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OPINIONCOMMENTARY

Stacey Abrams Loses Again—This Time in Court

A federal judge rejects her fanciful claims of a stolen 2018 election and ‘Jim Crow 2.0’ suppression.

Kemp

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Atlanta

Stacey Abrams lost her bid to become Georgia’s governor in 2018. Almost overnight she devoted herself to peddling the fiction that her defeat was the result of voter suppression. She peddled it in talk-show appearances, interviews and magazine articles and on glitzy book tours. Ms. Abrams created a false narrative that much of her target audience was willing to accept and echo over the past four years.

Ms. Abrams alleged that while I was secretary of state, my office engaged in rampant voter suppression and that I was its “chief architect.” A few days after her defeat she created Fair Fight Action Inc., a tax-exempt advocacy organization, for the primary purpose of using it as a vehicle to sue the state for supposedly violating the constitutional rights of thousands of Georgia voters.

After a four-year legal battle costing Georgia taxpayers more than \$6 million, Fair Fight and its fellow plaintiffs were slapped down by a federal court last week. In a Sept. 30 decision, U.S. District Judge Steve C. Jones rejected all of Fair Fight’s claims about the 2018 elections. These included accusations that Georgia’s voter-list maintenance, citizenship verification and absentee-ballot cancellation processes were discriminatory. Among Fair Fight’s allegations were that the state violated voters’ rights under the First, 14th and 15th amendments and under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Judge Jones, an Obama appointee, had previously dismissed Fair Fight’s claims regarding long lines at polling places and precinct closures, as well as its unsupported claims that thousands of voters were unlawfully “purged” from the voter rolls.

“The Court finds that Georgia’s system of voting is equally open,” wrote Judge Jones. “Although Georgia’s election system is not perfect, the challenged practices violate neither the Constitution nor the Voting Rights Act.” In response to Fair Fight’s claims that Georgia’s exact-match rules disproportionately affected minority voters, Judge Jones wrote, “Here, plaintiffs have not provided direct evidence of a voter who was unable to vote, experienced longer wait times, [or] was confused about voter registration status.”

Ms. Abrams’s politically motivated claims about me and the state of Georgia, which she monetized and sold to the rest of the country, have come crashing down. While her rhetoric never reflected the facts about voter access here in the Peach State, that didn’t stop President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris from repeating and amplifying her claims, going so far as to describe Georgia’s Election Integrity Act of 2021 as “Jim Crow 2.0.”

In Georgia, we have automatic voter registration when you obtain a driver’s license. We have 17 minimum days of early in-person voting—with the option for counties to use an additional two Sundays—and no-excuse absentee balloting. In addition to these statutory safeguards to ensure secure, accessible and fair elections, the 2018 general election and 2022 primaries saw record turnout for Democrats and Republicans alike—hardly the bastion of anti-voter policies some have claimed over the past four years.

Ms. Abrams—who is again my electoral opponent—has a habit of sidestepping facts that fail to suit her chosen narrative. In her telling, record turnout and Georgia laws making it easy to vote and hard to cheat conveniently failed to indicate a lack of voter suppression. To Ms. Abrams, higher turnout simply means her left-wing donors need to write bigger checks to help her and her organizations beat the new “Jim Crow vote suppressors.”

And write checks they have. As of the latest filing, Fair Fight reported raising more than \$100 million since 2018 with over 90% of those funds coming from outside Georgia. Not to be outdone, Ms. Abrams's 2022 gubernatorial campaign has taken in 86% of its cash from states other than the one she's running to lead.

A federal judge has finally exposed Ms. Abrams's claims of voter suppression for what they are—false. Still, I expect her celebrity status on the left will only grow. Georgians can take heart that the rule of law has prevailed again, the truth has won out, and these baseless attacks on our state and its elections can finally be put to bed.

Mr. Kemp, a Republican, is governor of Georgia.

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