

{{FirstName or 'Friends'}} --

A few short months ago, we wrapped up Legislative Session and dove into campaign season, with just a matter of weeks leading up to the primary. I am proud to officially be the Democratic Nominee for House District 50, however some of the primaries are headed to a runoff on June 21st! **Early voting for the runoff starts this TODAY, June 11th (more information below).**

Let's take a look back at what we have been up to over the last two months of legislative news and community engagement.

Legislative Updates



In April, just after we wrapped Legislative Session, I joined my Senate colleagues Sen. Nikki Merritt and Sen. Kim Jackson for a legislative wrap-up of the good, the bad, and the ugly of the 2022 legislative session. You can find the full livestream [here](#).

Over the past two months, Governor Kemp had the opportunity to review and sign legislation that passed both the Senate and House during Legislative session.

Some of the more notable bills signed since session ended:

SB 338 - extends Medicaid coverage for new moms to a full year postpartum. The next step now is to FULLY expand Medicaid, as so many issues leading to poor community health are not isolated to the peri-partum period.

HB 1324 - originally authored by Team Au, this bill makes it illegal for insurance companies to deny coverage for emergency medical care sought under the prudent layperson standard, regardless of diagnoses. So many legislators, advocates, medical leaders, and staff helped shepherd this bill to final passage, and I cannot thank them enough. But most importantly, this law will help a lot of patients in Georgia get the care they need.

SB 345 - bans COVID-19 vaccine requirements for entry to public facilities. As a direct result of vaccine disinformation and bans like this, have led to distrust in not just the COVID-19 vaccine but ALL vaccines, including measles, chickenpox, and meningitis vaccines required to attend public schools. You can read more [here](#).

HB 911 - the FY 2023 budget. In reviewing this bill, Governor Kemp took the opportunity to amend the roughly \$4M budget allocation for partial Medicaid expansion, eliminating coverage of people in Georgia living with HIV. Georgia is the state with the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses in the United States. Medicaid is the largest source of insurance coverage for people living with HIV. And Georgia remains one of only 12 states continuing to refuse to expand Medicaid.

For a full list of all signed legislation from the 2021-2022 biennium, you can click [here](#).

In the News

Op-Ed: Fight the gun violence epidemic like we fight cancer — one small step at a time



Women at a March 27 candlelight vigil in Monterey Park pay their respects to the eight victims of the spa shootings in Georgia.
(Damian Dovarganes / Associated Press)

BY MICHELLE AU

One of the bills signed in April was **SB 319**, allowing loaded, concealed firearms to be carried in public without a license, or possibly even a background check. Especially in light of the recent massacres in Buffalo, Uvalde, and Tulsa, bills like this shine a light on the priorities of GOP leadership. While they talk a big game about violent crime, they simultaneously block basic common sense gun safety measures. I wrote an op-ed for the LA Times last year about the epidemic of gun violence. **“No one measure mitigates all forms of gun violence, any more than colonoscopy can prevent all cancer deaths. But those who argue that a particular strategy is not a panacea and is therefore not worthwhile are missing the point.”**

Democratic state lawmakers decry eased Georgia's gun laws after Texas school shooting

BY: ROSS WILLIAMS - MAY 27, 2022 3:09 PM



The research is clear, CDC mortality data analyzed by the University of Michigan found that more than 4,300 individuals ages 1 to 19 died across the U.S. as a result of firearms in 2020. There is an epidemic affecting more than 300 people each day in the U.S., with a fatality rate of approximately 30%. It claims the lives of over 3,000 American children per year. This is the epidemic of gun violence. Meanwhile, here in Georgia, my universal background check bill, **SB 179**, was never even granted a committee hearing. During the floor debate for **SB 319**, I added a universal background check amendment onto the Governor's permit-less carry bill. EVERY SINGLE REPUBLICAN voted against it, and we got them on the record.

On May 27th, we held a press conference with my fellow AAPI legislators. **“The GOP and Gov. Kemp have not lifted a finger to make our community safer from gun violence...Not only that, but Gov. Kemp pushed as his**

flagship piece of legislation a bill removing all restrictions on carrying loaded weapons in public.” You can find an excerpt of my remarks from the press conference [here](#).

