



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Stacey Abrams is the common-sense community safety candidate. She knows that we must do more to protect our families, children, schools, and communities. That's why she has helped pass numerous laws to stop human trafficking, gang activity and other threats to our communities.

Abrams has put forward plans on community policing, school safety, protections for domestic violence victims, and more. But she also knows that lock-em-up rhetoric can take our state too far and unjustly target vulnerable communities.

Stacey Abrams will fight for common-sense measures to make us safer, put an end to an era of mass incarceration, and reform our criminal justice system.

Safe Neighborhoods

Stacey Abrams voted yes to HB 1015 in 2010—the legislation Brian Kemp calls the strongest anti-gang legislation in the nation. She served on the Special Joint Committee on Criminal Justice Reform, the Sentencing Subcommittee, the Probation Reform Task Force, the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform for Georgians, and the Judicial Nominating Committee. As governor, Abrams will:

- **Promote community-oriented policing.** Trust between communities and law enforcement is essential. Community-oriented policing can foster trust and strengthen the relationships that make our communities safer. Some law enforcement agencies in Georgia have affirmed a community-oriented policing philosophy that recognizes the need for strong relationships with communities, as well as proactive problem solving to prevent crimes. An Abrams administration will encourage similar programs in Georgia's cities and counties through coordinated listening sessions between law enforcement and communities, as well as grants for training. Additionally, in contrast with her opponent, Abrams supports a living wage for law enforcement. She will ensure the state provides transition grants to the communities willing to serve as partners and pay for it with the savings from furthering Deal's criminal justice reform.
- **Enforce our sex trafficking laws.** Stacey Abrams will work to ensure that the laws on the books are enforced. As a state legislator, Abrams voted in support of SR 445 in 2008 to set up a study committee on this issue, HB 200 in 2011 to comprehensively strengthen laws against human trafficking, and SB 8 in 2015 to set up the Safe Harbor Fund. As governor, Abrams will move forward with the Safe Harbor Commission and Fund that



voters approved in 2016 and ensure that Human Trafficking Notices are posted, training opportunities exist throughout our state, and child sex trafficking victims are not treated as criminals.

- **Support violence prevention and youth services programs.** Hospital intervention programs provide mental health and substance abuse services, job placement, and conflict de-escalation training to interrupt violence. Initial evaluations of The Youth Intervention and Violence Intervention Program in Savannah hospitals show promising results. As governor, Abrams will support hospital intervention programs that seek to disrupt cycles of violence. She will also support local governments and community-based organizations working directly with communities most affected by gun violence. Finally, she will continue the partnerships with academic researchers, such as Emory's Violence Prevention Task Force, who seek to improve violence prevention through data driven solutions.

Safe Schools

The safety of the learning environment must be our highest priority, as the ability to learn and to educate are wholly impacted by the security of our schools. As governor, Stacey Abrams will:

- **Keep our youngest children safe** by continuing the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's use of federal funds to pay for background checks for child care workers.
- **Support PBIS initiatives, the Georgia Education Climate Coalition, Mental Health Funding, and School Counselors, Social Workers, and Psychologists.** With strong partnerships among students, teachers, parents, and communities, we can ensure safe public schools. To do this, we must prioritize preventative measures and continue to build on Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) initiatives. We know that children come to school with different challenges, and PBIS allows us to rely less on force from police in a learning environment. We must leverage our state dollars to take full advantage of federal dollars for mental health and early intervention supports.
- **Ensure Training and Support for Resource Officers.** Abrams previously supported legislation to expand training for school resource officers, so they can be advocates for safety and for the students. As governor, she'll ensure that encouragement is matched with funding.



- **Prioritize Digital Citizenship.** As both a legislator and as Minority Leader, Abrams played a key role in moving forward anti-bullying legislation. As we incorporate and encourage technology in schools and learning, we must prioritize digital citizenship and teach responsible technology use to counter and prevent cyber-bullying.
- **Ensure Safe Facilities** by providing resources for safety and security building improvements.
- **Break the School-to-Prison Pipeline.** Student discipline issues must be addressed, but with the aim of maintaining students' hope for future success. Abrams will bring education, public safety, and community leaders together to build on recent criminal justice reform. We will focus on providing early interventions, intensive supports when needed, and a path back to school.

Safe Homes

Stacey Abrams respects the 2nd Amendment and the rights of Georgians to protect their families and homes. However, she also knows that threats can come from within the home as well. Abrams supports common-sense gun safety measures to protect victims of domestic violence and to allow for eminent danger protection orders.

- **Support Survivors of Domestic Violence.** Abrams calls for the creation of a panel of victims, advocates, and lawmakers to determine the best way to ensure that perpetrators of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking aren't able to access weapons. Such actions may include prohibiting possession and requiring the surrender of firearms or ammunition by domestic abusers. Additionally, she will support service providers to ensure victims in every part of the state have assistance and shelter when facing family violence. Georgia's domestic violence service providers received more than 44,000 crisis calls in 2017, and shelters turned away more than 2,300 victims and their children due to lack of bed space. As governor, Abrams will work with the legislature to close the service gaps for victims.
- **Allow Families to Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.** When a loved one has mental health challenges that puts them at risk of endangering themselves or others, families and law enforcement should have a path to petition a court to temporarily restrict firearms access.