



**SUNRISE
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**DATA FOR
PROGRESS**

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Justice Democrats, Sunrise Movement, New Deal Strategies, Data for Progress
DATE: December 10, 2020
RE: Why Democrats Should Run on \$1,200 Checks in Georgia

Republicans may be about to hand Democrats a winning issue on a silver platter -- one that could help them reclaim a populist economic message and win back control of the Senate.

If another round of direct relief payments is not included in the new coronavirus relief package due to GOP opposition, then **Democrats should hold them accountable, and make sending \$1,200 checks the central issue in the Georgia Senate runoffs.**

How do they do that?

1. Biden can strengthen his call for \$1,200 checks by announcing that if Republicans block them now, he will make passing a standalone bill to send Americans \$1,200 checks a top priority for his first week in office.
2. Ossoff and Warnock announce their support for Biden's stimulus checks, and campaign on it.
3. Democrats at every level make it unambiguously clear that if Georgians give Democrats the Senate, this will get done and the money will get in their pockets.

This strategy would **give Democrats something they haven't had in years: a clear message about something tangible that Democrats will do for you**, communicating how voting for Democratic candidates will make your life better. It would make the stakes of the runoffs crystal clear, directly tying votes for Warnock and Ossoff to something concrete that Democrats can and will deliver -- actual results that people can see and feel.

Passing another round of \$1,200 stimulus checks is **incredibly popular** among Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike, with [70% of Americans](#) agreeing the federal government should send another round of direct payments to all qualified U.S. adults. Crucially, it's also broadly popular in the state that's about to determine control of the Senate. In a new [Data for Progress poll](#), **63% of likely Georgia runoff voters said they'd be more likely to vote for a candidate who commits to passing an additional \$1,200 relief check**, with just 10% saying they'd be less likely.

Biden already [ran on a platform](#) that included support for additional checks, and there are reports that it may be considered as part of another stimulus bill once he takes office. **So why not make a clear, firm, and specific commitment to passing \$1,200 checks -- and campaign on it in Georgia?**

There will be a temptation to incorporate direct payments to Americans into a larger stimulus package when Biden takes office -- and clearly, more coronavirus relief will be needed beyond just sending checks. But the value of a standalone bill is that it provides a rare moment of political clarity.

This is a simple and tangible promise that Democrats can actually deliver on if they win control of the Senate. If Republicans maintain their majority and the bill fails, voters will know exactly who's to blame. Whereas if relief checks are rolled into a larger package, it will allow Republicans to hide their opposition behind other issues and compromises.

A new ad from Sen. Perdue that [tries to paint Ossoff](#) as being opposed to coronavirus relief is just the latest sign that Republicans are desperately trying to muddy the issue, because they know voters aren't on their side. That's why Democrats need to draw a line in the sand and make it unambiguously clear for voters which party will send Americans checks, and which party won't.

This is a chance for Democrats to embrace a wildly popular position that has the potential to be the winning issue in Georgia. In the process, Democrats could **reclaim a populist economic message** as the party that helps working people.