



Georgia Public Broadcasting
Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

Radio
4th Quarter

October * November * December

Top Issues Addressed:

1. Politics
2. Health
3. Economy
4. Race Relations

Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

1. Politics

Political Rewind

GPB

Weekdays, 9am and repeated at 2pm

During this quarter, Political Rewind focused on the November elections in Georgia and the runoff in the U.S. Senate race between incumbent Rev. Raphael Warnock and challenger Herschel Walker. While Republicans won all the major state-wide constitutional offices, Democrat Warnock was able to win his race against the former football star.

Political Rewind

GPB

October 13, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel looked at the latest polling from the new Georgia News Collaborative. While the poll shows Democrat Stacey Abrams trailing incumbent Republican Gov. Brian Kemp in the upcoming Gubernatorial race, her platform is still popular with voters on issues like abortion access, opposing permit less carry, and legalizing gambling. Meanwhile, 90% of respondents said their vote depends on economic factors, cutting across many income brackets. A majority of respondents are also worried about housing affordability. Today's panel included Leroy Chapman, managing editor of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; Clark Atlanta University political science professor Kurt Young; and GOP political consultant Leo Smith.

Political Rewind

GPB

November 9, 2022, 9am and 2pm.

Today *Political Rewind* had two different live broadcasts focused on results from yesterday's mid-term election. Results showed a decisive victory for incumbent Gov. Brian Kemp in his re-election effort, and a clean sweep of state Constitutional office by the GOP. However, neither candidate in the important U.S. Senate race achieved 50% of the vote, meaning that race would go to a December runoff. Among today's discussions was a look at whether Georgia can still call itself a "purple" state given the lack of success by state Democrats. Joining host Bill Nigut on the morning broadcast were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Greg Bluestein; Morehouse College political science professor Adrienne Jones; Georgia State University political science professor Amy Steigerwalt; and University of Georgia political science professor Audrey Haynes. On the afternoon show, Bill Nigut was joined by Emory University emeritus professor of political science, Alan Abramowitz; *Axios*

Atlanta reporter Emma Hurt; *Mundo Now* publisher Rene Alegria; and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Shannon McCaffrey.

Political Rewind

GPB

December 13, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm

On *Political Rewind* today, host Bill Nigut and his panelists looked back at the recent election results and what they mean for the Republican party going forward. Outgoing Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan joined today's panel and discussed his revelation that he could not choose a candidate in the recent runoff for the U.S. Senate. He also talked about his GOP 2.0 initiative designed to lead the Republican party forward without the leadership of former Pres. Donald Trump. Deputy Secretary of State Jordan Fuchs said candidates in Georgia have to be able to pull voters who do not identify as strictly Democrat or Republican. Fuchs also pointed out that candidates who denied election results or who told voters voting systems are unreliable did not fare well. In addition, Fuchs said more people need to vote in the primaries if they want to avoid extreme candidates winning either party's primary elections. Republican strategist Eric Tanenblatt said that the Republican Party needs to consider how it can reach out to more voting groups, particularly Black and Hispanic voters. Also on the panel today was *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* senior reporter Tamar Hallerman.

Political Rewind

GPB

December 19, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm

Following a previous program looking at the current state of the Republican party in Georgia, today's *Political Rewind* focused on what Democrats need to do moving forward. While Democrats were victorious in the contention U.S. Senate race, they also lost important seats in the state legislature. State House Minority Whip Sam Park noted that Georgia Democrats have to work to make their case to every voter and policy-forward campaigns are vitally important. Former state senator Jen Jordan, who lost her bid for Attorney General, said she learned that messaging is important on the campaign trail and candidates need to tailor their messaging to different people in the state. *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* senior reporter and columnist Patricia Murphy noted that although Democrats received donations from across the U.S., they may need to win more races for the donations to continue. And DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond said Democrats need to be more efficient in state races.

On Point

APM

December 16, 2022, 10am

Georgia Congressperson Marjorie Taylor Greene was the focus of today's edition of *On Point* hosted by Meghna Chakrabarti. Greene has become a potent force bridging the Republican Party and the far-right. But where did she come from? "I can't tell you how many old faculty or staff of her high school that I talked to, they had no recollection of her whatsoever," Elaina Plott Calabro, staff writer at *The Atlantic*, says. The program traced her rise from competitive CrossFit, down the QAnon rabbit hole and all the way to Congress, where Greene is poised to wield much more power in the Republican controlled House. Other guests on the program included *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Washington correspondent Tia Mitchell and Robert Draper, staff writer at the *New York Times*.

2. Health

Political Rewind

GPB

October 24, 2022. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* focused on abortion as Georgia's "heartbeat law" heads to a Fulton County courtroom over the issue of whether the law violates the right to privacy enumerated in the state

constitution. Women make up 54.4% of the state's voters and abortion is expected to be an important issue in the upcoming mid-term elections, although it has recently polled lower on voters' list of concerns. A ruling on the abortion law challenge is not expected before the November 8th balloting. Joining host Bill Nigut on today's program were University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock; *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter and columnist Patricia Murphy; political ad expert Rick Dent; and Georgia State University professor of law Tanya Washington.

Political Rewind

GPB

November 16, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* looked at yesterday's ruling overturning Georgia's so-called "heartbeat law" which effectively banned abortions in the state after 6 weeks. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney ruled the law was invalid because when it was signed into law in 2019, U.S. Supreme Court precedent established by *Roe v. Wade* and another ruling allowed abortion well past six weeks. State officials immediately appealed the ruling to the state Supreme Court. *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Greg Bluestein said the state legislature would face an uphill battle trying to pass a new abortion law this session. Also on today's panel with host Bill Nigut were University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock; political ad expert Rick Dent; and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Washington reporter Tia Mitchell.

3. Economy

Political Rewind

GPB

October 28, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* focused on the economy as voters continue to say economic issues are their number one concern going into the upcoming mid-term election. While Atlanta employers added 6,600 jobs in the last month and the GDP grew 2.6% in the last quarter, but prices continue to be expensive. While some politicians want to blame the Biden administration for the high inflation, experts looked at other reasons. In certain industries, corporate profits have risen over the rate of inflation. And *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* business & economics reporter Mike Kanell said demand for things like groceries never really change, so grocers can charge what they want for high-demand items. Others joining host Bill Nigut on today's panel included former *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political columnist Jim Galloway; *GPB News* political reporter Stephen Fowler; and Emory University professor of economics, Caroline Fohlin.

4. Race Relations

Political Rewind

GPB

October 7, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and former *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political columnist, Jim Galloway, welcomed former Atlanta TV anchor John Pruitt who has authored a new book called *Tell It True*, an historical fiction novel based on the murder of Lt. Col. Lemuel Penn by two Ku Klux Klansmen in 1964. While the book is fictionalized, Pruitt noted that many conflicts and tragedies in the book unintentionally mirror events that happened as he wrote it. The book follows a fictionalized path to a 1964 gubernatorial election, stressing real strife between civil rights advocates versus segregationists. During today's show, Pruitt said hiring Black reporters and journalists in Atlanta's media scene helped to make Atlanta a more progressive city compared to others in the South. Pruitt worked alongside Monica Kaufman Pearson, the first Black and female anchor for the 6pm news in Atlanta at WSB-TV.

