



## Georgia vs. California: Primary Elections Shatter The Left's False Narratives About So-Called "Voter Suppression" Laws

*Georgia's Turnout Soared Under Its New Voting Law, While California's Liberal Voting Policies See Dismal Turnout*

### GEORGIA TURNOUT A CLEAR CONTRAST WITH CALIFORNIA

- When Georgia passed a new election integrity law, liberal activists predicted the law's new safeguards would cause widespread "voter suppression." In reality, the 2022 Republican and Democratic primaries saw historic turnout.
  - Around 1.9 million Georgians [voted](#) in the May 2022 primaries, far exceeding the 1.2 million that voted in the May 2018 primaries.
  - Voters experienced "short lines and limited problems" on election day according to [Atlanta Journal Constitution](#).
- In contrast, California is the left-wing gold standard with all-mail elections, vote trafficking, automatic voter registration, and no voter ID requirements – yet the state has so far seen dismal primary turnout compared to recent years.
  - Primary turnout in California [dropped](#) substantially this year from 37% in 2018 and 47% in 2016, to around its record low of 25% according to [reports so far](#).

### LIBERAL RHETORIC ON MINORITY VOTING PROVEN FALSE

- Liberals claim that election safeguards like those adopted in Georgia are intended to prevent minorities from voting. Georgia has shown that the left's rhetoric is entirely false.
- Minority early voting in Georgia reportedly increased significantly compared to the midterm primaries in 2018, despite the left's dire rhetoric.
  - [NATIONAL REVIEW](#): "According to figures released by the Georgia Secretary of State's office, as of yesterday, May 18, 102,056 more black voters have cast early votes in this year's primary elections than in 2018 – **this is more than three times the number of blacks casting early votes in 2018.**"
- Left-wing rhetoric does not line up with reality, but it does frighten voters. The Washington Post [reported](#), "Patsy Reid – 70 years old, Black and retired – said she was surprised she didn't encounter problems when she voted early this month."
  - Reid said, "I had heard that they were going to try to deter us in any way possible because of the fact that we didn't go Republican on the last election, when Trump didn't win. **To go in there and vote as easily as I did and to be treated with the respect that I knew I deserved as an American citizen – I was really thrown back.**"

### RECORD EARLY VOTING IN GEORGIA, WHILE CALIFORNIA FALTERS

- Despite liberal claims that Georgia restricted voting, results from the state's recent primary elections show record early voting turnout.
  - More than 850,000 Georgians turned out for early [voting](#) in this year's primaries, a new record.
  - According to the Georgia Secretary of State's [office](#), the jump in early voting "represented a 168 percent increase over 2018, the last gubernatorial primary and a 212 percent jump above 2020, the last presidential primary year."
- By contrast, the left claimed California's all-mail elections were a national model that would yield higher turnout. The primary saw remarkably low early ballot returns, instead.

- According to [Los Angeles Times](#), “Early turnout was dismal before polling sites opened Tuesday. Every registered voter in the state was mailed a ballot, but only 15% had gotten them to election officials or weighed in at early in-person vote centers by Monday evening...”
- [NBC Los Angeles](#): “With Few Early Voters Hitting the Polls, California Primary Could Have Record Low Turnout”

## THE LEFT’S ALARMIST RHETORIC FALLS FLAT

- Claims that election integrity laws depress turnout have long been [debunked](#). Skyrocketing turnout in Georgia is the latest proof that left-wing “voter suppression” claims are wrong.
- President Biden on the Georgia law in [2021](#): “Republicans in the state instead rushed through an un-American law to deny people the right to vote.”
- Stacey Abrams [asserted](#) that Georgia’s law would “eliminate access to voting for primarily communities of color.”
  - Abrams claimed the law was “racist...a redux of Jim Crow in suit and tie.”
  - After turnout and minority participation surged, Abrams made the stunning claim that “increased turnout has nothing to do with suppression.”
- Vice President Harris [warned](#), “we have initiatives like what’s happening in Georgia that are designed in a way that is really about suppressing our democracy.”

## A CASE STUDY IN RESPONSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE VOTING LAWS

- California is a model of liberal voting laws and priorities. California’s laws [include](#) unrestricted mail-in voting, automatic voter registration, same day registration, no voter ID, wide open ballot trafficking rules, and more.
  - Liberals claim these policies drive turnout and increase voter participation, yet California’s voter turnout is at record lows.
- On the other hand, Georgia has shown that responsible election security laws can maintain and actually strengthen voter participation.
- Georgia passed key reforms in 2021 to help strengthen election security, while also expanding voter access in key ways. In other words, Georgia made it easier to vote and harder to cheat.
- SB 202 expanded early voting. Georgia offers 17-19 days of voting, including availability on weekends—more time to vote than Delaware or New York.
- The law replaced signature matching with more reliable voter ID for mail ballots. The law requires a driver’s license or free state ID number, a social security number, or—for voters who have none of these—documents like utility bills.
  - [74%](#) of Georgians support voter ID, including 63% of black voters in the state.
  - Nationwide, new HEP Action [polling](#) shows that support for photo ID requirements is *higher* today (84%) than it was a year ago when Georgia passed SB 202 (77%). Over 70% of Black and 90% of Hispanic voters think everyone should present ID when voting.
- SB 202 requires local election officials to take steps to shorten long lines at the polls, and allows election workers to distribute water to voters in line, while barring “line warming” that is often used as an opportunity for last-minute campaigning to voters waiting to cast ballots.
- Georgia also boosted accountability for election officials who are consistently negligent or deliberately violate state election laws, and restricted the use of private funding for the administration of elections.