

Georgia is a toss-up state that both parties view as a must-win. I suppose it says something that both candidates for the Georgia Senate are Black, which may be a first for a Southern state, or perhaps anywhere.

GOP insiders are reportedly concerned about their candidate's ability to mount a successful challenge to the incumbent. But name recognition and a Trump endorsement may be enough to carry the day for them.

Raphael Warnock (D). Warnock, the incumbent, is an environmental stalwart. According to his [website](#):

“Reverend Warnock believes we must accept the science, invest in infrastructure, and combat the climate crisis that is already at our door. He sees climate change as a moral issue, which we must act on by ignoring Washington special interests, and instead putting effective, common sense policies in place.”

The website continues with a discussion of environmental justice, which begins with a statement that “Reverend Warnock’s emphasis on climate justice is guided by his faith and his understanding that ‘the Earth is the Lord’s.’”

Warnock introduced a bill to support solar manufacturing and has a 100% score from the League of Conservation Voters.

Hershel Walker (R). The GOP challenger is best known for his career as a football player. His website’s treatment of issues is pretty cursory. It does include two sentences relevant to environmental issues:

“Restore America’s energy independence by resuming construction on the Keystone Pipeline, pursuing clean energy alternatives, and increasing domestic oil and gas energy production.”

“Cut federal government red tape to encourage more businesses to plant roots and create more jobs in Georgia.”

Walker has spoken about climate change but only opaquely. According to the [NY Times](#):

“In a July 9 appearance that was streamed live on Facebook, he spoke expansively, and not entirely understandably, about climate change and pollution — suggesting that Georgia’s ‘good air decides to float over’ to China, displacing China’s ‘bad air’ that goes back to Georgia, where ‘we got to clean that back up.’”

At the end of the day, Georgians will have to decide between a candidate with a clear vision on a range of issues including the environment, versus a familiar name endorsed by Trump with vague conservative views. The outcome should be illuminating.