Georgia High School Association uses new law to implement anti-trans sports ban

By Chuck Johnston and [Devan Cole](#), CNN

Published 6:50 PM EDT, Wed May 4, 2022



Another controversial bill signed in May was **HB 1084**. This bill was already controversial in its approach to limiting discussions about race in schools, however on the last day of legislative session, an amended version was pushed through for a vote after midnight without any members of the Senate reading the bill. You can watch the moment when Georgia’s GOP pushed through this legislation without the proper process [here](#).

Following Governor Kemp's signature on **HB 1084**, the Georgia High School Association voted to “protect fairness” in school sports by unanimously approving youth to compete according to the sex determined on his/her birth certificate. This measure hurts Georgia families and our most vulnerable children. Earlier in the session, a bill carrying this same language, discriminating against trans children, failed in the Senate. During that debate I asked, **"Whose girls are we protecting? And from which harm? A theoretical harm? Or a harm we ourselves are inflicting on them?"** I echo those same questions as this bill takes effect.



Sometimes, when legislation is passed, it takes time for us to see the full impact. Given the leaked SCOTUS draft opinion, and knowing Georgia has its own 6 week abortion ban on the books (enjoined in the federal court system only because Roe still stands) I thought this is a good time to revisit [HB 481](#). Passed in 2019, the intention of this bill was to make abortion illegal in GA once embryonic cardiac cell activity is detected on ultrasound. This usually happens at 6 weeks of gestation or 2 weeks after a first missed period. It expands the definition of abortion to include not just abortions "administered to"/"performed on" patients, but could potentially include those self-administered by patients (medical abortion with mifepristone + misoprostol). Not only does this bill criminalize and allow medical licensing sanctions for professionals providing abortion care, but also leaves patients subject to prosecution. Further, **HB 481** took the extreme step of conferring "personhood" status to embryos and fetuses after 6 weeks gestation (again, this means 4 weeks after fertilization, 2 weeks after a first missed period), which could have vast ramifications on a whole host of scenarios.

My sense is that many who voted to pass **HB 481** never anticipated it would be enforced, because Roe still stands. Now that that is looking much less sure, the GOP will have to contend with the future they created. **Here are the facts: Georgia has among the worst maternal mortality rates in the US and among the highest uninsured rates in the US, but still GOP leadership refuses to expand Medicaid and push laws forcing people to stay pregnant and give birth despite risks, costs, and personal choice.**



In April, I joined the screening a panel discussion following the screening of *Happening* with director Audrey Diwan, Sean Young of ACLU of GA and Dr. Mimi Zieman. We discussed the likelihood of a post-Roe America, increasingly restrictive abortion access in GA, and what each of us can do to fight back. **"What we've seen is...Republicans are not going to stop until there is essentially no abortion access in Georgia whatsoever."** You can find an excerpt of the panel [here](#).

I appreciate the endorsement from [NARAL GA](#), who understand the importance, especially now, of electing legislators willing to defend abortion care as part of a larger fight for health equity in one of the sickest states in the nation.



Speaking of past legislation that has come back to haunt us, let's take a look at the effects of **SB 202**, the GOP voter suppression bill, in action. In this year's Primary Election, we saw a large drop in absentee voting, decreased use of ballot drop boxes, and a huge surge in early in-person voting. I think those who frame the high in-person voting turnout in the Georgia 2022 primaries as evidence of the munificence of **SB 202** are overlooking larger downstream effects on access to absentee ballot voting, suppression of which was clearly a primary focus of this legislation.

According to the AJC's Mark Neisse, leading up to the primary 8% of voters had returned absentee ballots so far, down from 78% in the '20 primary and 33% in the general. These were the changes to absentee voting directly resulting from **SB 202**:

- Drop boxes were housed inside early voting locations and closed when early voting ended the Friday before election day
- The number of drop boxes was limited to 1 per 100K active voters or the number of early voting locations whichever is lower
- Voters could no longer apply for an absentee ballot entirely online because a "[wet signature](#)" is required
- Voters must provide a driver's license number, state ID number or a copy of other ID when applying *and* returning absentee ballots

- Absentee ballot deadlines were tighter. Ballots couldn't be mailed to voters until 29 days before election day, and they couldn't be requested in the last 11 days before election day.
- Mass mailings of absentee ballot application forms were restricted

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Local News Georgia Primary Dining Guide: Pizza Opinion EPaper Sports Newsletters

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Eligibility of more than 13,000 voters challenged in Forsyth County



Credit: JOHN SPINK / AJC

POLITICS

By Shannon McCaffrey, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

May 11, 2022

In addition to the evident decline in absentee voting, other side effects also came up during the primary. Under **SB 202**, any voter can challenge the eligibility of as many voters in their county or city as they wish. We saw this measure in action in Forsyth County, where a man challenged the eligibility of 13,609 voters. Under the law, the County was then required to hold a hearing. What checks are in place to keep frivolous or suppressionist challenges from blocking legally registered voters from casting their ballot?

