GEORGIA ON MY MIND:

An Estimate of Voter Participation Rates by Race/Ethnicity in the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election and the Senate Runoff Scheduled for January 5, 2021

Laird W. Bergad

Distinguished Professor, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies, Lehman College Ph.D. Program in History, The Graduate Center

> Director, Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies, The Graduate Center City University of New York

The Georgia runoff election for two senatorial seats scheduled for January 5, 2021 may well determine the success, partial success, or failure of the Biden/Harris administration to reverse the horrific damage inflicted upon the United States by the Republican Party and its President over the past four years.

The deadline for renewed voter registration has been extended to December 7, 2020 and the ability of the Democratic Party to incorporate new potential voters into its ranks may determine the outcome of these elections.

This clearly revolves around the registering of African-American, Latinos, and other non-Hispanic white voters who heavily supported the Biden/Harris ticket on November 3, but did not cast ballots.

Exit polls from the New York Times and CNN determined that 88% of African Americans who cast ballots supported Biden/Harris; 62% of Latinos; and 58% of other racial groups. Nearly 70% of Georgia's non-Hispanic white population voted for the Republican candidate.

Voter participation rates were very high among all race/ethnic groups. Among non-Hispanic whites, who comprise about 58% of all potential voters in the state, nearly 70% of eligible voters cast ballots on November 3. Among, African-Americans, who comprise 33% of all potential voters, the participation rate was 58%.

To win the January 2021 senate elections in Florida, there must be a concerted effort to incorporate the over one million African-Americans eligible to vote, but who did not go to the polls in November, into the voting population.

Whether these non-voters were registered to vote is unknown. However, it is likely that non-registration was a major issue in determining the African-American participation rate.

The Democratic Party and the African-American community, which delivered Georgia to the Biden/Harris ticket, MUST mobilize quickly to conduct a massive voter registration and get out the vote drive, among African-American communities throughout the state.

Data on participation rates are summarized below. These were calculated using the exit polling data from the New York Times and CNN on the percentage of vote cast by race/ethnicity; the actual number of ballots cast in the presidential race (4,992,709); and data on the

electorate for 2019 (the latest data) provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Notes: The number of votes cast is the actual data from Georgia. The Georgia electorate (citizens 18 years of age and older) was derived from the American Community Survey 2019 data. All other values were calculated using the participation rates derived from the New York Times/CNN exit polls.

The Latino participation rate of 91.5% may be the result of statistical error in exit polling. The size of the electorate is accurate; the number of votes may not be, since in the 2016 presidential election, 48% of eligible Latinos in the state voted. Such an extraordinary increase in Latino voter participation is somewhat suspect.

Estimate of Number of People who Voted in Georgia 2020 Presidential Election by Race/Ethnicity Using NY Times Exit Polling Data and Using 2019 ACS Data from Census Bureau Estimate of Number of Voters who did not Vote

| | | | | | Estimate |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|
| | % of Vote | | Size of Georgia | | of Number |
| | According to | | Electorate Using | | of Voters |
| | NYT/CNN | Estimated Vote Based | 2019 ACS Census | | who did |
| Race/Ethnicity | Exit Polls | on Exit Polling Data | Bureau Data | % Voted | not Vote |
| | | | | | |
| Non-Hispanic White | 61% | 3,045,552 | 4,367,617 | 69.7% | 1,322,065 |
| African American | 29% | 1,447,886 | 2,493,514 | 58.1% | 1,045,628 |
| Latino | 7% | 349,490 | 381,959 | 91.5% | 32,469 |
| Asian | 1% | 49,927 | 217,935 | 22.9% | 168,008 |
| Other | 2% | 99,854 | 120,812 | 82.7% | 20,958 |
| | | | | | |
| Total Electorate | 100% | 4,992,709 | 7,581,837 | 65.9% | 2,589,128 |