Postal Service must process and deliver critical mail, including ballots and ballot applications; prescription medications, social security and unemployment checks, utility bills and payments, car tags and titles, and other important documents such as contracts, wills, death certificates, and court notices. The Postal Service is a critical lifeline for so many Americans and small businesses during this pandemic. Please act immediately to Save the Post Office."

- **Contact your senator (202) 224-3121 and congressperson's office** and ask for the constituent services aide who handles issues with the USPS. Find your representative's office number [here](#).

"My name is _____, my zip code is _____, and I understand that Sen./Rep. #name# of senator or representative" is investigating postal service delays. I have experienced delays in service. (Use examples, like not received medications, legal notices, my small business mailed packages not received by our customers, tag renewals, my absentee ballot request form/absentee ballot was never received/returned, etc.) Please investigate my missing mail and let me know the status asap."

For more information, visit indivisiblegeorgiacoalition.org.

General Election

Nov 3, 2020

Early Voting: Oct 12, 2020 - Oct 30, 2020
Voter Registration Deadline: Mon Oct 5, 2020
Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot: Received by Fri Oct 30, 2020
Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot: Mon Nov 2, 2020



The fight to turn Georgia blue is going into high gear. From time to time, Skidaway Island Democrats will be sending out a newsletter to help assure you of the latest developments and to suggest ways you can help assure a better future for all Georgians.

If you're interested in joining the DNC's texting team, sign up here!



Copyright © 2020 Skidaway Island Democrats. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