As we blaze onward in this busy mid-term election year, please double check your voter registration and make a plan to vote. We will need everyone come November.

Notable Events



We are officially back on the campaign trail, which means my schedule has been extra packed.

I was also delighted to join the Ethnic Media Collaborative at the inaugural *New Face of Georgia Speaker Series* here in Gwinnett, with very special guest, the next governor of Georgia, Stacey Abrams. This was the first ever collaboration between Georgia's leading African American, Asian American, and Hispanic media outlets.

Outreach to GA's growing multiethnic, multilingual communities is vital, as is decreasing the barriers for new American voters to access the ballot box. Gwinnett is the most diverse county in Georgia, and I am honored to be a part of this change in Georgia. You can find a full recording [here](#).



It was a pleasure participating in this morning's "Women in Politics" panel at the Lola with Sen. Elena Parent, Rep. Park Cannon, and Her Term. Many women in politics are "the first _____" in their particular roles. Our responsibility as leaders is to make sure we're not the last.



SD48 is home to the largest Indian population in GA, and I was humbled to be honored by the Greater Atlanta Malayalee Association, one of the largest Indian cultural groups in the U.S. Our immigrant communities make GA stronger, and I'm so proud to represent you at the Capitol.



On May 5th, it was a pleasure being invited to LexisNexis Risk Solutions in Alpharetta for a discussion on the role immigration, acculturation, and education have played in our lives and careers. Thank you also to the hundreds of online participants for joining virtually as we honored AAPI Heritage Month!



On May 10th, it was my honor to give the keynote address at the Spring Festival for the National Association of Chinese Americans, and to have both Stacey Abrams and Mayor Andre Dickens join us to belatedly celebrate the Lunar New Year! The legislative AAPI Caucus presented Lani Wong with a House Resolution commending her unwavering leadership mobilizing and championing the growing AAPI electorate in Georgia.



On May 17th, I was thrilled to be invited back to the White House to celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month with President Biden, Vice President Harris, First Lady Dr. Biden, and Second Gentleman Mr. Emhoff. Our first Asian VP talked about fighting hate and extremism, but also leading with optimism, and honoring our responsibilities to each other.



To cap off the month of May, I joined Senator Warnock and local leaders to discuss issues important to our districts! We talked gun safety, voting rights, insulin pricing, affordable housing, and how the moral arc of the universe bends towards justice, but only when good people keep doing the work.



And finally, I joined the City of Alpharetta at their Memorial Day Tribute, giving respect to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We hold you and your families close as we seek to honor your memories through our lives and work, and support those you left behind. The keynote speaker, Lt. Col. Jeff Davis of the USMC, noted this Memorial Day we need to recognize that too many of our

veterans suffer silently with mental trauma. A commitment to increasing access to mental health services needs to be a key part of honoring their sacrifices.



Mark your calendar! We are excited to announce a special birthday fundraiser on **Wednesday, June 29th at 6pm**. Hosted at the beautiful Buckhead Goats Farmhouse, join us for light refreshments and birthday cake (of course!) as we celebrate my birthday in support of my run for State House. You can RSVP [here](#).

RSVP

In the Community



I want to congratulate all of the graduates from both SD 48 and HD 50! As the mom of a high school senior, I know what a HUGE milestone graduation is, and how hard a village of people worked to help each student reach this goal. In addition, I am thrilled to announce Senate District 48 will be sending 69 students to the prestigious Governor's Honors Program this summer! I know what a long process it has been and how hard you all have worked for this incredible honor. Congratulations to you, your schools, and your families! I was excited to send these congratulatory letters out to our graduates and our Governors Honors students. CONGRATULATIONS! So proud of you all!



In April I was honored to present this Senate Resolution to Mr. William Pu and Ms. Amy Chang, recognizing their dedication in championing music education for hundreds of students in SD 48. Music makes our world bigger, and the WPMA has brought the world here to Johns Creek.



