



ECONOMIC, LABOR, AND COVID-19 POLICY PLATFORMS OF GEORGIA SENATE CANDIDATES



No matter your politics, franchising is on the ballot in Georgia. The outcome of the state’s runoff election for two U.S. Senate seats will determine whether or not one party has control of the House of Representatives, Senate, and the White House, and therefore the ability to pass their agenda, or if a divided government can be in place to force compromise and moderation.

One-party control means anti-franchising forces can enact much of their agenda. Under this scenario, damaging proposals like the PRO Act and the expanded joint employer standard could become law. The enactment of the joint employer rule alone in 2015 cost the franchise sector \$33.3 billion per year, resulted in 376,000 lost job opportunities and led to 93% more lawsuits.

On the other hand, a divided government could blunt much of a new push toward increased regulation, higher taxes, and new labor laws.

Although running separately (Mr. Ossoff vs. Sen. Perdue, and Reverend Warnock vs. Sen. Loeffler), the candidates are effectively running as two pairs. Each party’s candidates in both races have similar policy positions. While this election does not occur in a vacuum, an overview of each candidate’s policy stances is below.

OSSOFF/WARNOCK STANCE

ISSUE

LOEFFLER/PERDUE STANCE

According to Ossoff’s [policy platform](#), his overall economic stance includes:

- Lower taxes for all but the wealthiest Americans
- Fast and generous direct emergency relief during economic crises

According to Warnock’s [policy platform](#), he supports:

- Revoking tax breaks for the rich and companies that outsource jobs
- Helping small business owners, especially entrepreneurs of color
- Fighting against burdensome regulations for small businesses

Both [Ossoff](#) and [Warnock](#) support increasing the federal minimum wage.

Ossoff describes himself as a small business owner. He owns a 50% stake in a London-based investigative documentary production company with seven employees.

According to the Communications Workers of America (CWA), [Ossoff](#) and [Warnock](#) support the PRO Act, however neither campaign has released an official statement or Tweet about it.

Both [Ossoff](#) and [Warnock](#) support additional direct relief for small businesses. Both have also expressed criticism of the Paycheck Protection Program’s (PPP) perceived allocation towards larger corporations and companies at the expense of small businesses being crowded out.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Loeffler’s official [policy platform](#) includes support for “pro-growth policies that empower job creators” coupled with deregulatory action to remove red tape for businesses.

Perdue’s [policy platform](#) includes support for deregulation and tax cuts to support small businesses in Georgia.

Loeffler has not taken a public position on raising the [minimum wage](#). Perdue does not support an increase to the minimum wage. In one of his 2014 debates, he [stated](#) “if you increase the minimum wage, you will kill jobs in this country.”

LABOR POLICY

Loeffler and Perdue constitute the Senate Republican “firewall” against potential Democratic control of the Senate which could usher in franchise harmful legislation like the PRO Act. Neither has supported the PRO Act in the Senate.

COVID-19 RELIEF

Loeffler and Perdue supported the creation of the PPP through the CARES Act, and they additionally supported the subsequent PPP Flexibility Act that allowed small businesses to use PPP loans for more purposes. They both cosponsored the “Paycheck Protection Small Business Forgiveness Act,” which provides automatic forgiveness of a PPP loan under \$150,000 through submission of a one-page form.

Loeffler also introduced the “[Safeguarding Small Business Act](#)” to remove all tax liability associated with PPP loan forgiveness. She also supports improvements to the [Main Street Lending Program \(MSLP\)](#) to support mid-sized employers that are too large to access PPP funding and too small to access corporate debt markets.