

DAVID PERDUE

David Perdue took advantage of the COVID pandemic to improve his own finances, while at the same time downplaying its dangers publicly and opposing efforts to help regular Americans obtain relief.

- In early 2020, as Perdue was regularly attending U.S. Senate COVID briefings, he [bought](#) up to \$260,000 worth of Pfizer stock, and even [purchased](#) shares in DuPont – which manufactured personal protective equipment – on the same day that senators received a COVID briefing (which Perdue’s staff later said he did not attend). In late February 2020, Perdue also [sold](#) stock in Caesars – a casino company, which was later “hard-hit by the pandemic.” Perdue’s COVID-related stock trades increased in March 2020, and by the end of the month, his stock trading volume increased “threefold” with Perdue [buying](#) as much as \$1.8 million in stock, even as Perdue denied being involved in day-to-day stock trading decisions.

- At the same time Perdue was making trades on the seeming belief of COVID’s danger, he was [saying](#) publicly that Americans should not “panic” about – or “overreact” to – COVID, saying that “very, very few people have been exposed to it in the United States.” Two months later, as the virus spread through the country, Perdue [dismissed](#) COVID as “nowhere near what was being forecast back in March” and said that “we’ve had ordinary flu seasons with more deaths than we’re seeing now.”

- Perdue used this rhetoric to oppose needed relief for Georgians, [saying](#) that he had “held [his] nose” when voting for an early COVID relief bill, and that he “[personally opposed](#)” sending out \$1,200 COVID relief checks. He also [voted](#) for a measure to cap federal unemployment benefits, and later [opposed](#) a short-term extension of expanded COVID unemployment benefits.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Headline: “David Perdue’s Stock Trading Saw an Uptick as Coronavirus Took Hold.” [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 4/6/20](#)]

Business Insider Headline: “Sen. David Perdue Bought Stock In A Company That Produces Protective Medical Equipment The Same Day Senators Received A Classified Briefing On The Coronavirus.” [[Business Insider, 4/6/20](#)]

As the U.S. Senate’s Most Prolific Stock Trader, Perdue Put Profits Over Georgians, Through His Questionable Trades:

- Perdue’s most notorious stock trade involved Cardlytics, a company he had personal ties to, and one whose CEO emailed him in January 2020, [mentioning](#) “upcoming changes” at the company; shortly after receiving the email, Perdue directed

the sale of at least \$1 million worth of stock in the company. Records [revealing](#) that Perdue personally directed the trade contradicted his previous statements that he did not “deal with [his stocks] on a day-to-day basis.” Six weeks after he sold the stock, Cardlytics’ share price “tumbled” when its CEO [announced](#) he would step down and that the company’s finances were poorer than expected; once the company’s share price bottomed out months later, Perdue bought back a “substantial portion” of the shares he had sold.

- Perdue also [traded shares](#) of stocks of companies in the financial industry that the Senate Banking committee – which he sat on – oversaw, including JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, and Regions Financial. The case of Regions Financial was particularly notable: within a year of [buying stock](#) in it, he called on other members of the Banking Committee to support a bill rolling back Obama-era regulations on small banks like Regions, and once the measure passed, Regions was “hailed in news reports as one of the bill’s big winners.”

- Around the time Perdue became leader of the Senate subcommittee that oversaw the U.S. Navy, he [bought stock](#) in a company that made submarine parts. Once he joined the committee, he worked on a bill that directed additional funding to one of the firm’s specialized products.

- The *Daily Beast* reported that weeks after Perdue “helped to dilute a rule that governed the prepaid debit card industry, he reported stock” in First Data, “a company that stood to benefit from the rollback of those regulations.”

- As the Senate considered legislation to address the opioid crisis, Perdue [bought and sold](#) stocks in a medical device company that marketed pain management alternatives to opioids.

New York Times Subhead: Perdue’s “Stock Trades have Far Outpaced Those of His Senate Colleagues.” [[New York Times, 12/2/20](#)]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Headline: “New Questions Surface About David Perdue’s Involvement in Stock Trades.” [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 11/25/20](#)]

New York Times Headline: “Stock Trades by Senator Perdue Said to have Prompted Justice Dept. Inquiry.” [[New York Times, 11/25/20](#)]

Fox 5 Atlanta Headline: “Sen. David Perdue Bought Stock in Bank that was Helped by Legislation He Backed.” [[Fox 5 Atlanta, 12/3/20](#)]

Daily Beast: “Sen. David Perdue Says His Perfectly Timed Stock Trades are Completely Innocent.” [[Daily Beast, 9/12/20](#)]

11 Alive News: “Sen. David Perdue’s Stock Trades Net Thousands During Early Part of Opioid Crisis.” [[11 Alive, 12/3/20](#)]

Perdue Profited Off of Outsourcing and Layoffs Throughout His Business Career.