On May 12th I was thrilled to celebrate the grand opening of Yi Fan Kitchen's 2nd location in Johns Creek, which I was excited to hear will offer a Chinese cooking summer camp this year! Yi Fan hosted the kickoff for my first campaign; I'm honored by their friendship and proud of their success!



Such fun visiting the Yi-Hwang Academy of Language Excellence with Rep. Pedro Marin and many new friends! SD 48 is the most diverse in GA, and I loved learning how public charter schools can offer students dual language immersion as part of a quality education!



On May 20th, it was my honor to present a Senate Resolution to the Northview High School Mock Trial Team for placing 2nd in the NATIONAL High School

Mock Trial Championship! I know how hard you worked for this—you, your teachers, and your friends and families should be so proud!

Smoking in public to be prohibited in Gwinnett County, with few exceptions

The ordinance passed by county commissioners will ban smoking in most public places.



Shoutout to the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners for passing this ordinance protecting non-smokers from the effects of second-hand smoke! As a physician-legislator I'm proud to have worked with the American Heart Association to support this measure.



On May 26th, Honored to present a Senate Resolution to Police Chief Mark Mitchell and the entire Johns Creek Police Dept. I met with Chief Mitchell earlier this year to discuss the mental health co-responder model used by JC Police. SB 403, passed this year, codifies this approach into law.

Resources



Georgia
Online Voter Registration
Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger



Use the MVP Log In to check your

- 1. Voter registration status
- 2. Mail-In application and ballot status
- 3. Poll location
- 4. Early voting locations
- 5. Elected Officials
- 6. Registration information on file with the county office
- 7. Sample ballot for the upcoming election
- 8. Provisional Ballot status
- 9. Access to UOCAVA ballots

* First Initial

* Last Name

* County

* Date of Birth

The Primary Election may be over for our race, but there are several important races that have progressed to a runoff. The runoff will take place on **Tuesday, June 21st** and includes races for Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State, among others. **If you did not vote in the May 24th primary election, you may still vote in this runoff election if you are registered. If you selected a specific party ballot for the May 24th primary election, then you will receive the same party ballot for the June 21st runoff.**

Early voting has already begun and will run through Friday June 17th. To find you closest early polling place or drop box location, visit either the [Gwinnett County](#) or [Fulton County](#) elections websites. You can also check your voter registration, find your election day polling place, and view your sample ballot on the [Georgia My Voter Page](#).

GWINNETT COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUMMER MEALS

Grab & Go

For families with children 18 & under or those 19 & older with a physical/mental impairment.

MONDAY – FRIDAY
 May 31 – August 2 • 11:00am – 1:00pm

Free!

While supplies last • Locations on reverse side

COMIDAS DE VERANO

Coger y Llevar

Para familias con niños menores de 18 años o mayores de 19 años con discapacidad física/mental.

LUNES – VIERNES
 31 de Mayo – 2 de Agosto • 11:00am – 1:00pm

¡Gratis!

