

# EQUALLY SACRED PRIORITIES

## FOR THE 2021 GEORGIA SENATE RUNOFF ELECTIONS

In recent years, Pope Francis has provided explicit instruction on the many ways we are called to defend, promote, and protect the sacredness of life. In his writing and speaking, Pope Francis makes it clear: **abortion is not the only issue that matters.**

Faith does not fit into political parties neatly. Still, we are called to engage in politics. This is no small feat. It requires us to be informed, to develop our conscience, to connect with like-minded people, and listen to those who think differently.



Here you will find a comparison of the Georgia Senate candidates' policy positions in the areas Pope Francis names as "equally sacred" to the defense of the unborn.

**We invite you to consider this information prayerfully.**

Defense of the unborn is clear.

	<u>LOEFFLER</u>	<u>WARNOCK</u>
Seeks to overturn <i>Roe v. Wade</i> .	✓	✗
	<u>PERDUE</u>	<u>OSSOF</u>
	✓	✗
Supports health care and nutrition for pregnant women; Addresses maternal mortality, particularly for Black women	✗	✓
	<u>PERDUE</u>	<u>OSSOF</u>
	✗	✓

Equally sacred are those already born.

	<u>LOEFFLER</u>	<u>WARNOCK</u>
Supports families; advocates for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and Native American tribes; opposes racism, xenophobia, and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community and people with disabilities; opposes the death penalty	✗	✓
	<u>PERDUE</u>	<u>OSSOF</u>
	✗	✓

### Equally sacred are...

People and families on the economic margins.

	<u>LOEFFLER</u>	<u>WARNOCK</u>
Seeks to increase funding for housing, nutrition programs, and other economic supports, and prevent predatory lending	✗	✓
	<u>PERDUE</u>	<u>OSSOF</u>
	✗	✓

Those who are sick, disabled, and older adults.

	<u>LOEFFLER</u>	<u>WARNOCK</u>
Will increase access to health care, oppose cuts to Medicare & Medicaid, and support people with disabilities	✗	✓
	<u>PERDUE</u>	<u>OSSOF</u>
	✗	✓

Victims of human trafficking & economic slavery.

	<u>LOEFFLER</u>	<u>WARNOCK</u>
Upholds the Trafficking Victims Protection Act; supports raising the minimum wage and workers' right to organize	✗	✓
	<u>PERDUE</u>	<u>OSSOF</u>
	✗	✓

### If we are pro-life...

We cannot ignore economic inequality.

	<u>LOEFFLER</u>	<u>WARNOCK</u>
Seeks to accurately measure and address economic inequality, including the racial wealth and income gap	✗	✓
	<u>PERDUE</u>	<u>OSSOF</u>
	✗	✓

We cannot overlook the situation of migrants.

	<u>LOEFFLER</u>	<u>WARNOCK</u>
Opposes a border wall, supports family in immigration policies and humane treatment of immigrants, and protects Dreamers	✗	✓
	<u>PERDUE</u>	<u>OSSOF</u>
	✗	✓

### Gaudete et Exultate - March 2018

101. Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty.

102. We often hear it said that the situation of migrants is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the "grave" bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children.

### General Audience - June 3, 2020

We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.

# COMPARING THE CANDIDATES

## Senator Kelly Loeffler

Senator Kelly Loeffler's legislative positions do not reflect the Equally Sacred priorities. She supports the death penalty, and has supported the Trump administration's efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, which would leave millions unable to receive critical health care during a pandemic.

Senator Loeffler supports repealing *Roe v. Wade*.

Loeffler understated the threat of COVID-19. In February as COVID-19 began to reach the U.S., she tweeted "Democrats have dangerously and intentionally misled the American people on #Coronavirus readiness. Here's the truth: @realDonaldTrump & his administration are doing a great job working to keep Americans healthy & safe."

Senator Loeffler ignores the horrific reality of negligence and violence Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has perpetuated against migrants and asylum seekers at the Southern border, advocates for President Trump's border wall, and sponsored legislation that would expedite deportations. Additionally, during her short tenure in the Senate, she has supported anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.

Loeffler proudly supports the Trump administration's policy priorities including the 2017 tax law, which hurt those already living in poverty while giving the wealthiest people and corporations additional tax breaks.