- For four years in the mid 2000s, Perdue was CEO of Dollar General at the time that it was [sued](#) 2,500 times for sex, race, and wage practices, including by thousands of woman managers who [joined a class action suit](#) alleging they were paid less than their male counterparts; the suit was settled for more than \$15 million. They were backed up by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission which [found](#) that under Perdue, Dollar General “discriminated against” woman managers and that women managers “generally were paid less than similarly situated male managers.” At the same time that women weren’t being paid fairly, Perdue [took home](#) over \$40 million.

- Before Dollar Financial, Perdue spent most of his career [managing](#) the outsourcing of American jobs, as he himself acknowledged, [saying](#) he was “proud” of his actions. Politico [wrote](#) that “Perdue specialized throughout his career in finding low-cost manufacturing facilities and labor, usually in Asia” while the *New York Times* [found](#) that at Reebok, Sara Lee and Dollar General, “he was often deeply involved in the shift of manufacturing, and jobs, to low-wage factories in China and other Asian countries.”

- Notably, Perdue was also the CEO, for only nine months, of Pillowtex, a North Carolina company where he was [specifically hired](#) to “to shift portions of the company’s manufacturing operations to lower-cost foreign factories, especially in Asia.” Shortly after he was hired away from the company, it “[imploded](#),” resulting in 7,650 job losses in North Carolina – the largest mass layoff in state history to that point.

Newsweek Headline: “David Perdue’s Dollar General was Sued 2,500 Times for Sex, Race, Wage Practices.” [[Newsweek, 12/30/20](#)]

Politico Headline: “Perdue: ‘I Spent Most of My Career Outsourcing.’” [[Politico, 10/3/14](#)]

New York Times Headline: “Before Embracing America-First Agenda, David Perdue was an Outsourcing Expert.” [[New York Times, 1/1/21](#)]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Headline: “Perdue ‘Proud’ of Outsourcing Past, Blames Washington for Jobs Lost.” [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/6/14](#)]

Perdue Voted to End Health Coverage for Georgians and Provide Insurers Ways to Avoid Covering Those with Pre-Existing Conditions:

- Several times in the U.S. Senate, Perdue [voted](#) to kill the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which would have the effect of threatening the healthcare of Georgians across the state.
- Though he proposed a bill to replace the ACA that he argued would provide similar protections to those with preexisting conditions to ensure they did not lose coverage, [Politifact found](#) that his measure in fact provided loopholes to insurers, allowing them to deprive Georgians of coverage.
- Perdue has also [pushed](#) extended short-term health insurance plans, which can legally deny coverage to those with preexisting conditions.

Politifact: “Georgia Sen. Perdue’s Record on Preexisting Conditions Doesn’t Match His Promises.” [[Politifact, 9/3/20](#)]

Perdue was an Absentee Senator:

- Perdue was one of the “[most absent members](#)” of the US Senate, frequently missing important votes and hearings, including hearings on ISIS and terrorism, Russian interference in the 2016 election, and the 2018 farm bill.

CBS 46 Headline: “GA. Sen. David Perdue’s Track Record Questioned Ahead of Runoff.” [[CBS 46, 12/14/20](#)]

BRIAN KEMP

Kemp Failed Georgia Throughout the COVID Pandemic, Failing to Keep Residents Safe, Distribute Vaccines, and Support Those in Need:

- Kemp failed when leading Georgia's COVID response, refusing for weeks early in the pandemic to issue a stay-at-home order even as public health experts in his administration [warned](#) that the virus was spread; he later [claimed](#) he did not know the virus could spread asymptotically even as reports demonstrated he was familiar with how it spread a month earlier.
- Kemp [frequently](#) “ranked economic concerns ahead of public health imperatives,” refusing to change his policies even as cases and deaths climbed. His office even “withheld critical information showing the pandemic was worsening as Kemp lifted restrictions.”
- Under Kemp, Georgia lagged behind other states in vaccine distribution, [ranking](#) as one of the worst states as a result of “poor execution” on the state government's part. As of February 2022, Georgia [remains](#) in the bottom 10 states by the percentage of residents fully vaccinated as a result of Kemp's inaction.
- Kemp [ended](#) expanded unemployment benefits for Georgia workers months earlier than planned, even as recipients said that the benefits had been ‘essential for housing and food.’”