Mientras duren las reservas • Ubicaciones en el reverso

여름 식사 제공

포장 식사 픽업 가능

18세 미만의 자녀 또는 19세 이상 신체적/정신적 장애인이 있는 가정을 위한 혜택

월요일 – 금요일
 5월 31일 – 8월 2일 • 11:00am – 1:00pm

무료

공급 지속되는 동안 • 제공 장소는 뒷면 참고

Gwinnett

GWINNETT COMMUNITY SERVICES

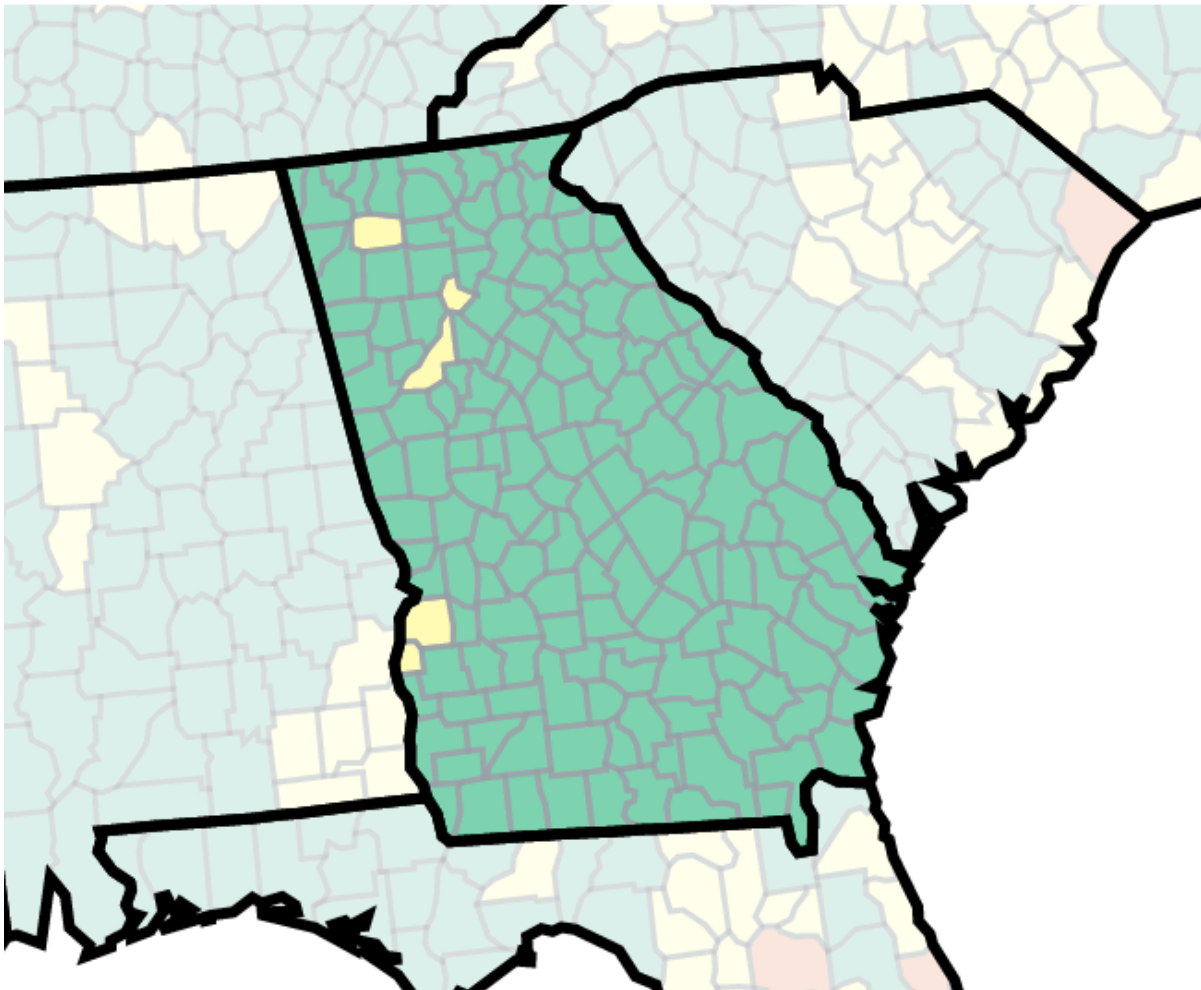
<p>BERKELEY LAKE</p> <p>1 Pickensville Park Community Recreation Center 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard</p> <p>BUFORD</p> <p>2 Bogan Park Community Recreation Center 2723 North Bogan Road</p> <p>3 Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center 2030 Clean Water Drive</p> <p>4 OneStop Buford 2735 Science Avenue</p> <p>Dacula</p> <p>5 Dacula Park Activity Building 2735 Auburn Avenue</p> <p>DULUTH</p> <p>6 Shorty Howell Park Activity Building 2750 Pleasant Hill Road</p> <p>LAWRENCEVILLE</p> <p>7 Club Drive Park 3330 Club Drive</p> <p>8 Freeman's Mill Park 1451 Astory Road</p> <p>9 Rhodes Jordan Park Multipurpose Field 100 East Oregon Street</p> <p>10 Sweet Water Park 808 Bethesda School Road</p> <p>LIBURAN</p> <p>11 Bryson Park 5075 Lawrenceville Highway Route 20, Stop 910</p> <p>12 Liburan Activity Building 788 Hillcrest Road Route 30, Stop 262 & 889</p> <p>13 Mountain Park Park Depot 5050 Five Forks Tricorn Road</p>	<p>LOGANVILLE</p> <p>14 Vines Park 2000 Oak Grove Road</p> <p>NORCROSS</p> <p>15 Best Friend Park Gym 524 Jimmy Carter Boulevard Route 26, Stop 407 & 906</p> <p>16 Graves Park 1342 Greens Road Route 20, Stop 894</p> <p>17 Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center 4051 Barn Road</p>	<p>SHELLVILLE</p> <p>18 Lenora Park Gym 4515 Lenora Church Road</p> <p>19 OneStop Centerville 3025 Serrano Church Road</p> <p>STONE MOUNTAIN</p> <p>20 DeShong Park 2859 North DeShong Road</p> <p>SUWANEE</p> <p>21 George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center 55 Buford Highway</p>
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GwinnettSummerMeals.com

