



## DOJ suing Georgia over new voting law in high-stakes showdown

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In a high-stakes showdown, the Justice Department is suing the state of Georgia to halt its new voting rules, which the DOJ claims discriminate and suppress minorities.

*"The provisions we are challenging reduce access to absentee voting at each step of the process, pushing more black voters to in-person voting, where they will be more likely than white voters to confront long lines," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke.*

But is it tricky territory for the Biden administration's top lawyers to weigh in as states across the country forge their own voting laws?

"The Biden administration is weaponizing the Department of Justice to serve their own partisan goals," said Gov. Brian Kemp, R-Georgia. "They're spending their time going after states who took reasonable, common sense steps to ensure the sanctity of the ballot box."

*"I think it's unfortunate that we're treating election regulation as a partisan football," said Ilya Shapiro of the Cato Institute. "There's such a low level of trust in our political institutions as it is."*

Some question the timing of the DOJ's lawsuit, coming just days after Republicans blocked a Democrat-supported voting rights bill in the Senate and after President Joe Biden vowed he wouldn't politicize the Justice Department.

But the complaints are hardly new.

Under former President Donald Trump, Attorneys General William Barr and Jeff Sessions were both accused of carrying out Trump's personal agenda to allegedly undermine the Russia investigation, and intercede in cases to protect Trump allies like Roger Stone and Michael Flynn.

Under former President Barack Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder faced backlash for using the DOJ to track reporters' phone calls and spy on those whose stories used high-level sources.

***"Look, the Justice Department is a part of a political administration. It's not wholly independent from the president. It's not devoid of partisan politics in a sense that legal policy priorities are different based on who's in charge," said Shapiro.***

The White House's defense?

***"It is a decision made by the Justice Department to move forward, but clearly a priority of the president to act wherever we can in government to make it more accessible to vote," said White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki.***

The GOP calls it a "thin disguise."