



{{FirstName or 'Friends'}} --

We are just days from the start of early voting and Team Au has been working non-stop to advance our legislative agenda and campaign for re-election!



I am so grateful for your support as we fight to change the balance of power in Georgia. From gun safety legislation and fighting to protect reproductive healthcare access, to defending voting rights and building diverse coalitions, **the work at the state legislative level has never been more important.**

CONTRIBUTE

Now let's catch up on what we've been doing heading into the last month of election season.

APALACHEE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

On September 4th we were all devastated to learn of the [mass shooting at Apalachee High School](#), in which a 14 year old student murdered four people with military-style rifle, injured nine others, and traumatized hundreds more. It was the 45th school shooting so far this year and the deadliest US school shooting since the March 2023 [Covenant School shooting in Nashville](#).

It is impossible to hear about this incident without considering **how a 14 year old could have gotten access to this gun** in the first place. It's also difficult for me personally to consider whether our bill [HB 161, The Pediatric Health Safe Storage Act](#), which we tried to pass last term but which was blocked by the Republican majority state legislature, **might have been able to prevent this incredible tragedy.**

The 14 year old shooter's father has since been [arrested and charged](#) with four counts of involuntary manslaughter, two counts of second-degree murder and eight counts of cruelty to children. And while these are historic charges, thought to be the most severe leveled against a parent in this type of gun violence incident, **no such prosecutions can undo the damage that has been done**, or bring back the lives that have been lost.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Education

[Georgia Decides: Voter Guide](#)[UATL](#)[Politically Georgia](#)[High School Sports](#)[Falcons](#)

OPINION

Lax gun laws and lax parents can create a deadly combination



[Click here for full article](#)

I have always approached gun safety through a public health lens, and **the lever arm of public health is prevention.** It is especially disheartening to see that demonstrated common-sense solutions to gun violence incidents such as these have been **blocked time and time again by our Republican majority legislature.**

POLITICS

Patricia Murphy: The Republican-made gun safety crisis in Georgia schools



[Click here for full article](#)

The fact is that [secure gun storage laws decrease firearm injuries and deaths among minors](#). I am dismayed that we missed this opportunity to prevent this and countless other incidents of gun violence in our communities. I am even more dismayed to hear that, even after the deadliest school shooting in Georgia history, [our own Governor refuses to act](#).

POLITICALLY GEORGIA

Brian Kemp says it's still too soon to weigh in on Georgia's gun policy debate

Your daily jolt of news and analysis from the AJC politics team



[Click here for full article](#)

For Republicans, it seems, it's never the right time.

But if it's not the right time to discuss gun safety legislation after a mass shooting incident, and it's not the right time to discuss prevention before the next mass shooting, maybe they just need to be honest with themselves that ***they're not interested in solutions at all.***

At the state Capitol last month, I noted that **inaction, too, is a policy choice.** And if our Republican legislators refuse to move on an issue that the majority of Georgia's voters are begging us act on, they quite simply are not doing their jobs.

And if they can't do their jobs, **maybe they don't need to be here at all.**



[Click here for full video](#)

I plan to bring back and pass the Pediatric Health Safe Storage Act when we return to work next session, and I suggest that you hold your Republican legislators accountable if they once again refuse to support this life-saving bill.

DANGEROUS RESTRICTIONS ON ABORTION ACCESS

It has been more than two years since [HB 481](#), Georgia's draconian [6 week abortion ban](#), has been enforced following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#), and we are just now starting to learn about its deadly effect on pregnant patients in this state.

Health Care

Abortion Bans Have Delayed Emergency Medical Care. In Georgia, Experts Say This Mother's Death Was Preventable.

At least two women in Georgia died after they couldn't access legal abortions and timely medical care in their state, ProPublica has found. This is one of their stories.

by **Kavitha Surana**

Sept. 16, 5 a.m. EDT

[*Click here for full article*](#)

A recent [Pro Publica investigative report](#) shed light on the case of **Amber Thurman**, a 28-year-old mother of a 6 year old son, who died after she **couldn't access legal abortion care in Georgia**.

