



Survey of Georgia Likely Runoff Voters Nov. 18-28, 2022

N = 1,300 Georgia Likely Runoff Voters

The sample has an adjusted margin of error +/- 3.2 percentage points

See <http://uml.edu/polls> for full questionnaire/topline results and detailed methodology disclosure.

Survey design and analysis by John Cluverius, director of survey research, University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion. Do you have a question about this poll? If so, tweet @UML_CPO and we'll get back to you.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Warnock with apparent lead over Walker, 51% to 46%

"This race could go either way, but Herschel Walker is in trouble. Voters know the economy is rough, but a spate of scandals has destroyed Walker's favorables with voters. In a normal, textbook election, Warnock would look like a lame duck walking. Instead, he's been able to avoid blame for rising prices and keep voters – who are skeptical of Biden but don't like Trump – in his corner. Right now, it looks like Raphael Warnock is in the driver's seat," said political science Associate Professor John Cluverius, director of survey research at the Center for Public Opinion.

Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock, a Democrat, holds an apparent lead over former NFL running back Herschel Walker. Warnock received support from 51% of respondents in the poll, while Walker received 46%. Less than .5% of respondents said they would be voting for another candidate, and 2% are undecided. There is also a notable gender gap in the poll; Walker's margin with men is +6 percentage points, 52% to Warnock's 46%, while Warnock's margin with women is +13 percentage points, 55% to Walker's 42%.

Other signs in the poll point to a better electoral environment for Warnock. Forty-nine percent of respondents view Warnock favorably, while 45% view him unfavorably. Another 6% of respondents have no opinion of Warnock and less than .5% of respondents have never heard of him. Thirty-nine percent view Walker favorably, while 51% view him unfavorably. Nine percent of Georgia's likely voters say they have no opinion of Walker one way or the other, while 1% say they have never heard of him.

President Joe Biden's approval rating among likely runoff voters is 45%, while 54% disapprove of the job he is doing as president, for a net of -9 percentage points.

On the issues, 63% of likely runoff voters say that they favor a right to abortion in every state, while 37% say there should not be. This includes majorities of Democratic and independent voters, along with more than a third of Republicans. Likely runoff voters also are more likely to blame politicians for rising prices; 60% say that it is definitely or mostly the fault of politicians, while 40% say that rising prices are due to circumstances beyond the control of politicians and their policies.

Finally, Biden performs above his approval rating in a potential rematch against Donald Trump. If the 2024 presidential election were held today, likely Georgia runoff voters give Biden an apparent lead over Trump, 47% to 43%, with 7% selecting another candidate and 3% undecided. In comparison, Biden does worse in a hypothetical matchup against Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Our poll shows a close race between DeSantis and Biden, with DeSantis receiving 47% of the vote and Biden receiving 46%. In that matchup, 3% say that they will vote for another candidate and 4% are undecided.

2. Georgia Republicans Overwhelmingly Believe Trump Won 2020

“The research on this is clear. The more people believe that an election will be stolen and that votes won’t be counted, the less people are willing to turn out to vote. For years, the media has covered Republicans using policies and rhetoric to keep Democrats from voting. Now, Republicans have ended up chasing their own voters from the polls,” said political science Professor Joshua J. Dyck, director of the Center for Public Opinion.

Worrying signs are elsewhere in the poll for the future of legitimate transitions of power. While majorities agree Donald Trump was the legitimate winner of the 2016 presidential election and Joe Biden was the legitimate winner of the 2020 presidential election, the split by partisan identification shows huge division, with majorities of both parties refusing to accept the legitimacy of the recent election victories of candidates of the opposite party:

- 71% of Republican respondents in the poll said that Donald Trump probably or definitely won in 2020
- 59% of Democrats say that Hillary Clinton was probably or definitely the legitimate winner of the 2016 presidential election.¹

¹ As political scientists, the Center for Public Opinion believes it is important to note Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election and Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election.