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U.S. SENATOR FROM GEORGIA

VOTERS' ACCESS TO WATER ACT

- The *Voters' Access to Water Act* protects voters' access to water when they are made to wait in line outside polling places.
- Earlier this year, Georgia's GOP-controlled state legislature passed and Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed into law SB 202, which makes it a crime punishable by up to a year in jail for nonpartisan volunteers to provide bottled water for voters in line outside of polling places.
- The *Voters' Access to Water Act* directly addresses that provision in SB 202.
- The *Voters' Access to Water Act* would amend the *Help America Vote Act of 2002* to prohibit states from restricting volunteers from providing food or water to voters waiting in line — as long as they are not engaging in political activity and as long as they offer food or water to every voter.
- Last year in the 2020 elections, voters were forced to wait sometimes [over 10 hours](#) to make their voices heard, braving the heat and long lines to exercise the sacred right to vote. During the 2018 midterm election, [more than 3 million voters](#) waited 30 minutes or longer to vote, surpassing the acceptable threshold for wait times set by the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.
- According to a [Georgia Public Broadcasting/ProPublica analysis](#), Black voters in Georgia face disproportionately longer lines than white voters.
- That analysis found that there are fewer polling locations in predominately Black neighborhoods in Georgia, and that “about two-thirds of the polling places that had to stay open late for the June primary to accommodate waiting voters were in majority-Black neighborhoods, even though they made up only about one-third of the state’s polling places.”

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