[Doctors around the country have warned state legislators](#) that extreme abortion restrictions like Georgia's six week abortion ban would ultimately lead to delayed care, denied care, increased risk, and patient deaths. Unfortunately, that's exactly what we've seen since our **Republican extremist Supreme Court overturned the right to safe, legal abortion care in this country**.

The lag time for case reviews from Georgia's Maternal Mortality Review Committee is about two years. This means **we are only just now recognizing the first of the deaths resulting from Georgia's six week abortion ban**, which started being enforced in July 2022.

There will be more.



[Watch full video here](#)

In the aftermath of the Pro Publica piece, many people are second-guessing the choices of the clinicians involved in Amber Thurman's care. And while this is a case that must be evaluated and ultimately adjudicated by the medical and legal system, I'd posit that people who say "the doctors screwed up" are missing the point.

Because medical best practices haven't changed. Our understanding of the care we should provide patients hasn't changed. **What has changed is the legal environment around that care provision**, putting doctors in the position of incurring higher patient risk on one side or criminal charges on the other. **And this changes not just the choices that are made, but patient outcomes** not just in Georgia, but around the country in other states with extreme abortion bans.



[Watch full video here](#)

I have absolutely no doubt that next session, **Republican lawmakers will come after medication abortion** under the rationale that it was this safe, legal medication –rather than the legal environment they created to delay and deny her care—that led to Ms. Thurman’s death.

And I plan to be there at the Capitol to fight back against this further assault on our freedoms.

STATE ELECTION BOARD CHAOS

Georgia is one of the key battleground states in the upcoming election, and is no stranger to high-stakes voting controversy. As such, we have continued to follow the actions of the state election board closely, as a **Donald Trump-allied majority on the State Election Board** continues to [push through rules](#) on the eve of the 2024 election to sow chaos and distrust in our electoral system.

Here reporters on CBS’s “Face the Nation” break down the recent rule changes and what implications these might have on the upcoming election.



[Watch full video here](#)

Early voting in Georgia starts on Tuesday, October 15th.

TEAM AU COMMUNITY ACTION

STUDENT LEADERSHIP JOHNS CREEK DEBATE

Every election cycle, [Student Leadership Johns Creek](#) puts together a debate where candidates running for the state legislature can discuss the issues, discuss their priorities, and help voters decide how best to vote on Election Day. This year we were at HD 50's own **Chattahoochee High School**, and we discussed issues including healthcare access, gun safety, transportation, housing, and the opioid epidemic.



Every campaign is essentially a job interview.

[*Watch full clip here*](#)

The students, led by Ms. Irene Sanders, always do an excellent job, and this year was no exception. Kudos to all on another excellent debate, and helping the voters of Johns Creek make their decisions by November 5th!

PATRIOT'S DAY COMMEMORATION

As a healthcare provider who was working at a New York City Hospital on September 11th, 2001, I was honored to have been invited by the **Rotary Club of Johns Creek** to speak at this year's **Patriot's Day commemoration** at Newtown Park.



[Click here for full video](#)

It was particularly meaningful to be joined by so many first responders from our community, who understand that even in the most senseless of times, there is a comfort, and a meaning, in service.

In my remembrance of that day in 2021, I said: “Our colleagues, the police, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics—many of whom may have dropped off patients in our emergency room earlier that week—read the situation, understood the danger, and did exactly what they were trained to do.

They ran up the stairs and into the flames, to save others.

Our country was told, in the days that followed the attack, “Never forget.”

But it didn’t tell us *what* not to forget.

What I choose to remember from that day, and what I encourage each of you to remember too, is the good.

The courage. The sacrifice.

And the love.”

VIBHA DREAM MILE



It was wonderful seeing so many friends and constituents at the 26th annual [Vibha Dream Mile](#) in Forsyth this year! The Vibha Dream Mile is a service-oriented non-profit group with a focus on high quality education both in the United States and around the world.



I had the honor of presenting Vibha with [HR 1052](#) this past year, honoring their quarter century of community service and commitment to our children. Bravo on another incredible year and a successful event!

