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Cagle and Kemp in Tight Fight for GOP Nomination

Exit Poll of GOP Voters Shows Tight Race for Governor, Distance in Other Races

(Atlanta, Ga.) – With less than a week to go before the Runoff election, a new survey of voters who voted Republican during the early voting period conducted by Fredrick Hicks, President of the Hicks Evaluation Group, confirms a tight race for Governor and distance between candidates for Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State.

"The good news for both gubernatorial primary candidates is this is still shaping up to be a win by the slimmest of margins," said Hicks. "Despite Casey Cagle being under constant attack, he has a slight lead with early voters, a group that tends to be engaged and aware of missteps like the secret recording. With a clear financial advantage over Brian Kemp and with the support of Governor Nathan Deal, Cagle should be in position for victory but this race is airtight and is far from over."

In the other two statewide elections to be decided by Republican voters, State Senator David Shafer appears to be leading opponent Geoff Duncan while former Johns Creek City Councilman and State Representative Brad Raffensperger has quite a bit of distance between himself and former Alpharetta Mayor David Belle Isle among this group of voters.

"The cash position of the candidates definitely seems to be making a difference. Cagle has been able to push back against the 'Just a typical politician' narrative and Raffensperger seems to be benefitting from strategic television buys."

Highlights from the survey:

The survey of individuals who voted Republican by mail or in person was conducted via IVR autodial and live calls to cell phones on July 16th and 17th. More than 1200 (1266) voters responded to the survey. Approximately 11 percent of the responses were from cell phone users.

Governor

- 2.75% Margin of Error
- 51.3% for Cagle, 48.7% Kemp
- Cagle outperforms Kemp among voters in the 10 county metro region
- Kemp outperforms Cagle in every age group except the 65+
- Kemp outperforms Cagle among men.



Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State

- Shafer leads Duncan 56%-44%
- Raffensperger leads Belle Isle 66%-34%.

Other Items of Interest

- Thus far, counties outside of metro Atlanta are outpacing votes cast within the 10 county metro area nearly 3 to 1, helping Secretary Kemp's performance*
- Early voters cluster around perceived insider vs outsider. Cagle/Shافر share a number of supporters as do Kemp/Duncan
- Based on the number of early votes cast (will exceed 100,000), the overall turnout should easily top 300,000, which means that Runoff turnout will top 50% of the Primary turnout.

*- For the purposes of this survey, the "Metro- Atlanta" counties are: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett and Henry.

Fredrick Hicks is the founder of HEG, a non-partisan consulting firm. For more information about Fredrick Hicks, please visit: www.hickspolling.com

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