




# HOW TO ANNOTATE


Underline - Words or phrases you do not understand

 - Main Ideas

**Highlight** - Meaningful/Important phrases or sentences

 - Next to anything that raises a question

 - Left margin: notes about content

 -Right margin: personal reactions and opinions

## Minimum Requirements:

Left Margin = 2 per page

Right Margin= 2 per page

Star = 1

Highlight and ? = number up to you

\*if you do not have a highlighter you can use brackets [ ]

## Paragraph Responses:

**Why did the minority group from the article have trouble voting?**

# Georgia's strict laws lead to large purge of voters

Oct 27, 2018

By [Alan Judd](#), The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Georgia governor's race is balanced on a knife's edge. Local polls have the Democratic nominee Stacey Abrams and her GOP opponent, Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp, virtually tied. Abrams's team in particular will scramble to make sure every provisional ballot is completed, that every person who faced challenges to registration is able to participate, that all absentee and vote-by-mail ballots are counted, and that every allegation of intimidation or unfair practices on Election Day is investigated. In a race in which a December runoff is a distinct possibility if neither candidate can secure 50 percent support, every single vote matters.

But no matter the outcome, it's clear that voter rights and suppression will be one of the major stories of the 2018 election in Georgia. The state has become the battleground for something deeper than the ideas of the candidates themselves; it's now symbol of a larger struggle over voting rights that has changed party politics markedly over the past five years. The true nature of voter suppression as an accumulation of everyday annoyances, legal barriers, and confusion has come into full view. Today, voter suppression is a maze, not a wall.



That maze has been under construction for years. Kemp has organized what his opponents and critics say is a series of clear attempts to decrease the number of people who vote, in particular decrease the number of minorities who vote. Kemp is Republican and minorities are statistically more likely to vote for Democrats. Since 2010, his office reports that it has purged (canceled) upwards of 1.4 million voters from the rolls, including more than 660,000 Georgians in 2017 and almost 90,000 in 2018. Many of those voters found their registration canceled because they had not voted in the previous election. There is no rule or law that requires citizens to vote in every election. There was no notification or warning given to residents that their voter registration would be canceled if they chose to skip an election and would have to re-register if they wanted to vote again.

Additionally, under an “exact match” law passed by the state legislature, handwritten voter registrations are now required to be identical to personal documents. Under this law, if the name you write on your voter registration does not match other government records EXACTLY, it will not be processed. This means if anyone typed in a name when you filled out a government form in the past with an extra space or hyphen or mistyped it by even one character, the registration wouldn’t go through. The ‘exact match’ system would put someone named Beyoncé Knowles-Carter on the ‘pending’ registration list if her voting application said Beyonce or Knowles Carter without the hyphen. In other states, there is some allowance for typos or special character mistakes. Under Georgia’s new law, it had to match exactly. In mid 2018 53,000 people had their registrations moved to “pending” status because of typos or other errors before a district court enjoined the policy. More than 80 percent of those registrations belonged to black voters.

To make matters worse, Georgia reduced early voting windows in 2018. Early voting is popular with citizens who have more than one job, who work nights and who can’t take time off from work to vote on a Tuesday. With early voting, citizens can choose which day they go vote. They can go on a weekend or their day off. Reducing early voting reduces the opportunities for lower income voters to get out and vote. It is hard to measure how much any one of these policies effects the outcome of elections. But much of the research on election law and voter turnout shows that it’s the combination of major policies and minor barriers—like polling-place changes, long lines at the polls, and small hurdles—that have real and measurable impacts on turnout.

Republicans in Georgia claim these new laws and policies are meant to prevent voter fraud. They say it’s easier to pretend to be someone who died or moved then it is to risk voting by pretending someone who might show up to vote themselves. However, no evidence has been found showing that voter fraud is a problem in Georgia. If your true purpose in purging registration is to prevent fraud, then why wouldn’t the people who were being cancelled be notified so they could confirm their identity or correct typos in their name in time for the election? Why tell no one and wait for them to show up to vote and not be allowed to?

When the man in charge of the rules for an election is a candidate IN that same election, when the new rules make it harder or impossible for a large number of people to vote, and those people are minorities which are likely to vote for his opponent. You have to ask whether maybe stopping them from voting was the point.

Those are important considerations for this election, and for elections to come. Regardless of the outcomes of individual races—and even perhaps because of them, if Republicans face major losses—the incentives for disenfranchising black and Latino voters may only be increasing as their share of the electorate increases, and as they steadily back Democratic candidates. In places like Georgia, the walls of a maze appear to already be in place.