

2-1-2023

Book Review: Flipped: How Georgia Turned Purple and Broke the Monopoly on Republican Power

Kristine Stilwell

University of North Georgia, kristine.stilwell@ung.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Stilwell, K. (2023). Book Review: Flipped: How Georgia Turned Purple and Broke the Monopoly on Republican Power. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 60(1). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol60/iss1/15>

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Flipped: How Georgia Turned Purple and Broke the Monopoly on Republican Power by Greg Bluestein (Viking, 2022: 9780593489154, \$29.00)

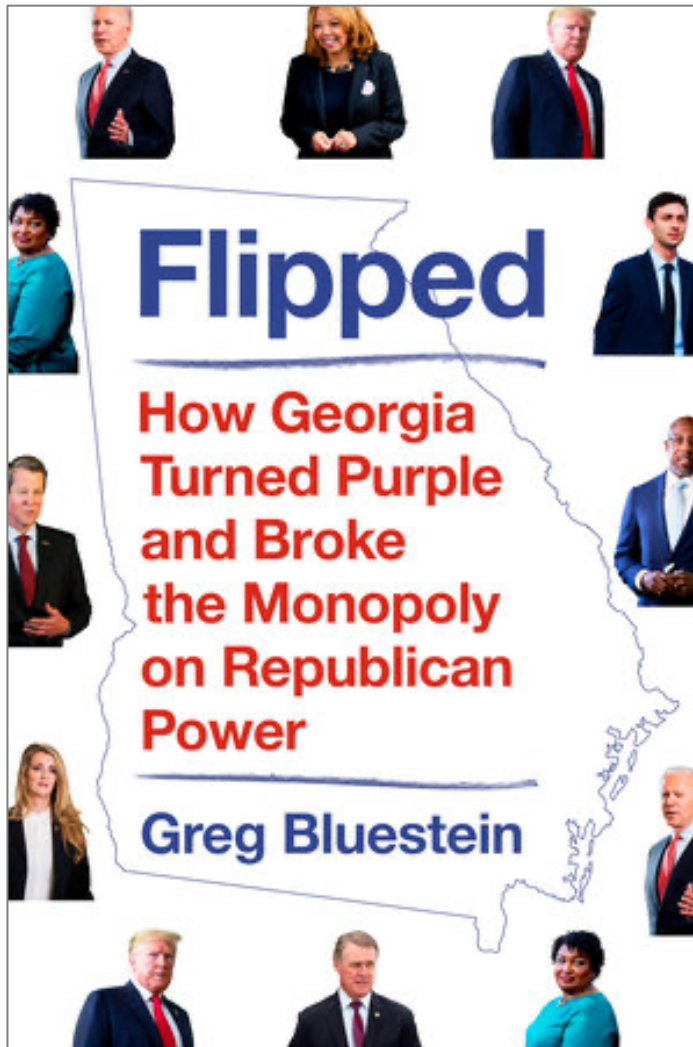


Image courtesy of the publisher

Flipped: *How Georgia Turned Purple and Broke the Monopoly on Republican Power* is an essential primer on the new political landscape in Georgia. Bluestein, a seasoned political reporter for the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* and cohost of the podcast *Politically Georgia*, provides the necessary background information to acquaint readers with changes in state politics over the past three decades. Importantly, he shows how state politics have

realigned, beginning with the work of Stacey Abrams and organizations like the New Georgia Project. These groups, often led by Black women, sought to register and increase Black, Asian, and Latinx voter turnout. Rather than playing to the middle, they connected with younger and minority voters by promoting truly progressive issues. But that's only part of the story.

Bluestein begins his account with the emergence of Jon Ossoff in 2017, when he challenged Republican Karen Handel for Tom Price's empty congressional seat. That special election was the most expensive House race in U.S. history to that point. That Ossoff could effectively challenge a Republican was stunning. That race set the stage for Stacey Abrams' narrow loss to Brian Kemp in the 2018 gubernatorial race. From there, Bluestein masterfully describes all the twists and turns of the exceptional 2020 campaign. But, as we all now know, the story doesn't end with the election and record voter turnout. Bluestein then details the senatorial runoffs, the efforts by some to falsely certify Georgia's electoral votes for Donald Trump, Trump's desperate phone call to Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find votes," and the January 6 insurrection. When all was said and done, about half a billion dollars were spent on political ads, nearly 4.5 million Georgians voted in the 2020 runoff, and three Democrats were elected to high office.

Few know more about current Georgia politics than Greg Bluestein. Even those who follow Georgia politics closely will learn something new from reading *Flipped*. His treatment of the

candidates is evenhanded, but on rare occasions he leaves out a few important details. For example, Bluestein mentions that Stacey Abrams was in debt repayment to the IRS while she ran for governor but omitted that she had also advanced her own campaign \$100,000 while in repayment. He details the “Jake” commercial that centered on Kemp’s support for the Second Amendment but doesn’t capture the depth of progressives’ fury that Kemp’s ads provoked.

Furthermore, Bluestein sidesteps the fact that Raphael Warnock’s “Alvin the Beagle” commercials were intended to soften Warnock’s image for White voters. Nevertheless, this book is a necessary part of any collection on Georgia politics and is highly recommended for academic and public libraries.

*Kristine Stilwell is a reference services librarian
at the University of North Georgia*