

Stacy Abrams is an American politician and activist, lawyer, and author. Over the past decade, her name has become synonymous with voting rights as she organized a movement in Georgia (Fair Fight Action) that boosted voter turn-out in the state, resulting in Joe Biden's winning the Presidential election in 2020, thereby turning a traditionally Republican state blue. Biden's victory was followed by the January election of two Democratic senators from the state, giving Democrats control over the US Senate for the first time in a decade.

Running for office in her home state of Georgia, Stacy Abrams came to national attention in 2018 when she made history as the first African American female gubernatorial nominee for a major political party. Although she lost the highly contested race to now Governor Brian Kemp, her campaign turned out more voters than any other Democrat in Georgia history, including former President Barack Obama. In February 2019, Abrams became the first Black woman to deliver a response to the State of the Union address. And her reputation has been further enhanced by her 2021 nomination for a Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts in the 2020 election.

Stacy Abrams was born in 1973 and grew up with her five siblings in Gulfport, Mississippi with three basic tenets: go to school, go to church and take care of one another. Despite trying to make ends meet for their family, her parents made service a way of life for their children...if someone was less fortunate, it was their job to serve that person. It was this guiding principal that led the family to Georgia where both of Abram's parents attended Emory University to pursue graduate studies in divinity and become Methodist ministers. While in high school, Abrams was hired as a typist for a Congressional campaign; and at the age of 17, she was hired as a speechwriter based on the edits she had made while typing.

In 1995, Abrams earned a Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies (political science, economics, and sociology) from Spellman College. While in college, she worked in the office of Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson and later interned at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She went on to study public policy at the University of Texas where she earned a Master of Public Affairs degree in 1998, followed by a law degree from Yale in 1999.

Following her graduation from law school, Abrams worked as a tax attorney for a large Atlanta law firm, concentrating her work on tax-exempt organizations, health care and public finance.

Over the course of the last 20 years, Abrams put her education to work to better the lives of Georgians through the government, nonprofit, and business sectors. Dedicated to civic engagement, she founded the New Georgia Project, which submitted more than 200,000 registrations for voters of color between 2014 and 2016. As co-founder of NOW Account – a financial services firm that helps small businesses grow – Stacey has helped create and retain jobs in Georgia. And through her various business ventures, Stacey has helped employ even more Georgians, including hundreds of young people starting out.

Elected as House Minority Leader of the Georgia Legislature in 2010, she worked strategically to recruit, train, elect and defend Democrats to prevent a Republican supermajority in the House, and she worked across the aisle on behalf of all Georgians. During her tenure, she stopped legislation to raise taxes on the poor and middle class and efforts to roll back reproductive health. According to Time magazine, Abrams “can credibly boast of having single-handedly stopped the largest tax increase in Georgian history.” She brokered compromises that led to improvements in transportation, infrastructure and transportation.

In August 2017, Abrams resigned from the Georgia legislature to focus on her gubernatorial campaign. Amid outcries of voter suppression and fraud perpetrated by the office of Abram’s opponent Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp, Abrams lost the 2018 election by only 50,000 votes. In her speech ending her campaign, she announced the creation of Fair Fight Action, a new organization providing a road map for combating voter disenfranchisement by working within the system. The plan provided an updated version of that first proposed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. many decades ago to combat Jim Crow laws that required Black citizens to go to extraordinary lengths to be able to vote. When Democrats flipped both of Georgia’s Senate seats from incumbent Republicans in January, credit flowed to Stacy Abrams, broadly acknowledged as being most responsible for the outcome. It is widely expected that she will run again for governor in 2022, and at the moment, is probably the most influential politician not in elected office.

Under the pen name Selena Montgomery, Abrams is also the award-winning author of eight romantic suspense novels, which have sold more than 100,000 copies. She wrote her first novel while at Yale, and she has a new legal thriller which is set to be published in May 2021. The title is When Justice Sleeps.

Additional Resources:

Stacy Abrams TED talk from December 2018

https://www.ted.com/speakers/stacey_abrams

Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose and the Fight for a Fair America written by Stacy Abrams. Published in 2020, the book provides a blueprint to end voter suppression, empower our citizens, and take back our country

Lead from the Outside: How to Build Your Future written by Stacy Abrams. Published in 2019, the book is a handbook for outsiders, written with an eye toward the challenges that hinder women, people of color, the working class, members of the LGBTQ community and millennials ready to make change.

2020 Documentary that examines voter suppression in the United States. Guided by the expertise of Stacy Abrams, the film provides an insider's look at the barriers to voting.

All In: The Fight for Democracy

https://smile.amazon.com/All-Fight-Democracy-Stacey-Abrams/dp/B08FRV55VB/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=stacy+abrams&qid=1612786681&sr=8-3