Kemp Makes 6 False Statements in 3 Minutes While Claiming 21 Times Cagle “Lied”

ATLANTA, GA – The Atlanta Press Club Republican gubernatorial debate on July 12th between Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and Sec. of State Brian Kemp got nasty when Sec. Kemp consistently called Lt. Gov. Cagle a liar. Kemp accused Cagle of lying or being untrustworthy 21 times during the one hour debate, but many claims now prove to be untrue. The vicious primary attack is reminiscent of ones Karen Handel made against Nathan Deal eight years ago, both verbally and in direct mail pieces.

A VoterGA “lie-detector” analysis with references found 14 of Kemp’s 21 claims were mostly false accusations because the subjects were previously documented by news sources. The analysis found seven of the accusations could be considered mostly true, but almost all were limited to untrustworthiness in regards to a secret recording made by Clay Tippins in a private conversation with Cagle. Kemp’s attacks focused almost solely on that recording for the entire debate.

In contrast, Cagle attacked Kemp’s public service record and private business dealings. When Cagle emphasized how Kemp failed to honor a loan guarantee involving Hart AgStrong, Kemp said that was a “lie” although he is a defendant for the matter in a court case scheduled on July 25th. When Cagle mentioned Kemp voted in favor to keep power for a governor to suspend firearm sales during an emergency, Kemp claimed that is a “lie” although Cagle published the vote record and Kemp did not dispute it. Cagle also attacked Kemp for accepting $300,000 in illegal donations he had to return to businesses he regulates and for failing to use his licensing power in 25 sexual molestation cases involving message therapists.

When the topic moved to our current voting systems, Brian Kemp made six false statements in a three minute debate exchange. Almost exactly half way through the debate, Sandra Parrish of WSB Radio asked Kemp if he is concerned our voting system could be hacked, and would he consider going to paper ballots. A VoterGA fact sheet shows Kemp’s responses to be false six times when he said:

- The voting system has “never been hacked” (twice),
- He is “bound by law” to use electronic voting machines,
- A Conyers election that embedded votes in bar codes was “verifiable”,
- The release of millions of voter social security numbers is “fake news”,
- The new SAFE voting system commission has cyber security “people”,

The VoterGA fact sheet explains why each is considered to be false statement.