MyGCTransit.com
For real-time bus tracking
Seguimiento de autobuses en tiempo real
실시간 버스 운행 확인

Gwinnett

Through August 2nd, Community Services of Gwinnett County will offer free breakfasts and lunches while school is out! Nutritious meals will be available for curbside pickup for people under 18, or 19 years old with a physical or mental disability, Monday – Friday from 11am - 1pm. You can find more information [here](#).



Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a mask indoors in public Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness
<p>People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.</p>		

CDC guidance around masking and testing is based on Community Levels. By tracking [COVID-19 Community Levels](#), we can keep all of our neighbors safe. I encourage everyone to get vaccinated and boosted if you have not already. Additionally, if you have come into close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or if you are experiencing symptoms, I encourage you to quarantine and get tested.

You can find testing locations near you [HERE](#), and the latest CDC guidance on quarantine practices can be found [HERE](#).

The image displays four promotional posters for free COVID-19 at-home tests, arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each poster features a woman sitting on a laptop, holding a coffee cup, and a search bar with the URL <https://www.covidtests.gov/>. The posters are in Korean, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Korean: 무료 코로나19 자가진단 키트 신청! (Free COVID-19 self-test kit application!)
미 정부가 급속히 번지는 오미크론 변이에 대처하고자 모든 가정에 코로나19 검사 키트를 최대 4개를 무상 지원합니다. 배송 비용 또한 없으며 신용카드 번호를 입력할 필요도 없습니다.
Search bar: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> 에서 지금 신청하세요

Chinese: 新冠病毒 covid19 免费测试盒 (Free COVID-19 self-test kit)
在美国的每个家庭都可以马上预定 4 个免费的COVID-19 新冠病毒自我检测。测试盒是完全免费的, 没有运输费也不需要输入信用卡号
Search bar: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> 有更多信息

Spanish: Obtenga pruebas caseras gratuitas de COVID-19 (Get free at-home COVID-19 tests)
Todos los hogares de EE.UU. son elegibles para ordenar 4 pruebas caseras gratuitas de COVID-19. Las pruebas son gratuitas.
Pida sus pruebas ahora para tenerlas cuando las necesite.
Search bar: <https://www.covidtests.gov/es/>

Vietnamese: Xét nghiệm COVID19 (tại nhà) miễn phí (Free COVID-19 at-home test)
Mọi gia đình ở Hoa Kỳ hiện có thể yêu cầu 4 bộ thử nghiệm COVID-19 miễn phí tại nhà. Các xét nghiệm COVID-19 hoàn toàn miễn phí - không có phí vận chuyển và bạn không cần nhập số thẻ tín dụng.
Search bar: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> để biết thêm thông tin

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a total set of 8 COVID at-home tests! Your order includes individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests, limit one order per residential address. Orders will be shipped for free via USPS starting late January. To secure your tests, you can fill out a form online [HERE](#) or call 1-800-232-0233 from 8am-midnight ET 7 days/week. This phone line offers assistance in over 150 languages.

Don't feel like you need them right now? Great! Order them to be ready the next time you might. Preparation is an important part of pandemic response!



During redistricting, Republicans tried to oust me from the General Assembly. **I am running for House District 50 so that I can stay and keep fighting for the people of Georgia.** As we head toward Election Day on November 8th, consider who shows up and does the work.

As your Senator, I have worked hard every day not just to talk the talk, but to walk the walk. Every single bill that's come across my desk and every single issue that comes before me gets equal thought and attention before each vote I cast. **I intend to continue that hard work as your next House Representative.**

If you would like to support our campaign, please consider making a contribution today. Every dollar makes a huge difference in this important election year.

Donate

As always, please do not hesitate to [reach out to our office](#) should you need any assistance. It is my honor to represent you in the State Senate, and I look forward to continuing to fight for you in the State House.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paid for by Au for Georgia Inc.

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United States

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