

The road to equality  
is paved by **fair-minded**  
Democrats.



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Building a **fair-minded**  
Democratic majority.

## Want to know how Democrats can be competitive and victorious again in Georgia?

Georgia Democrats have stumbled over the cracks of shifting and broken alliances and been shaken by divisive politics. **A lasting Democratic coalition based on our shared, progressive values is our only option for building a Democratic majority in Georgia.**

As individuals, we must identify those values – fairness, equal opportunity, community, civil liberties – and understand how we share those values as Democrats.

Republicans have learned that **coalition-building is the cornerstone of any successful movement to create social change.** White, fundamentalist Christian leaders are able to mobilize their Church members to support tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthiest among us. Socially moderate Country Club elites fund the anti-choice and anti-gay initiatives of these same fundamentalist Christian leaders and their organizations.

Republican leaders figured out a long time ago that building a majority is the work of articulating the shared, conservative values of the vast and differing constituency groups within their Party.

**Coalition-building allows for strategic allocation of resources and mass mobilization.** Just look at how effective their think tanks and *days of action* have been in building a Republican majority and in moving their agenda forward.

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We know that most people do not identify the divisive social issues as the most important issues we face. Republicans elevate the divisive social issues because this strategy is effective in **siphoning off votes from the Democratic base.** In fact, the long-term application of this strategy has altered people's priorities and outlooks, and converted once staunch Democrats into loyal Republican voters.

The solution to overcoming these divisive social issues is not for us to rewrite our Party's platform to lessen our support for a woman's right to choose or have our leaders in government call for writing discrimination against our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender family members, neighbors and coworkers into our state's Constitution.

Georgia voters aren't stupid. When our Party leaders and leaders in government advocate for policy shifts and introduce legislation that is seen as not being true to our Democratic principles and progressive values, Georgia voters see a Party lacking in values and integrity and therefore cannot be trusted to lead. The ramifications within our Party of having leaders call for "unity" and then proceeding to turn on different constituency groups within the Party at different times for short-term political gain, in fact further dismantles the Democratic coalition and reveals us as being even less trustworthy in the eyes of voters.

We have already mentioned that Democrats have values. However, if we as Democratic activists cannot identify, understand and articulate our own shared, progressive values, why do we think we deserve to lead this state?

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The truth is that coalition-building also provides those of us who have an interest in advancing a particular set of issues with the opportunity to **educate our fellow Democrats about the issues most important to us as members of constituency group** in order to make progress on those issues.

**The long-term pay-off of being true to our Democratic principles and forging a Democratic coalition built on our shared, progressive values is the opportunity to earn back the trust of Georgia voters and win elections.**