

Know Before You Go: GA-06 District Primer

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Republicans have held GA-06 since 1979. There's now a lot of momentum on the ground and with your help we can ***Flip The Sixth!***

About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Republican Karen Handel defeated Jon Ossoff in June 2017 in the most expensive House race in history. GA-06 has been represented by a Republican since 1979. A life-long conservative, Handel has worked in both the public and private sectors, including as the GA Secretary of State, Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, and management positions with CIBA Vision and the disgraced accounting firm KPMG.

Issues: Handel wants the Affordable Care Act repealed and replaced with a market-based system. She favors lower taxes and fewer regulations. She is vehemently anti-choice.

Strengths: A veteran Republican office holder, Handel can count on her name recognition as well as her experience as former Georgia Secretary of State and a Fulton County official. She has a long list of endorsements and NRA support. She has taken a cautious approach to offshore drilling. On foreign policy, she has stepped away from the President to declare that "Russia is not our friend." She has proven her willingness to "go low" with the release of an attack ad against McBath claiming that she is beholden to her special interest funders.

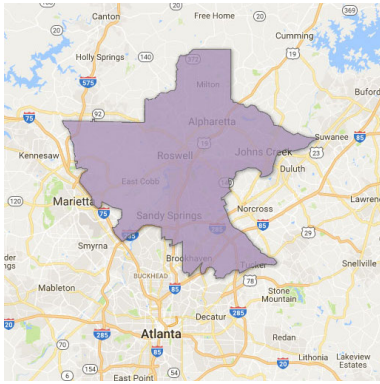
Potential Weaknesses: Trump did poorly with well-educated white voters in the district in 2016 and Handel has voted with Trump's positions over 98% of the time. A poll of likely Georgia voters in April 2018 found that 45% of Republicans favored stricter rules on the sale of firearms, which might pull some voters to McBath. Handel supports concealed carry and opposes an assault weapons ban. A hundred and sixty constituents turned up to rally against ACA repeal on January 24 in Roswell, so there's progressive energy in the district around healthcare issues.

About the Democratic Candidate

Introduction: Democrat Lucy McBath is a gun control advocate, mother, wife, businesswoman, and volunteer. A graduate of Virginia State University with 30 years of in-flight service with Delta Airlines, she turned her life to social and community service after her son was shot and killed. As a national spokesperson for Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, McBath testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee. She spoke at the White House Summit on Educational Excellence for African Americans, and she created the Champions in the Making Legacy Foundation, which provides charitable and educational assistance to graduating high school students and has a mentorship program.

Issues: Having lost her son to gun violence, she supports a number of gun safety measures including background checks for all gun purchases. As a breast cancer survivor, she is a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act, to which she wants to add a robust public option, Medicare buy-in at age 55, and expanded Medicaid, along with policies to lower drug costs. To boost the economy, she favors an increased minimum wage, an expanded earned income tax credit, and a program of infrastructure improvements. She supports worker and environmental protections. She opposes tax cuts for the wealthy and favors permanent middle-class tax cuts. She promises to fight for improved funding for K-12 public education and will work to make higher education more affordable.

Strengths: McBath will appeal to voters in GA-06, one of the best-educated districts in the nation, who overwhelmingly reject Trump's know-nothing populism. Her personal experiences and charisma are also compelling. McBath is supported by Emily's List, among other influential groups. She is a strong campaigner, having risen to the top of a crowded field of challengers in the Democratic primary and defeated a solid contender in the subsequent runoff.



GA-06: Better Know a District

Geography

GA-06 consists of many of the northern suburbs of Atlanta and includes portions of eastern Cobb County, northern Fulton County, and northern DeKalb County. Many of the residents have moved to the area in the past 20 years and several cities have incorporated since 2001.

Citizenry

The population of 699,000 is 72.4% white, but the demographics are shifting. It is now 13.4% African American and 9.3% Asian American. Ethnically, the population is 11.8% Hispanic and the district is home to 40% of Atlanta metro's Jewish population. Unemployment is high at 8.5% although the median household income is high at over \$72,000.

Priorities

Fulton County residents say safety is first priority and economic opportunity is second. A 2017 poll conducted for the special election listed "Taxes and the Economy" first in importance, "Dealing with Obamacare" second, and "National Security" third.

Education

Spending per student has decreased approximately 15% since fiscal year 2008. However, the northern part of the district has good public schools. Area school boards and education leaders were split on the DeVos confirmation. There are many smaller colleges and trade schools including Gwinnett Technical College, Lanier Tech, Reinhardt University, Oglethorpe, DeVry, and Dallas Theological Seminary, as well as Georgia State campuses at Brookhaven and Dunwoody. Many residents attend or work at Emory University and Georgia Tech in Atlanta and at Kennesaw in West Cobb.

Industries

The biggest employers are UPS, ADP (headquartered in Alpharetta), Kimberly-Clark, McKesson, Cox Enterprises, Cobb County School District, and North Fulton Regional Hospital. Also of note are big Atlanta employers such as State Farm, Coca-Cola, Delta, General Electric, Home Depot, Alcon, Cisco, and IBM. General Motors employed hundreds of people in Doraville before closing their plant in 2008. The biggest labor unions are SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild), Communication Workers of America (CWA), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 84, and the Community Bankers Association of Georgia.

Population Centers

- East Cobb, 100,000
- Sandy Springs, 96,000
- Roswell, 90,000
- Johns Creek, 79,000
- Alpharetta, 59,000
- Dunwoody, 46,000
- Brookhaven, 40,000

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 155K (47%)
- Trump: 160K (48%)

2016 House Results

- Stooksbury (D): 125K (38%)
- Price (R): 201K (62%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 101K
- Eligible, not registered: 105K

2014 House Results

- Montigel (D): 71K (34%)
- Price (R): 139K (66%)