



GEORGIA RESISTS

BY KIMBERLY ALLEN

STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY, 123RF.com

Reiterating a line from a book she just finished reading, House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams (D-89) shared, “People participate to the degree they understand, and they understand to the degree they participate. That’s the goal of Georgia Resists (GR). We need people to participate. And if we want them to participate, they have to understand what’s happening; and if they understand what’s happening, they are going to participate.”

This is why the Georgia House Democratic Caucus formed the GR initiative, which provides constituents with easy access to everything politics. Via their [website www.georgiaresists.com](http://www.georgiaresists.com) you can track your legislator’s votes, find out who your representatives are, and utilize personalized toolkits designed to walk you through the most effective ways to take action.

“I really felt that we were safely moving forward as a nation towards gender and racial equality, healthcare as a right not a privilege, caring for the environment, and inclusiveness

with some bumps in the road along the way,” expressed Cathy Karell. “Now I am scared that not only are we not going forward, but that we are actually going backwards.” John’s Creek resident Deb Powell agreed, as she recalled lamenting the results of the election in her living room with friends. “We went around the room and talked about what the loss meant to each of us, but more importantly, how we planned to move on.”

Sentiments such as these are still deeply felt throughout the country. In response, opposition to this administration is forming in unexpected places—one living room and one person at a time.

“One of the reasons for GR is to harness and focus this new energy based on what has been changing on the ground,” says Rep. Abrams. “Georgia’s leadership has been majority republican since 2002, but the State has also been undergoing a fairly dramatic demographic change in terms of racial demography and ideological change.” This was evidenced by the 600-plus people who attended the GR’s introductory meeting, and the 4,550 who have signed on as members since its January launch.

With more than 160 statewide municipal elections this year alone, citizens need to stay informed and engaged. Using the catchphrase: “Educate, Advocate, Agitate,” GR proposes three ways Georgians can make a difference, and provides ways that any citizen can get involved according to his/her individual comfort level. “GR is not organized for a specific purpose other than to help channel and provide information and support. It is up to the members and those who are subscribers to really decide where their interests lie,” clarifies Abrams.

We’ve all heard the saying knowledge is power, but it’s much more than a slogan. Which is why voters need to EDUCATE themselves on the party’s vast legislative agenda. Visit the GR website to discover what legislation needs your support right now by reading all about the issue(s) at hand, when to act, and then TAKE ACTION. For example, subscribers were asked to build

GEORGIA RESISTS

upon Rep. John Lewis' voting rights related work in Congress by writing letters to the editor of the newspaper of their choice regarding [HB 268](#) (the voters' suppression bill) here in Georgia.

Thanks to this tactic, GR has already experienced success by raising awareness about a number of issues, like [HB 51](#) which was intended to weaken support for campus sexual assault survivors. "Those who understand what is happening have a much higher degree of ability to respond," offers Rep. Abrams.

Advocacy is essential to GR's success, and impossible to achieve without people who believe in and spend time supporting the cause in some way. Volunteers are needed on all fronts, as are those willing to serve by running for office.

For example, actions like the public outcry in response to the airport Muslim ban forced people who normally wouldn't care about this issue to suddenly be aware of it. While coordinating Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport's Muslim ban protest, GR ensured attorneys were available to help support those who were being detained, as well as having partner organizations get the word out in order to swell the numbers in attendance. This allowed Georgians to [ADVOCATE](#) by being part of one of the largest airport protests taking place across the country that night.

"It's important to remember that when you are on the minority side, sometimes the victory isn't actually defeating your opponent, but simply forcing your opponent to talk to you and answer your questions," advises Rep. Abrams. "Our sense of victory has to come from our ability to slow down, to impede, and force them to confront what they are saying and what they are doing."

The word [AGITATE](#) might read a little scary on paper, but you do not have to physically go outdoors to protest (unless that is your method of choice). A telephone call will suffice, but the best way to truly effect change is by showing up in person. "You can't always see or feel where a person's heart is by reading an email," State Rep. Rhonda

Burnough (D-77) explains. "Taking the time to contact an elected official should be honored no matter how it happens, but when engaging face-to-face your concerns can't be ignored, shaken off, or misinterpreted."

Emails are found to be the least effective way to communicate with a politician, but if the alternative is to do absolutely nothing, then please do send that email!

GR shows no signs of slowing down, as over 100 constituents recently gathered at a joint town hall to hear legislative updates from Leader Abrams and Rep. Howard Mosby (D-83), but also find their place in this movement. "The election outcome was a wake-up call for a lot of us who are progressive, and showed we have to get involved at the local level," shared Ana Dower while attending her third GR event with her husband and son. "It was a learning lesson for us to see how the other side resisted President Obama's changes for eight years, and I think now what we're seeing is progressives mimicking that."

No longer "asleep at the wheel," Deb has committed to being politically active at the local level at least twice a week. Not only is she canvassing for candidate Democrat Jon Ossoff (who is running for the congressional seat vacated by Tom Price in District 6), but is passing that energy on by getting her 25-year-old daughter, Cara Powell, involved as well. "This election has given us the opportunity to channel our energies for good, and it has been an interesting process," says Deb. "This is the first time I've ever been involved with a political campaign—but certainly not the last."

Regardless of which party you identify with, we all have a role to play when it comes to opposing the policies of the current administration. How will you get involved? Visit www.georgiareresists.com to check out your options.

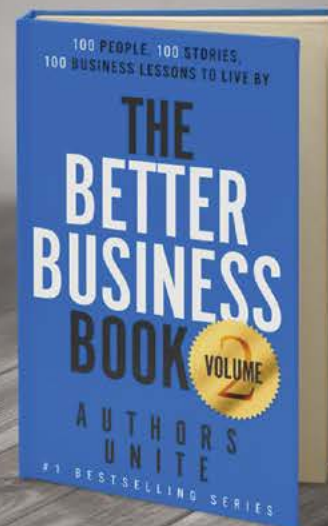
Now Available On:
amazon.com

Featuring our very own Kimberly Allen
in the much anticipated new book.



**THE
BETTER
BUSINESS
BOOK**
AUTHORS
UNITE

#1 BESTSELLING SERIES



“

The point of being artistic is to share something unique and distinct that only you can produce. Don't let others drown out your voice based on their limited understanding of what they believe your type of creative should sound like.

”