### Sources:

- [www.kellyforsenate.com/issues](http://www.kellyforsenate.com/issues)
- [www.statesman.com/news/20201120/fact-check-does-georgia-senate-hopeful-loeffler-favor-getting-rid-of-healthcare-amid-pandemic](http://www.statesman.com/news/20201120/fact-check-does-georgia-senate-hopeful-loeffler-favor-getting-rid-of-healthcare-amid-pandemic)

## Rev. Raphael Warnock

Rev. Raphael Warnock supports the Equally Sacred priorities voters are called to consider when they vote. He believes in affordable, equitable health care and understands that working for health care for all respects the human dignity of every individual. Warnock has promised to protect and expand the Affordable Care Act as well as Medicaid and Medicare. He has promised to fight for "comprehensive access to reproductive and mental health services." Rev. Warnock is strongly opposed to the death penalty.

Rev. Warnock supports upholding *Roe v. Wade*.

Warnock supports passing the Equality Act and advocates for gender-inclusive policies. He says family separation at the border is a "moral crisis" and has called for comprehensive immigration reform to prevent trafficking and worker exploitation. Rev. Warnock challenges systems that perpetuate racism, misogyny, and xenophobia. He sees mass incarceration as a "spiritual problem."

Rev. Warnock believes in investing in workers with green, sustainable jobs and resources. Warnock also recognizes the disparities of rural communities and communities of color, and supports investing in technology and broadband to increase access to telemedicine and online learning.

### Sources:

- [www.changewire.org/how-do-we-work-to-redeem-americas-soul](http://www.changewire.org/how-do-we-work-to-redeem-americas-soul)
- [www.wgxa.tv/news/beyond-the-podium/beyond-the-podium-with-us-senate-candidate-reverend-raphael-warnock](http://www.wgxa.tv/news/beyond-the-podium/beyond-the-podium-with-us-senate-candidate-reverend-raphael-warnock)
- [www.warnockforgeorgia.com/issues](http://www.warnockforgeorgia.com/issues)

# COMPARING THE CANDIDATES

## Senator David Perdue

Senator David Perdue does not represent Georgians with Equally Sacred values in mind. He opposed the Affordable Care Act and voted to repeal it multiple times during the Trump Presidency. His position on health care would leave many uninsured and unable to receive the care they deserve. He has also voiced support of the death penalty.

Senator Perdue supports repealing *Roe v. Wade*.

Senator Perdue fails to protect the rights and dignity of the LGBTQ+ community and strongly opposes marriage equality. He supports Trump-era tax cuts, which threaten programs that support those living on the margins while letting the richest people and corporations acquire more wealth.

Senator Perdue with Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) co-sponsored the RAISE Act. This plan would reduce family-based immigration and create a merit-based immigration system, which would hurt more families. He supported President Trump's mission to build a wall on the southern border and voted against providing humanitarian aid to migrants and asylum seekers at the border.

In 2016 and 2017, Senator Perdue scored 20% then 0% on NETWORK's Congressional Voting Record. Senator Perdue has proudly stood by President Trump throughout his time in the Senate. President Donald Trump and Senator Perdue do not uphold all Equally Sacred priorities.

### *Sources:*

- [www.perdue.senate.gov](http://www.perdue.senate.gov)
- [www.perduesenate.com](http://www.perduesenate.com)
- [www.projects.fivethirtyeight.com/congress-trump-score/david-perdue](http://www.projects.fivethirtyeight.com/congress-trump-score/david-perdue)

## Jon Ossoff

Jon Ossoff supports the Equally Sacred priorities voters are called to consider when voting. He believes that it is a necessity for all individuals and families to have health insurance, names the maternal mortality crisis, and says he will strengthen the Affordable Care Act's protections and "vote to protect and strengthen Medicare, and support offering all Americans a public health insurance option." Ossoff supports ending the death penalty.

He also says in the Senate he will "only vote to confirm federal judges who pledge to uphold *Roe v. Wade*."

Ossoff supports passing the Equality Act and defends marriage equality, calls for reforming the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to improve treatment of immigrants, and states "race and class disparities in policing, prosecution, and sentencing must be ended." Ossoff supports investment in infrastructure to improve access to housing and public health.

Ossoff recognizes structural inequity in our economic system, and supports economic policies to benefit families, including: "direct emergency relief during economic crises, lower taxes for all but the wealthiest Americans, debt-free public college, free vocational training, and health care guaranteed at an affordable price."

### *Sources:*

- [www.electjon.com/policy](http://www.electjon.com/policy)
- [www.twitter.com/ossoff/status/1217521258163818502](https://twitter.com/ossoff/status/1217521258163818502)
- [www.twitter.com/ossoff/status/1274026996406894595](https://twitter.com/ossoff/status/1274026996406894595)