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Headline: “Georgia Governor Ignored Experts as the Pandemic Raged.” [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 3/26/21](#)]

Georgia Public Broadcasting Headline: “Georgia's Slow COVID Vaccine Rollout Exposes Broad Public Health Shortfall.” [[Georgia Public Broadcasting Headline, 1/20/21](#)]

Kemp has Consistently Worked to Make it Harder for Georgians – Especially Georgians of Color – to Vote:

- During Kemp's tenure as Secretary of State, he [oversaw](#) the cancellation of 1.4 million voter registrations, ‘with low-income and minority Georgians most likely to have their registrations removed.’ Of those cancellations, 668,000 occurred in 2017 – the year before he ran for governor. Additionally, 214 polling places [closed](#) during Kemp's tenure, many after Kemp sent out a memo encouraging county officials to merge polling places.
- Only a few weeks before the 2018 election in which Kemp was running for governor, his office placed 53,000 voter registrations on hold, saying the applications had been flagged by the state's “exact match” verification process; the Associated Press [reported](#) that nearly 70% of the registrations on hold were submitted by Black Georgians.
- As governor, Kemp [signed](#) a “massive overhaul of election rules” that enacted new limitations on mail-in voting, added new voter ID requirements, and even [made](#) it illegal to give food and water to voters in line to vote.

American Public Media Headline: “After the Purge: How a Massive Voter Purge in Georgia Affected the 2018 Election.” [[American Public Media, 10/29/19](#)]

Rolling Stone Headline: “Number of Georgia Voters Purged by Brian Kemp Continues to Climb.” [[Rolling Stone, 10/27/18](#)]

The Guardian Headline: “GOP Candidate Improperly Purged 340,000 From Georgia Voter Rolls, Investigation Claims.” [[The Guardian, 10/19/18](#)]

Kemp Has Opposed Efforts to Secure Affordable Healthcare, Abortion Rights, and Anti-Discrimination Protections for Georgians:

- As a candidate for governor, Kemp “vehemently” [attacked](#) the possibility of expanding Medicaid in Georgia as a failed government program, which [could cover](#) as many as 500,000 people in the state currently without insurance. As governor, continued his refusal, instead proposing to cover only 50,000 new people – a tiny subset of what was needed.
- Kemp also took a hard line on abortion, [signing](#) a blatantly unconstitutional measure that would ban abortions if a fetal heartbeat could be detected, functionally a ban on abortions as early as six weeks into pregnancy, when many women did not even know they were pregnant.
- Kemp supports “anti-gay legislation” that would [allow discrimination](#) against gay and transgender Georgians, which when adopted in other states resulted lost business and reduced economic development.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Headline: “Georgia Governor Brian Kemp Signs Anti-Abortion Bill.” [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 5/7/19](#)]

Alpharetta-Roswell Herald Headline: “Kemp Says He Would Sign Anti-Gay Legislation.” [[Alpharetta-Roswell Herald, 12/5/17](#)]

Brian Kemp is a Failed Businessman Who Engaged in Conflicts of Interest to Help Himself While His Company Failed to Pay Georgia Farmers:

- Several companies [associated](#) with Kemp took out large “insider loans” with a bank Kemp helped found, a “potential conflict of interest.” Bank founders could receive loans from their banks as long as they received no special terms but Kemp refused to share information about the loans to prove he hadn’t received any favors. However, one of the loans made to a company co-owned by Kemp during the 2008 financial crisis showed that the loan amount was “unlimited” – a “not very typical designation” and as of 2018, the company still had almost \$100,000 in loan balance outstanding.

- Kemp [failed](#) to repay a \$500,000 loan for years that he had negotiated and personally guaranteed for an agriculture firm he was involved in, with the lender saying, that he “expected [Kemp] to keep his word and he didn’t. That speaks volumes about Brian.”
- The agriculture firm [previously](#) had a multi-year habit of failing to pay farmers, and was repeatedly cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for failing to do so, ultimately resulting in the USDA threatening to liquidate the company to ensure farmers were paid.

Fox 5 Headline: “Brian Kemp Owes More Than \$800,000 in Insider Loans to Bank He Helped Start.” [[Fox 5, 12/20/18](#)]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Headline: “At Company Brian Kemp Backed, Unpaid Debt and Possible ‘Felony.’” [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/3/18](#)]

Kemp has Failed Georgians in Public Office, and Even Turned a Blind Eye to Allegations Against His Donors’ Companies

- Kemp raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from businesses and individuals he directly regulated as secretary of state. Most [notably](#), Kemp had a fundraiser at the home of a massage clinic owner whose clinics had been “the subject of a series of sexual assault complaints.” Though the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy, which was under Kemp’s oversight, looked into at least one of the complaints that a therapist employed by one of the clinics had groped a woman during a massage, it never revoked any therapist’s license or sanctioned the clinics.
- As secretary of state, Kemp [failed](#) to secure Georgia’s voting system, which allowed the records of more than six million registered Georgia voters to be breached. The record's release – which included birth dates, Social Security numbers, and driver’s license numbers – was [dismissed](#) by Kemp as a clerical error.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Headline: “Kemp Campaign Gets Big Bucks From the People He Regulates.” [[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 6/26/18](#)]

WABE Headline: “6 Million GA. Voters’ Personal Information Released.” [[WABE, 11/18/15](#)]

Atlanta Magazine Headline: “How the Secretary of State’s Office Compromised the Personal Data of Georgia’s Voters.” [[Atlanta Magazine, 12/15/15](#)]