TRI-CAUCUS CONVERSATION

As Chair of Georgia's inaugural Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus, one of my goals has been coalition building with our other legislative ethnic caucuses, with the knowledge that communities of color share many common priorities, and **we are all stronger, and our voices louder, when we work together.**

We are lucky to have community partners who understand the importance of this work. As such on September 13th, [Sen. Nikki Merritt](#), [Rep. Saira Draiper](#) and I were proud to be part of an historic **Tri-Caucus Conversation hosted by the Ethnic Media Collaboration** (composed of [The Atlanta Voice](#), [Georgia Asian Times](#), and [MundoNOW](#)). We hope that discussions like these will help to reach and inform voters in Georgia's rapidly diversifying electorate, and encourage all Georgians to take an active role in the democratic process!



#AAPI CANVASS LAUNCH & COMEDY SHOW

HD 50 is a true swing district, at the heart of one of the swing states that will decide the presidential election. That is why it was particularly energizing to see such an incredible turnout at our HD 50 canvass launch this past weekend, which was organized in tandem with the **AAPI Victory Fund** and the **Harris/Walz campaign!**



Congresswoman [Pramila Jayapal](#) joined us to get our volunteers excited to knock on doors for Harris/Walz and my election for HD 50 here in Johns Creek! Congresswoman Jayapal is the first Indian-American woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the first Asian American to represent Washington state at the federal level.

After a long day of canvassing we were pleased to be able to show our voters some appreciation by hosting a free comedy show and GOTV event with actor, writer, and stand-up comedian **Jenny Yang**, who performed an exclusive set for us at Cafe Rothem. Thanks again to the AAPI Victory Fund for their help on this day of action!



For the past two election cycles, [AAPI voters were the margin of victory](#) in Georgia, and we expect that power to grow in 2024. *Thank you to everyone for helping to turn out this critical voting bloc for Harris Walz and Democrats all the way down the ballot!*

GEORGIA WIN LIST

I was honored to be invited to speak at the **Georgia WIN List** fundraiser last month with honored guest, former U.S. Deputy Attorney General **Sally Yates!**



Many remember Sally Yates from the early days of the Trump administration in 2016, when **she refused to defend then-President Trump's executive order banning travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries**. She was promptly fired from the DOJ for standing up to the president's illegal actions, and has been a fearless advocate since then for protecting American democracy against a lawless administration.

The [Georgia WIN list](#) has a decades-long history of supporting Democratic women candidates in Georgia and changing the face of power in this state. **I would not be where I am today without the WIN List**, and I encourage everyone to support this transformative organization and their slate of state legislative candidates for 2024.

UPCOMING TEAM AU EVENTS

HAPPY HOUR WITH CONGRESSWOMAN MCBATH



[RSVP HERE](#)

I am honored to have the support of my friend **Congresswoman Lucy McBath** as I run for re-election of Georgia's 50th District!

Please join us for a **family friendly Happy Hour** (with light bites) in downtown Duluth. To find out more information and to RSVP, go to bit.ly/au-oct17.

MEET & MINGLE

Team Au has been all over HD 50 the last few months, meeting constituents who have taken time out of their busy schedules to chat with me about the local, state, and national issues that matter to them.

If you have not been able to attend one of our Meet & Mingles yet, don't worry, there are more to come! To keep up to date on all our upcoming events, [bookmark this page](#), and we'll see you soon!



* * *

It has never been more important to pay attention to the work of state legislatures, and nowhere is it more evident than in our district, at the epicenter of the changing electoral face of Georgia, the leading edge of where swing districts

are still being fought and flipped. [Thank you as ever for your support](#) of my re-election campaign so that we can keep doing this most important work together.

CONTRIBUTE

As always, please **do not hesitate to [reach out to our office](#)** should you need any assistance, or if you have any concerns you'd like me to address on your behalf.



I could not do this without the support of my constituents. ***It is my honor to be your voice in the Georgia House of Representatives.***

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle".

Representative Dr. Michelle Au

Serving the 50th District



Paid for by Au for Georgia Inc.

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