

WSB-TV Posts Georgia 2022 Primary Results Before Election!

ATLANTA, MAY 16, 2022 – WSB-TV, the market leader in Georgia television broadcasting, prematurely posted on their website <u>artificial Georgia 2022 primary election</u> results, most of which VoterGA has collected. The active webpage included artificial results for all statewide and U.S. Congressional races in the Georgia 2022 primaries.

VoterGA confirmed that the premature election results for each candidate resulted from preliminary testing of the WSB-TV election reporting site. However, the results test page clearly should have never been made public. The link was deactivated yesterday after it was discovered. A search of the internet archives shows that the <u>artificial results had been posted</u> <u>since April 7, 2022</u>—about three weeks after qualifying ended. The results originally appeared at the link: <u>https://www.wsbtv.com/election-results/?wrap%3Dfalse</u>.

News media organizations have accidentally released premature results before. VoterGA wanted to find out where the bizarre results originate since they tend to show media bias in reporting. WSB News Director Suzanne Nadell, explained they received the test results from the Associated Press (AP) which of course, did not expect them to be released to the public.

While most of the artificial results showed no creation methodology, some appeared to closely track polling projections. For example, the Republican Governor's race showed Brian Kemp and David Perdue headed for a runoff with Kemp at 44% and Perdue at 40%. However, the AP had Kandiss Taylor at only 5% even after she had campaigned for a year, visited every Georgia county and garnered a 10% vote share in at least one poll.

One bizarre, unrealistic posting artificially awarded first time 6th district U.S. Congressional candidate, Byron Gatewood, 43% of the vote despite him being a virtual unknown polling at 1-2% in a nine-candidate field. Mallory Staples, a 6th District candidate who is polling about ten times higher added: "Our grassroots volunteer team has worked tirelessly to help me become a leading candidate in this crowded race. The public distortion of actual polling by the AP not only damaged their efforts, but caused confusion among voters."

The artificial results were first reported to VoterGA by 13th District U.S. Congressional candidate Dominika Hawkins. The posting showed her finishing third in her race, more than a week before the actual election results will even be tabulated. Mrs. Hawkins said: "*I believe I was unfairly hurt in this process. When the AP arbitrarily picks winners and losers before the election, it unduly influences voters and puts politics over the people.*"

<u>VoterGA</u> is a non-partisan, 501(c)3 registered non-profit organization created by a coalition of citizens working to restore election integrity in Georgia. We advocate for independently verifiable, auditable, recount capable and transparent elections.