



The logistics of the 2022 runoff will look different than 2021, after the Republican-controlled Georgia legislature passed a law last year that significantly changed the rules. Most notably, legislators shortened the runoff period from nine weeks to four weeks. The new law also restricted early voting during the runoff and essentially eliminated the ability to register new voters during that period, which Democrats had used to great effect in 2021.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/11/09/herschel-walker-raphael-warnock-georgia-senate-race-results-2022-00064771>

Can I register to vote before Georgia's Senate runoff election?

**THE QUESTION**

Can I register to vote before Georgia's Senate runoff election?

## THE SOURCES

[Georgia's Election Integrity Law 2021 \(SB202\)](#)

[Georgia's Secretary of State Office's Voter Guide](#)

[Andra Gillespie](#), Emory University Associate Professor of Political Science

**THE ANSWER** No, not under Georgia's Election Integrity Act of 2021 - more commonly known as SB202.

**WHAT WE FOUND** Georgia currently has [6,953,485 registered voters](#) - and it will stay that way, at least for the runoff. This is because of the state's newest election law, [SB202](#), outlines the timeline for runoff elections and the time span voters can register before an election.

Gov. Kemp signed the [Election Integrity Act of 2021](#) into law last March. The legislation deems that runoff elections must be held on the 28th day after a general or special primary election. This means instead of the previous nine weeks, voters will have four weeks to cast a ballot in a runoff election. Under this timeline, it marks Georgia's Senate runoff for Dec. 6 on the election calendar.

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SB202 also outlines that a voter must register 30 days before an election. This leaves a two-day gap between voter registration and when a runoff must be scheduled -- which means no new voters can be registered in the period before the runoff.

"So basically, anybody who is already registered to vote is going to be eligible to vote in the next election so as long as you were registered to vote by Election Day,"

11 Alive political analyst and Emory University associate professor Andra Gillespie said. "So anybody who was registering to vote now would not be eligible to vote in the runoff election."

Under Georgia's election law, the voter registration deadline would be the day before the earlier election that triggered the runoff. According to the Secretary of State's Office, the [last day to register to vote in Georgia's general election was Nov. 7](#), a day before Election Day.

In this case, it means Warnock and Walker will have to [appeal to voters](#) who may have not turned out to the ballot box in the first place and really hone in on their supporters, Gillespie added. "So suffice to say, there is already a ready-made pool of registered nonvoters in the midterm election who could still be mobilized to be able to vote for both the Democrats and the Republicans on Dec. 6," she said. "And so I expect that both parties are going to be looking at that data and targeting the most likely of those nonvoters to get them to come out to vote for them on Dec. 6."

Data from the Secretary of State's Office shows that a little more than half of the state's registered voters cast their ballot during Georgia's midterm election.

That leaves about 2,995,250 registered voters for two candidates to court and convince to show out in the runoff.

**How the Georgia Senate runoff will work | CNN Politics**

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/09/politics/georgia-senate-runoff-warnock-walker-explainer/index.html>

**Costs to vote considered modern "poll taxes"**

<https://publicintegrity.org/politics/elections/who-counts/costs-to-vote-considered-modern-poll-taxes/>

[Costs to vote considered modern “poll taxes”](#)

Oppose Voter ID Legislation [Voter ID laws and difficulty/costs of obtaining ID inhibit voting] <https://www.aclu.org/fact-sheet/oppose-voter-id-legislation-fact-sheet>

[Oppose Voter ID Legislation - Fact Sheet](#)

Selective Service Registration [Does not seem to require any identification, photo, or in-person registration]

<https://www.sss.gov/register/>

[Register | Selective Service System](#)

State-Commonwealth Legislation - Transfers Driver's License and Govt Employment Info to Selective Service for Registration

<https://www.sss.gov/register/state-commonwealth-legislation/>

[State-Commonwealth Legislation | Selective Service System](#)

Automatic Voter Registration Summary - Brennan Center

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/automatic-voter-registration-summary>

What happened when 2.2 Million People Were Automatically Registered to Vote? - Oct 2019 Five Thirty Eight

Inbox

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/what-happened-registered-to-vote/>

[What Happened When 2.2 Million People Were Automatically Registered](#)

Klobuchar, Colleagues Introduce Legislation to Make Registering to Vote Easier [Includes: States to Register All at 18]

<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2022/6/klobuchar-colleagues-introduce-legislation-to-make-registering-to-vote-easier-for-all-americans>  
[Klobuchar, Colleagues Introduce Legislation to Make Registering to Vote Easier for All Americans](#)

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The Register America to Vote Act would require every state to register eligible citizens to vote when they turn ...

Think You're Too Young to Register? [To vote] - Headcount [Voter Pre-Registration]

<https://www.headcount.org/think-youre-young-register/>

[https://www.headcount.org/think-youre-young-register/Think You're Too Young To Register? - HeadCount](https://www.headcount.org/think-youre-young-register/Think-Youre-Too-Young-To-Register/)

Voting While Poor: Reviving the 24th Amendment and Eliminating the Modern Poll Tax - Georgetown Journal on Poverty & Law - Spring 2020

[https://www.law.georgetown.edu/poverty-journal/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2020/06/05-Richardson\\_Final\\_Proof.pdf](https://www.law.georgetown.edu/poverty-journal/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2020/06/05-Richardson_Final_Proof.pdf)

## **Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy**

**Volume XXVII, Number 3, Spring 2020 451**

**Voting While Poor: Reviving the 24th Amendment and Eliminating the Modern-Day Poll Tax** Why voter ID laws are like a poll tax - 2012

Why voter ID laws are like a poll tax - 2012

<https://www.politico.com/story/2012/08/why-voter-id-laws-are-like-a-poll-tax-079416>

2022 Youth Voting Rights Act - Introduced by Sen. Warren and Rep. Nikema Williams

<https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Summary%20of%20Youth%20Voting%20Rights%20Act%20-%2006.21.22.pdf>

The Twenty-Sixth Amendment—formally ratified on July 1, 1971—prohibits the denial of the right to vote on account of age for all citizens aged 18 or older. But over fifty years after its ratification, the Twenty-Sixth Amendment’s promise remains unfulfilled.

**Insider Higher Ed: Youth Voting Rights Act is much needed**

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2022/11/08/youth-voting-rights-act-much-needed-opinion> Youth Voting Rights Act is much needed (opinion) | Inside Higher Ed

Take Action on the Youth Voting Rights Act - Rock the Vote

<https://www.rockthevote.org/youthvotingrightsact/>

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OCTOBER 7, 2020

## **Universal Voter Registration: Eliminating One of the Biggest Barriers to Voting**

Voter registration has long been weaponized to silence voters. And it's not by accident.

**Laura Williamson**

**Amshula K. Jayaram**

**[Download the full PDF](#)**

**Image**

**[Right to Vote: The Case for Expanding the Right to Vote in the U.S. Constitution](#)**