



If you're "the wrong people," GOP's Karen Handel doesn't want you to vote

In May, voting rights groups went to Federal Court to overturn a Georgia law restricting ballot access. Karen Handel didn't like the judge's decision, which allowed people to register to vote until the federal deadline for the June 20 runoff for the Sixth District Congressional runoff she's running in against Democrat Jon Ossoff. It was a slam dunk: Federal election, federal rules. State officials complied with the new ruling.



Thousands more voters is good, right? Karen Handel doesn't think so. Like many Republicans, she thinks voting by the "wrong people" is a crime. In an email to supporters, she said:

"This is going to boil your blood. Just hours ago, the Democrats won their lawsuit to extend voter registration in Georgia before our election," she wrote in the email. "This lawsuit should be seen for exactly what it is: A partisan attempt to change the rules in the middle of an election for a nakedly partisan outcome."

Handel suggested that Democrats were trying to steal the election.

"Friend, I need your immediate support to fight back against the Democrat's latest trick to deceive this election," she said.

Uh...vot ing is not a crime. What should be crimes? How about Republicans' repeated attempts to suppress voting? In their desperate attempt to hold power, Republicans fight to limit minority voting—much like Southern politicians did with Jim Crow laws for a century following the Civil War. Even today, many states seek to disenfranchise minority voters.

Unfortunately, Georgia also has a recent history of voter suppression, much of it Handel's doing. In 2008, CNN reported then-Secretary of State Handel's purge of registered voters. Jose Morales, a Cherokee County voter, sued Handel for discrimination; in 2009 the U.S. Department of Justice blocked her from using "flawed and racially discriminatory voter registration practices."

We shouldn't be surprised by her negative reaction to expanding voting rights. We shouldn't accept it, either. In the 6th District, the best way to send a message is to **VOTE EARLY** for **Jon Ossoff**, who supports voting rights, and also happens to be an all-around great candidate.