



Office of the Secretary of State

Brad Raffensperger
SECRETARY OF STATE

March 18, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jon Ossoff
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 825 B&C
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raphael Warnock
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hank Johnson
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nikema Williams
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucy McBath
1513 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carolyn Bourdeaux
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Concerns About Congress Not Accepting Certified Election Winners

Dear Senators and Representatives in Georgia's Democratic delegation to Congress:

I write to you today with warnings over how the new Congress is handling newly-elected officials.

Georgia underwent a tumultuous presidential election marred by baseless conspiracy theories and unfounded allegations. To this day, Georgia's election system remains a target for those upset about the election results in this state, and across the country, in November.

However, Georgia's election workers, from my colleagues in my own office to the thousands of Americans who braved COVID-19 to volunteer at the polls in November, sacrificed much in pursuit of free and fair elections in Georgia. I received threats and required constant security for being unbending in defense of Georgia's elections. My wife received sexualized threats. My grandchildren's homes were broken into. Poll workers were followed home, threatened online, and even had to go into hiding for simply delivering a fair election.

None of these innocent workers had signed up for this. As a public official, vitriol from online trolls, and even death threats, are an unfortunate but expected part of the process. But these election workers, who volunteered purely to make sure their fellow Americans could exercise the fundamental right to vote, should not have been subject to such harassment.

They put themselves in the firing line though because the right to vote in this country is sacred. The right of the governed to choose their governors is foundational to democracy in the United States of America.

To put these election workers in harm's way, then to override the choice of the voters would be unconscionable, whether we liked the outcome or not. That is why my office stood by the results as tabulated in November and continue to do so. Too many Georgians sacrificed too much for the sake of a free and fair election for us to turn around and ignore the will of the voters.

That is why I am concerned by the actions of the Speaker and the Democratic caucus in the House of Representatives with regards to the election of Representative Marianne Miller-Meeks, the certified winner of Iowa's 2nd District.

Rep. Miller-Meeks won the election first by 47 votes, then was declared the winner by a 6-vote margin at the end of November. Iowa's State Board of Canvass certified Rep. Miller-Meeks as the winner in a 5-0 vote. Nonetheless, Speaker Pelosi has decided to take the seating of the Congresswoman into her own hands, ostensibly leaving the decision over who wins the already certified election to the House of Representative's Democratic majority.

In light of what Georgia has gone through over the last few months, and what members of my office and our great state and local election workers sacrificed, I am greatly alarmed that members of Congress would consider overturning the will of the voters as certified by the state, as narrow as it is.

Members of the Georgia delegation who watched as their state was thrown into turmoil by efforts to overturn the will of the voters in a similarly close contest should be outspoken in their disgust about Speaker Pelosi's efforts to overturn Iowa's 2nd district election. As members of the leading party in the House of Representatives, Georgia's

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Congressional delegation has a special obligation to speak up on behalf of the sanctity of the will of the people in another state when it is to be so blatantly violated by their colleagues.

Georgia's two Senators, whose majority-making election rested on elections workers around the state doing their jobs even during tumultuous times, must be vocal in their criticism of efforts to dismiss the work of the state and local election officials in other states. Georgia's election workers sacrificed too much to provide a fair election to watch their elected officials stand idly by as another state is robbed of fair representation for partisan gain.

As Georgia's chief election official, my office stood up to unprecedented attacks from all over the country to ensure that your voters, like all Georgia voters, were fairly represented. Our election workers were put in harm's way to send you to Congress because that is what government by the people means.

I am calling on you now stand up to your own caucus and fight for that same right for our friends in Iowa's 2nd district.

Sincerely,



Brad Raffensperger