GA Sec. Kemp Working “to Ensure Victory” for Handel

ATLANTA GA – If you think that the office of Secretary of State (SOS) should be a non-partisan office striving to achieve accurate, verifiable and transparent elections for a state, think again. That is not the case in Georgia.

On April 18th Georgia’s unverifiable voting equipment produced two hour delays and a late results shift in the 6th District Special Election (GA6). SOS Brian Kemp blamed Fulton County for mixing in a memory card from a different election. But a comprehensive VoterGa study showed the system had critical security flaws that did not detect the error and his office had scheduled the election in a manner that forced Fulton County to conduct totally redundant elections on the same night.

On April 19th as state, county and local officials were attempting to determine and explain what happened Sec. Kemp began his endorsements of former SOS Karen Handel who made the run-off with 19% of the vote. Sec. Kemp added to his Kemp for Governor social media platform a Facebook endorsement with a rotating feature photo and a Twitter endorsement linked to a third web site endorsement. The Facebook and web page endorsements read in part, “I look forward to working with Karen in the weeks ahead to ensure victory at the ballot box.” It is unclear what role Georgia’s unverifiable voting might play in ensuring victory.

Sec. Kemp previously established multiple links from the official Georgia SOS government web site to direct traffic to his social media campaign pages. His pages promote the Kemp for Governor Campaign and Handel. That is a violation of Georgia campaign law prohibiting an agency from giving anything of value to a candidate. A three minute video produced by Operation Educate explains the law and demonstrates how valuable links were programmed into the official SOS site. After six months, Kemp’s staff just removed the links. [O.C.G.A. § 21-5-30.2(b), (c)]

Sec. Kemp also raised funds with Georgia Life Alliance (GLA) for Handel, who has never been endorsed by Georgia Right to Life (GRTL). GLA was co-founded in 2014 by two Republican establishment radio hosts. One has a close tie to Handel and another to House Speaker David Ralston. GLA immediately snatched GRTL’s national affiliation and certified Handel in a 2014 U.S. Senate race over Rep. Paul Broun a stronger pro-lifer endorsed by GRTL GLA political leaders did not co-endorse Broun and even attacked him on non-pro-life issues. Recently, the GLA action fund produced a GA6 political attack ad for Handel. GRTL, recognized as Georgia’s leading pro-life organization since 1970, does not produce attack ads.