



[The Balance of the United States Senate Hinges on Two Critical Runoff Elections in Georgia with Democrats Poised to Take Back Control](#)

Democrats are set to regain control of the United States Senate after winning both runoff elections in Georgia this week. Both Democratic challengers Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff defeated Republican incumbents Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue in the two respective Senate races. With these outcomes, the upper chamber of Congress will now have a 50-50 balance between Democrats and Republicans, with the former holding the majority due to the incoming Democratic Biden-Harris presidential administration – which will result in Vice President-elect Kamala Harris becoming the tiebreaking vote in the United States Senate. The implications of the runoff elections at the federal level are extremely significant because they give Democrats a government trifecta: control of the presidency, Senate, and House. The country had been fixated on the critical races in the state of Georgia for the past two months since the November election, leading to record-breaking fundraising numbers. The magnitude of these Senate runoffs became clear during this time, and therefore unsurprisingly, there was a major national focus on how the races would play out.

Both Democrats and Republicans invested substantial time and resources in the two Georgia runoff elections because of their determining role in the balance of the United States Senate. According to the top national ad-tracking firms, nearly \$500 million was spent on overall advertising for the races between early November and this week. Democratic candidates Ossoff and Warnock shattered fundraising records, each raising more than \$100 million in the two months since the November election. With respect to time, both President-elect Biden and lame duck President Trump stumped for their party's respective candidates in the lead up to Tuesday's election. Biden campaigned in Georgia on Monday to help get out the vote for Ossoff and Warnock, while Trump did the same later in the day for Perdue and Loeffler. Trump however also spent significant time at the campaign rally protesting his own electoral defeat back in November and putting pressure on Vice President Mike Pence to try and subvert President-elect Biden's win. As such, some Republicans believe that Trump's constant and baseless attacks against the electoral process may have had a detrimental effect on their party's turnout and helped contribute to their losses in the two runoffs.

With their victories, Warnock and Ossoff became the first Democrats to win Senate seats in the state of Georgia since 2000. Ossoff will be the youngest sitting U.S. senator at the age of 33 and also becomes the first Jewish senator from The Peach State, while Warnock is the state's first African-American senator. As for the duration of their terms, Ossoff has won a full six-year term in the U.S. Senate. For Warnock, this will last for two years because his runoff was a special election to finish the remaining term of Senator Johnny Isakson, who was re-elected back in 2016 but resigned at the end of 2019 due to health concerns.

Overall, the outcome of the runoff races comes as a major boost for Democrats, solidifying their control of the presidency and both chambers of Congress after they had previously failed to make the kind of U.S. Senate gains many anticipated prior to the November election. The party now has full control of the federal government, which will aid the incoming Biden administration's ability to enact its agenda and policy priorities.